



WHY I GIVE

Lisa Berlin - a donor's story

BostonSight PROSE patient Lisa Berlin (pictured at right) considers herself to be very fortunate. From the age of 19 she wore glasses, but her vision could not be corrected to 20/20 and was not clear. Doctors were not able to give her a reason for her poor vision.

Finally, at age 32, she saw Houston, TX ophthalmologist, Joel H. Goffman, MD, who told her that she had keratoconus and would not be able to have her vision properly corrected with glasses. Lisa started by wearing rigid gas permeable (RPG) lenses in, but her corneas were very steep and the lenses would just pop out; they also caused abrasions, which led to pain and scarring. Her next step was wearing RGPs and soft contact lenses together; this helped with comfort, but eventually too became impossible.

As time went on, Lisa began to suffer with eye pain from the recurrent erosion of her epithelium, and with poor vision. Next she tried phototherapeutic keratectomy (PTK). She endured the surgery, which uses a laser to remove tissue from the cornea, three separate times - in 1996, 2000 and 2003 - to get rid of scarring. Lisa continued to wear soft lenses for the next few years, but eventually the damage to her the epithelium (which acts as a barrier to protect the cornea) became too extensive. The soft lenses were just not steep enough.

In 2005, she was diagnosed with Sarcoidosis, an autoimmune disease that decreased tear production in her eyes and led to even more painful eyes. She investigated the possibility of a cornea transplant, but, in light of the Sarcoidosis, none of the doctors that she met with felt that a transplant was a good treatment option.

Finally, in the summer of 2009, she met with Marshall



Bowes Hamill, MD, an ophthalmologist at the Alkek Eye Center Houston. Dr. Hamill suggested BostonSight PROSE treatment, which was newly available at Alkek. Shortly thereafter, Lisa and her husband moved to San Diego, but her dry eye continued causing her a lot of pain, and affected her ability to drive.

BostonSight PROSE patient Lisa and family In December 2009, Lisa returned to Texas and completed BostonSight PROSE treatment on her right eye. And what a difference! Lisa said, "My license was about to expire and I was not going to be able to drive. After getting my device, I was able to get my driver's license renewed. It changed

my life." The PROSE device gave Lisa vision, comfort, and relief from the pain of dry eyes and the scarring!

Since they had relocated to San Diego, Lisa transferred her care to Gloria Chiu, OD, FAAO, at the PROSE clinic at USC Roski Eye Institute. In 2012, Lisa completed PROSE treatment on her left eye. It provided her with additional clarity of vision and even more independence. Since 2012, Lisa's entire world has changed - she can now drive, see detail, read on her electronic device, and has even seen whales in Hawaii! BostonSight PROSE treatment has been a true miracle for her.

Lisa and her husband, Jay, make charitable giving a priority for their family. They consider themselves fortunate to be able to support the organizations that have made a real and tangible impact on their lives. "We discuss as a family what organizations are important to us and we support them." Being a BostonSight donor is important to Lisa, because, "I know the different that PROSE made in my life. I want to fund patients who can't afford treatment because their whole life will be different. That is the best reason to pay it forward."