



Britanya – A New Picture of Life

For the first five years after her Keratoconus (a degeneration of the structure of the cornea) diagnosis Britanya's disease was controlled by hard contact lenses. Eventually, her cornea became so deformed that she was declared legally blind and had to leave her job as a day care center teacher.

Despite being so upset over having to leave her job, Britanya resisted the recommendation to have a cornea transplant. She was worried about the surgery and the outcome.

As she battled her disease, Britanya found time to develop another passion – photography. "I'd always had a love for photography," says Britanya. "I'd see pictures and experience that hold-your-breath moment. I wanted to create photos like that, too." So, despite her visual impairment, she bought a camera and started taking photos of friends, family, and whoever would sit or stand still long enough.

After a while, everyone she knew wanted photo shoots. Britanya never saw what she was photographing through the lens. She would just aim and shoot. Only after she'd uploaded the pictures to her computer was she able to see the images she had captured.

One day, Britanya awoke with excruciating pain in her left eye and could not see. She could not put off the transplant any longer. Thankfully, the entire transplant process was much easier than she thought it would be and not at all what she feared.

"For about a week I kicked myself for not doing it sooner, but now I know all those years of not being able to see had some positive effects. My family and friends are much more aware of taking care of their eyes. Sight is something people take for granted, until they don't have it anymore."

Britanya continues developing her love of photography – now finally able to see through the camera lens. She thanks God daily for that gift that her donor made possible through cornea donation.