

Thank You

Please accept my gratitude

for the gift of life that I received

through your loved one's

unselfish gift of organ donation.



LifeLink®, the local organ recovery agency, works with families whose loved ones have generously given the gift of life through organ and tissue donation.

Often, transplant recipients and donor families find comfort in hearing from one another. A simple card, note or letter can be uplifting for a donor family.

Allow extra mailing time:

Since your card or letter must be mailed to the transplant center first, then forwarded to the organ recovery organization, please allow extra time for it to reach the donor family. Therefore, it may take a few weeks after you have mailed your letter for the donor family to receive it.

If you need further information about writing to donor families, please do not hesitate to call LifeLink.



LifeLink of Florida, LifeLink of Georgia
and LifeLink of Puerto Rico are
Donate Life Organizations.



LifeLink of Florida

9661 Delaney Creek Blvd., Tampa, Florida 33619
(800) 262-5775

LifeLink of Georgia

2875 Northwoods Parkway, Norcross, Georgia 30071
(800) 544-6667

LifeLink of Puerto Rico

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LifeLink®

writing to donor families

Have you ever wondered how you could
share your feelings with your donor family?



Do you wish to correspond with your donor family?

Here's how:

1. Please address your correspondence to the Donor Family, i.e. Dear Donor Family.
2. Identify yourself only by your first name and the organ(s) you received. For example: Jane, heart recipient; John, kidney recipient.
3. On another sheet of paper, please write your name and date of transplant so your donor family can be identified. This will not be sent with your correspondence.
4. Mail your correspondence to your transplant coordinator at the transplant center where you were transplanted.
5. Your transplant center will send your letter to the organ recovery organization which facilitated organ and tissue recovery for your donor family. They will forward the letter to the donor family if appropriate*. All confidentiality will be maintained.

**Some donor families have requested not to be contacted. In the event this is the case, your letter will be held for them should they change their mind.*

Here is some information you may want to include:

- Use simple language.
- Recognize the donor family and thank them for their gift.
- Describe how long you waited for a transplant, and the impact of the wait on your family.
- Share important milestones which have happened since your transplant, like a birthday, birth of a child or grandchild, new job or graduation.

- Explain how your life and health have improved since your transplant.
- Since the religion of the donor family is unknown, please consider this when making religious comments.

Closing your card or letter:

- Please sign only your first name, or if you wish to remain anonymous, grateful recipient (e.g., John, liver recipient).
- Do not reveal your address, city, phone number, physician or the name of the hospital where you were transplanted.

Will I hear from my donor family?

You may or may not hear from them. Many donor families have said writing about their loved one and their decision to donate helps them in their grieving process. They often feel very close to the recipients. Others, though comfortable with their decision to donate, prefer privacy and choose not to write to the transplant recipients.

Remember, the donor's family may still be coping with the loss of their loved one, and individuals manage grief in different ways. While you may be celebrating the anniversary of receiving your transplant, it is also the anniversary of someone else's loss. Please communicate in a sensitive manner.

This brochure and card were created to allow a transplant recipient to communicate their thanks for the gift of life in a sensitive manner. While saying Thank You many not feel like enough to express your gratitude, it is a simple gesture to communicate your gratitude to your donor family. Should you choose to send a note of thanks, you may use the attached card, choose your own card or write a letter.

Thank You

Words cannot express

how thankful I am for your

generosity and compassion.

You have my deepest sympathy

for the loss of your loved one,

and my greatest thanks

for a second chance at life.

I AM FOREVER GRATEFUL,