



# Writing to Donor Families

The decision to write to your donor family is very personal. It's not always easy to express how you feel or find the right words to say "thank you."

Whether or not you decide to write to your donor family is your choice. If you do decide to write, you may choose your own greeting card and write a note/letter or use the card attached and include your note/letter.



## General information:

- › Use first names only.
- › Use the region in which you live (Midwest, South, etc.).
- › Share your job or occupation, hobbies and/or interests.
- › You may share your family situation, such as marital status, children or grandchildren (if you provide names, provide first names only).
- › Treat religious comments in a sensitive manner.
- › It is OK to include appropriate family pictures.

## Talk about your transplant experience:

- › Use simple language.
- › Thank your donor family for their generosity.
- › Do not reveal the name of your transplant center or doctor's names.
- › Describe how long you waited for a transplant.
- › Explain how the transplant has improved your health and changed your life.
- › Explain what has happened in your life since your transplant.

## Closing your card/letter:

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

## Mailing your card/letter:

- › Place your card/letter in an unsealed envelope.
- › Include a separate piece of paper with your full name and date of your transplant.
- › Place these items in another envelope and mail them to your transplant center. The transplant center will then forward your card/letter through the appropriate channels where it will be reviewed and then forwarded to your donor family.
- › Please allow extra mailing time.

## Will I hear from my donor family?

Your donor family may or may not respond. Most families are grateful to receive a note of thanks and appreciate hearing from you and knowing how you are doing.

## Will I be able to meet or communicate directly with my donor family?

Midwest Transplant Network will work with your transplant center to facilitate a request for direct communication when the following criteria has been met:

1. Each party has written anonymously to the other at least one time.
2. Both parties have expressed a desire to exchange contact information.
3. Both parties have returned a signed and notarized consent and release form to Midwest Transplant Network.

*Thank you*



Please accept a sincere thank you  
for the gift that I received from  
your loved one's generous donation.

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