

# LIFE notes

*LIFE prides itself on helping those in need and for being the champion for those who cannot speak but who enrich our lives and everyday make us a little more... human.*

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## *Visionary Edition*



Dear Friends,

The venerable Merriam-Webster Dictionary has many meanings for the word “vision.” It can mean a thought, concept, or object formed by the imagination; something seen in a dream; a lovely or charming sight; and of course, the act and power of seeing.

For me, all of these meanings came together in one amazing moment at the opening of the Lois Pope Center for Retinal and Macular Degeneration Research at Bascom Palmer Eye Institute’s Palm Beach Gardens campus. When I made a significant donation to create this center in honor of my mother Anastasia Berrodin, whose macular degeneration took away her ability to see the beauty of all that is around us, I did so because I had a “vision” that I must do all I could to conquer this horrible disease. I had a “vision” for creating a state-of-the-art facility that would usher in a new era of breakthrough research and clinical treatment for macular degeneration and other sight-altering diseases. I had a “vision” that within this new 21,000-square-foot facility would be researchers, physicians, technologists and others who would come together in an unprecedented effort of translational medicine, leading to cures for blindness and other retinal problems. And now that we have cut the ribbon to officially open this incredible facility, I am confident that all that I had “envisioned” will come to light.

And it must. While sight is the last of our senses to develop when we are infants, it is, quite sadly, one of the first to decline as we grow older. Age-related macular degeneration is a leading cause of vision loss, not just among people age 60 and older but also even for people as young as 40. It causes damage to the macula, the center of the retina, and the part of the eye that is responsible for our vision and lets us read, drive, and recognize faces. While Bascom Palmer is internationally renowned in the treatment of retinal disease, researchers know there’s more work to be done to find a cure.



The Lois Pope Center for Retinal and Macular Degeneration Research is equipped with the latest research, diagnostic and imaging technology, and houses state-of-the-art training facilities. It will allow the Bascom Palmer team of physician-scientists to quadruple the output of research and clinical trials. The Center will focus on several vital research areas, including gene therapy, regenerative medicine, transplantation, and new drug therapies.

I genuinely believe it will all result in cures for all eye diseases. And when we do, my mother will be looking down from Heaven, with clear sight - and enormous pride - at what has been accomplished for the betterment of humanity.

Love,  
*Lois*

## *Upcoming Events*

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March 20, 2020

**American Military Hero Dog Monument Dedication**

Tri-County Animal Rescue, Boca Raton, FL

12:00 noon

Light lunch to follow

By Invitation Only

February 19, 2021

Lois Pope and LIFE's Board invite you to

**LIFE's 27th Annual Lady in Red Gala**

The Breakers Palm Beach

6:00 pm

To learn more or to donate, visit  
[www.life-edu.org](http://www.life-edu.org) or call 561.582.8083.