



WRITING TO DONOR FAMILIES

Donor families and transplant recipients may find comfort in writing to each other. A simple card or thank-you letter can be uplifting to the family in the midst of their grief.

WILL I HEAR FROM THE DONOR FAMILY?

You may or may not hear back. Some donor families have said writing about their loved one and their decision to donate helps them in their grieving process. Other donor families, even though they are comfortable with their decision to donate, prefer privacy and choose not to write the transplant recipients. Remember the donor's family may still be coping with the loss of their loved one.

VisionFirst is here to facilitate the communication between you and the donor family.

INFORMATION TO INCLUDE IN YOUR LETTER:

- Talk about yourself
- Discuss your job or occupation
- Include information about your family (spouse, children, grandchildren)
- Describe your hobbies and interests
- Share your transplant experience (use simple language)
- Recognize the donor family and thank them for their gift
- Describe what the wait was like for you and your family
- Explain how the transplant has improved your vision and changed your life
- Include anything you may be able to do now that was not possible before the transplant

INFORMATION **NOT** TO INCLUDE IN YOUR LETTER:

- Do not use last names
- Do not include your address, city, telephone number, or email address
- Do not reveal the name or location of your surgery center or physician
- Do not use exact dates
- Be sensitive regarding religious comments and views, because the donor family's specific faith is not known

MAILING YOUR LETTER:

- Enclose your letter(s) to the donor families in individual envelopes
- Include a separate piece of paper with your full name and the date of your transplant. (This is for VisionFirst's information.)
- Place these items (envelope(s) to families and paper with your name and transplant date) in a larger envelope and mail it to:

VisionFirst
4745 Haven Point Blvd.
Carmel, IN 46280

- Upon receiving your letter, we will review to ensure privacy and then forward it to the donor family.