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

Will I hear from the transplant recipient(s)?

You may or may not hear from them. Many transplant recipients are thrilled to receive correspondence from their donor family. They oftentimes feel very close to the donor family. Others are overwhelmed with emotion and have difficulty expressing their gratitude.

Some transplant recipients, even though they are grateful for the donation, prefer not to write to their donor family. They may not be able to express their feelings. Remember, just as some donor families prefer to remain private, so do some transplant recipients.

Everyone handles life experiences differently. Some are able to be open and share their feelings, while others may not be able to express the emotional pain they suffer. It may take several months or even years before a recipient feels comfortable writing to their donor family. Keep these comments in mind and remember to communicate in a sensitive manner.

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
Metro Office Park, Calle 1 #1, Suite 100
Guaynabo, Puerto Rico 00968
(800) 558-0977

www.lifelinkfoundation.org
Do you wish to correspond with the recipients of your loved one's organs?

Here's how:

1. Please address your correspondence to the transplant recipient(s), e.g. Dear heart recipient.
2. Identify yourself only as a donor family and by your first name.
3. On another sheet of paper, please write your full name, the donor’s name and the date of donation so LifeLink will know which transplant center(s) to send it to. This will not be sent with your correspondence.
4. Mail to Family Services at the LifeLink office for your state. Addresses are on the back panel of this brochure.
5. LifeLink will mail your letter to the transplant center. The transplant center will forward the letter to the transplant recipient(s) if appropriate. All confidentiality will be maintained.

Here is some information you may want to include:

- Write about yourself and your loved one.
- Your or your loved one's family situation (spouse, children, grandchildren)
- Your or your loved one's job or occupation
- Your or your loved one's hobbies or interests
- The state in which you live
- Describe your loved one—did he/she play a sport, work, have children, etc.
- Since the religion of the recipient is unknown, please consider this when making religious comments.

Talk about your donation experience:

- Use simple language.
- Explain how the donation has helped you deal with your loss.
- Explain what has happened in your life since the donation.

Closing your card or letter:

- Sign your first name only (e.g., John, donor family member).
- Do not reveal your address, city, phone number or the name of the hospital where your loved one died.
- LifeLink may redact any identifying information.

Allow extra mailing time:

A LifeLink family services representative will review your card or letter before forwarding it on to the recipient’s transplant center to ensure confidentiality. The transplant center will then send it to the recipient(s).

Since your card or letter must be mailed to LifeLink first, then forwarded to the transplant center, please allow extra time for it to reach the transplant recipient(s). Therefore, it may take a few weeks after you have mailed your letter for the recipient(s) to receive it.

We thank you for your decision to help others by sharing the Gift of Life. If you need further information about writing to transplant recipients, please do not hesitate to call LifeLink.