



After receiving your transplant, you may wish to write a letter to your donor family, expressing how the gift of donation has helped you.

Often the donor family is comforted in hearing from the recipient of their loved one's donation gift and finds it helps in their grieving process.

Whether the decision to donate was already made by their loved one or they themselves made the decision for their loved one, this correspondence can reassure them that someone in need is being helped.



Lions Eye Bank at Albany / Rochester

Writing to ... Donor Families



Prepared by
Lions Eye Bank at Albany / Rochester

What you can include when writing

- Your first name only.
- Type of work you do.
- Any interests or hobbies.
- Family composition (spouse, children, Please no names).
- It's okay to use the words *thank you*.
- Marital status (no names).
- Use simple language.
- Explain how the transplant has changed and improved your life.
- Tell them what has happened in your life since transplant and how its made life more meaningful.
- The beliefs of the donor family are unknown, so please consider this before making religious comments.

Please do not include:

- Last names, address, city or state in which you live, phone numbers, photographs, e-mail addresses, surgery center or physician

Mailing & handling your card/letter

- Place your card or letter in an unmarked, unsealed envelope.
- On a separate piece of paper include your full name, address, phone number and the date of your transplant.
- Place these items in another envelope and address it to:
 - **Lions Eye Bank at Albany/Rochester**
4 Tower Place, Suite 601
Albany, NY 12203
Attn: Donor Family Services
- Once received, we will review it to ensure its confidentiality, and if necessary remove any identifying information.
- The correspondence will then be forwarded to your donor's family, who may or may not choose to read it.
- Your confidentiality and that of the donor family will be maintained.

Upon occasion and after some time has passed, should you and the donor family wish to be in direct contact, and agree in writing, it is only then that confidential information can be shared.

Will I hear from the recipient(s)?

You may or may not hear from your donor's family. Every individual manages grief in different ways.

Some donor families find writing about their loved one helps them in their grieving process. Others may prefer privacy or are still dealing with the grief of losing a loved one and choose not to respond, or may take many months or years before responding.

Please call our office with any questions.

Thank you.

(518) 489-7606

