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Participants to print them and follow the talk and the slides simultaneously.

Literature

The Foundation develops, prints and distributes literature about corneal dystrophy which can be ordered by mail or on line.

The literature includes brochures about corneal Dystrophy and an individual's 'Journey' through the disability.

A periodic newsletter has been initiated which appraises patients and professionals of the latest treatments for corneal dystrophy and has inspirational stories of people who had corneal dystrophy and subsequent corneal transplants that changed and greatly improved their quality of life.

The Corneal Dystrophy Foundation
An IRS approved 501 c 3 approved
Public Benefit Tax Exempt Charity

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To Make a Tax Deductible
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The Corneal Dystrophy Foundation

What is The Corneal Dystrophy Foundation?

The Corneal Dystrophy Foundation (the Foundation), is a 501 (c)(3) Public Benefit Charity whose **mission** is to increase public awareness of corneal dystrophy, potentially blinding diseases affecting the transparent front part of the eye.

Objectives of the Foundation

Provide education and support to people who suffer from a corneal dystrophy.

Provide guidance and knowledge resources to people seeking treatment and help with visual recovery after transplant or other issues related to corneal dystrophies.

Encourage research into the causes and possible cures of corneal dystrophies.

Encourage development of improved treatments and other procedures to enable faster visual recovery.

Services provided by the Foundation

The Foundation provides several on line facilities for people with corneal dystrophies. These include web sites, both public and private, for members only, on line discussion groups at Yahoo.com.

The public web sites describe the mission, objectives, activities and vision of the Foundation.

They provide basic information to those searching for information after they have been diagnosed. They also direct people towards joining the free on line discussion groups.

The on line discussion groups cover topics from initial symptoms, coping with the disease and pre and post transplant support.

Members on the on line groups tell their stories, relate their experiences to newer members, explain what various measurements and indicators mean that the Ophthalmologists use, etc.

The on line discussion groups provide a great deal of emotional support to those who need it.

Over 4000 people from 65 countries have, at one time been members of our on line groups. The maintaining memberships now aggregate almost 2000 sufferers or significant others.

Annual Symposia for Corneal Dystrophy Patients

Annually, the Foundation hosts a Corneal Dystrophy Symposium in a city in the US. This one day event attracts Corneal Specialists from the top 5% of the profession who volunteer their time and travel to speak to people with corneal dystrophy.

Three speakers cover subjects such as:

- The current state of surgical techniques to alleviate corneal dystrophy.
- The results of research into corneal endothelial cell culturing, replication, chemical triggering or external growth of and re-implantation methods for a patients own endothelial cells and how this will improve quality of life for people with corneal dystrophy in the near and far future.
- Discussing the long term statistical results of the latest variation in corneal transplants, both Penetrating Keratoplasty and Endokeratoplasty.
- Describing the process of eye donation, corneal tissue preparation and other preoperative processes necessary for a corneal transplant.

The Foundation uses professional Audio/Visual personnel to record the Symposium Proceedings and subsequently produces a DVD of them for distribution as a gift to those who contribute to our financial needs.

Both the Symposia and the Proceedings have received compliments for their high level of educational content. Speakers' slide presentations are included on the DVD to allow re-

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