**Daniel, Cornea Recipient**

***Living a Transformed Life***

In 1995, as a high school freshman, Daniel was diagnosed with a cornea disease called Keratoconous. At the time, he didn’t understand the severity of his condition because he was able to function with regular soft contact lenses. His vision was good enough for him to excel as a member of his high school basketball team.

After graduating from college, the disease began to take a toll on Daniel’s eyesight, and by 2005, his right cornea was so deformed that he was legally blind in his right eye. Daniel still played some basketball, but he could no longer see the basket clearly from the three point line and was beginning to lose his love for the game.

As his vision continued to deteriorate, Daniel became depressed and started overeating and not taking care of his health. In January of 2007, while in the middle of a presentation at work, his right cornea ruptured causing his eye to swell until the blue of his eye was no longer visible.

Fortunately for Daniel, three months later, he received a life-changing gift—a cornea transplant. Since his transplant, he has transformed in every aspect of life. Daniel began running, swimming and cycling and lost more than 60 pounds. In addition to training daily, he has competed in two Ironman competitions, three marathons and attempted to qualify for the 2012 Olympic Trials Marathon. Not a day goes by when Daniel doesn’t feel grateful for his donor and his or her family.

*\*Story provided courtesy of the San Antonio Eye Bank*