

Donor Family Services

Supporting families with care,
resources & lifelong connections



Writing to Your Loved One's Recipients

Our Donor Family Services team supports donor families following their loved one's donation. We are here to help you by facilitating communications and connections between you and your loved one's transplant recipients.

The decision to write is a personal choice. Sometimes, donor families choose to write to recipients to share information about their loved one and themselves. For some, this sharing may help in their grieving process. Transplant recipients consistently express appreciation for the letters that they receive and welcome learning about the person responsible for their renewed health and hope.

You may choose whether to disclose your identity in the letter. The information you share will be forwarded to the recipient to use at their discretion. **It is not Gift of Hope's practice to redact identifying information, but transplant hospitals may follow other privacy guidelines.**

How should I begin?

- Write what you feel comfortable sharing about your loved one and other family members
- You may include marital status, occupation, hobbies, or special interests your loved one enjoyed
- Express how the donation decision has impacted you, your family, and your community
- Carefully consider religious comments as the views of the recipients are unknown

Will I hear back from the recipient?

Your letter may or may not receive a response. Some recipients choose to write when they are further along in their recovery. Others may be overcome with emotion as a result of the gift they have received and find it difficult to convey their gratitude in writing. It is possible that they will wait several months or even years before they feel comfortable writing and/or sending a communication.

Where should I send my letter?

Electronic submissions are encouraged to reduce the likelihood of your letter getting lost in the mail. Email your letter or an image of it to donorfamilies@giftofhope.org. At the top of your email please include your name, date of transplant, and your transplant hospital.

Letters can also be mailed to:

Gift of Hope

Attn: Donor Family Services
425 Spring Lake Dr.
Itasca, IL 60143

On a separate sheet of paper, please list your name, your loved one's name, and the date of their passing.