



Writing to Your Donor's Family Members — A Guide for Transplant Recipients

The decision to write to your donor's family is a very personal one. Some recipients choose to write to their donor's family and some do not. It may help you to know that donor family members consistently express appreciation for the letters or cards they receive from transplant recipients. They often find great comfort in knowing a little about the person their loved one was able to help overcome blindness.

If you decide to write, here are some suggestions:

- Write about yourself. You may want to include your name (first name only) and information about your job, your family and friends, your hobbies and interests and the name place where you live.
- Write about your personal transplant experience. You may want to include information about your eye disease and how a transplant has affected your life. Many transplant recipients write about the things they can see and do after their transplant.
- You may wish to thank your donor family.
- Sign only your first name.
- Keep identities anonymous and confidential...avoid including any last names, street addresses, phone numbers, or names of hospitals or physicians. On occasion, donor families and transplant recipients may wish to reveal identities to each other. Both must agree to this before any personal information will be released by the eye bank.
- Feel free to write in your native language. The eye bank will have the letters translated at no cost to you or your donor's family.

After you have completed your letter or card:

- Place the card or letter in an unsealed envelope.
- Include a separate sheet of paper with your full name, with date of your transplant and the name of your surgeon.
- Mail both your letter or card and the separate note to:

Rocky Mountain Lions Eye Bank
Dept. of Public & Professional Relations
1675 Aurora Court, Mail Stop F751
Aurora, CO 80045

Letters may also be emailed to info@corneas.org. Please include the information about your transplant and surgeon in the body of your email.

All letters are reviewed to ensure confidentiality before the letter is forwarded to the donor's family along with instruction on how to write back to you. Some donor families may send a letter or card in response to your letter and others may choose not to write to you at this time — this is their personal decision.

If you have any questions or concerns about this information, please contact the Public & Professional Relations Department at Rocky Mountain Lions Eye Bank at 1-720-848-3940 or via email at info@corneas.org.