



The Decision to Write

Choosing to write to your loved one's recipients is a deeply personal decision. Many families may wonder whether they should write or when is the best time to write. The choice is yours and there is no "right" time to send a letter. Some families want to share information about their loved one right away, and some may not feel ready for quite some time. Either way is just fine.

You may be more comfortable sending a simple holiday or "Thinking of You" card rather than a long letter. Know that there is no time limit for sending a card or letter.

Should you choose to do so, Network for Hope will facilitate written correspondence between your family and transplant recipients. All correspondence is completely anonymous, and identities are kept confidential.

Will I Hear from my Loved One's Recipients?

You may or may not receive a response from them. Many recipients have shared with us that they have difficulty putting their gratitude into words, especially since their second chance was due to another family's loss. Some want to send a letter right away, and others may take several months or even years before they feel comfortable writing to their donor family. **Even if you never receive a letter, we hope you will take comfort in the knowledge that your gift has helped many.**

If the recipient does reply, we will continue to forward letters. Should the time come when both you and the recipient wish to communicate directly or meet one another, Network for Hope will guide you through the process of sharing contact information. If you have questions or need further information about writing, please reach out to Network for Hope and ask for a Family Aftercare Coordinator:

📞 **Louisville Office: (502) 581-9511**
Cincinnati Office: (513) 558-5555

✉️ **Aftercare@NetworkForHope.org**



Writing
TO
RECIPIENTS



Writing to Organ Recipients

If your loved one was an organ donor, you do not need to wait until you hear from the recipient(s) before writing your letter. You may make the initial contact and write whenever you feel ready. A letter from your family may encourage a recipient to write, knowing that your family is ready and willing to receive correspondence.

You may send a greeting card, letter or photos. Please refer to the listed suggestions for guidance.

Writing to Tissue Recipients

If your loved one was a tissue donor, it may take up to five years before the tissue is transplanted. Most tissue recipients receive their gift during a surgical procedure in a hospital or outpatient facility and their follow-up care is much different than an organ recipient who is followed by a transplant center.

Because of the timeline and follow up care for tissue recipients, they would need to initiate contact and your family may then respond accordingly. In other words, it is not possible for your family to send correspondence to a tissue recipient until they reach out to you. Please be assured, your loved one's generous gift will always be remembered by those whose lives were restored.

Writing to Cornea Recipients

Time frames and accessibility of information for cornea recipients may vary. Please contact the Family Aftercare team for assistance in connecting you with the appropriate eye bank.

Information You May Choose to Include:

- You may share the first names of yourself, your loved one, and your family members.
- Tell about your loved one's occupation, hobbies, interests, and special things about them.
- You may send a photograph if you wish.

Things to Avoid

- Please do not include last names, specific employers, names of hospitals or doctors
- If making any religious comments, please keep in mind that the faith of the recipient is unknown.

Closing Your Card or Letter

- Sign your first name only.
- Do not reveal your address, city, or phone number.

Sending Your Card or Letter

Please complete the tear off sheet provided and mail to the office nearest you:

Network for Hope
Attn: Family Aftercare
10301 Linn Station Road
Louisville, KY 40223



Network for Hope
Attn: Family Aftercare
615 Elsinore Place, Suite 400
Cincinnati, OH 45202



If you wish to send your correspondence electronically, please email your letter to: Aftercare@NetworkForHope.org

Allow for Extra Mailing Time

A Network for Hope Family Aftercare Coordinator will review your card or letter to ensure confidentiality (information that breaches confidentiality will be removed) and then forward it to the transplant center.

Since the correspondence is first sent to us and then forwarded, please be aware that it may take some time for the recipient to receive your correspondence.



Your full name, address, and telephone number:

Your loved one's full name:

Hospital where the donation occurred and date of donation:

I grant permission for Network for Hope to share my correspondence with staff and/or donation partners for educational and partnership acknowledgement purposes. My identity will always remain confidential.

Signature:

