



## THE LANGUAGE OF SIGHT SOCIETY

The Language of Sight Society is the philanthropic arm of the Leland and Betty Tollett Retinal and Ocular Genetics Center. A \$500 gift or more will qualify for membership and your name will be included in the annual report. An individual or family gift of \$100,000 or more will be recognized on the center's donor wall as a Founder Member.

## THE IMPORTANCE OF GENETICS

The directors of the NIH and the NEI have characterized genetics as follows:

“We are on the leading edge of a true revolution in medicine, one that promises to transform the traditional one size fits all approach into a much more powerful strategy that considers each individual as unique and as having special characteristics that should guide an approach to staying healthy.”

To learn more about how you can help support the Leland and Betty Tollett Retinal and Ocular Genetics Center and other ways to support the Jones Eye Institute, please contact Meredith Fraiser at (501) 526-8166 or by e-mail at [mgfraiser@uams.edu](mailto:mgfraiser@uams.edu).



# THE LANGUAGE OF SIGHT SOCIETY



“We are all inspired by the wonder of vision for it creates the memories of yesterday, the beauty of today, and the dreams of tomorrow.”

# LELAND AND BETTY TOLLETT RETINAL AND OCULAR GENETICS CENTER



## THE IMPORTANCE OF GENETICS

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- Francis S. Collins, M.D.  
Director  
National Institutes of Health

"We believe that this Center will help unlock many of the medical mysteries we currently face and we are honored that Leland and Betty Tollett have provided the lead gift in this endeavor."

- John P. Shock, M.D.

"Leland Tollett has been an important leader at Tyson Foods for more than five decades. He came aboard at a time of transition and helped propel our company to the top of the poultry industry."

- Don Tyson

## BETTY & LELAND TOLLETT

Betty and Leland Tollett have a celebrated history of achieving, educating and giving.

Betty grew up on a family farm just outside of Fayetteville, Arkansas. After graduating from Farmington High School, she earned a degree in elementary education from the University of Arkansas. Along with teaching stints, Betty was heavily involved with the First Baptist Church in Springdale where she taught third grade Sunday school for more than 25 years. As a breast cancer survivor, she was chosen to serve as the honorary co-chairman of the 2008 Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure.

Leland, born in Nashville, Arkansas to cattle farmers, earned a bachelor's degree and master's degree in poultry science and nutrition from the University of Arkansas before starting his 50-plus year career with Tyson Foods, Inc. He began his tenure as director of research and nutrition and quickly climbed the company ladder to eventually become Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the Board. When asked about his achievements, he said, "I had been taught from an early age that hard work, loyalty and persistence were important and that if you did a good job for somebody, it would not go unnoticed."

Betty and Leland have two children, Terri Mardis and Gary Tollett, and six grandchildren.

"Betty and I wanted to do something unique for Arkansans with vision impairment, and we chose the Jones Eye Institute because of its excellent reputation as a comprehensive eye institute. We are excited about the potential of this new center.

- Leland Tollett

## THE LANGUAGE OF SIGHT SOCIETY

### FOUNDERS

Gifts of \$100,000 or more since 2010

Leland and Betty Tollett  
Willard & Pat Walker Charitable Foundation  
Martha Wood Bentley Estate  
Elvis and Vada Powers Revocable Trust  
The Bodenhamer Foundation  
Foundation Resource Management, Inc.

### HONORARY

Gifts of \$100,000 or more prior to 2010

Willard & Pat Walker Charitable Foundation  
Harvey & Bernice Jones Charitable Trust  
Elizabeth Pruet  
William P. Bowen Estate  
William W. Ferguson  
Research to Prevent Blindness  
Ethel Smith Thompson Trust  
John P. Shock, M.D. Trust  
Valda Montgomery Estate  
William P. Bowen Estate  
Gertrude Rimmel Butler  
Stella Boyle Smith Trust  
Charles and Jo Ann Dante  
John and Joie Nutt  
Arkansas Office of the Attorney General  
Sally McSpadden Boreham  
The Lions of Arkansas  
Ethel Smith Thompson Trust  
Elmer A. Ferguson  
Erma Sobolewski  
W.H. and Ruby F. Lott  
Ed Dell Wortz  
Charles Eickhoff Estate

## WHY AN OCULAR GENETICS CENTER?

Scientists are now peering into the molecular basis of a multitude of diseases to include macular degeneration, glaucoma, and childhood blindness. In fact, we have learned that most eye conditions have a genetic component.

The Leland and Betty Tollett Retinal and Ocular Genetics Center will position the Jones Eye Institute and UAMS on the cutting edge of this new, exciting field.

## LELAND AND BETTY TOLLETT RETINAL AND OCULAR GENETICS CENTER

Thanks to the generous gifts of Leland and Betty Tollett and the Willard & Pat Walker Charitable Foundation, the Jones Eye Institute is moving into a new frontier by opening an Ocular Genetics Center on the eighth floor. This new center will include diagnostic and treatment space, an area for low vision clinic and rehabilitation, clinical research and database facilities. The opening of this center is a step into the future of health care in Arkansas and the region.

## CENTER'S GOALS

- To provide Arkansans and the region, with the latest diagnostic, therapeutic, and educational resources.
- To participate in the elucidation of the mystery of the genome through basic and clinical research.
- To educate the next generation of health care providers.
- To establish and manage a broad genetic database.