



About LifeCenter

LifeCenter Organ Donor Network is the local non-profit organization that works with families whose loved ones have generously given the gift of life through organ and tissue donation.

Writing to Your Donor Family

HOW DO I SAY THANK YOU?

Danielle and Christopher,
Donor Parents



"My life was shattered after losing my only child but I hoped to learn that Nick's gift of organ and tissue enhanced the lives of not only the recipients but their families as well. It was so important for me to hear the recipients were happy and living fulfilling lives because of Nick's decision to be an organ and tissue donor!"

- **Debbie**, Donor Mother

LifeCenter  
Saving lives through organ and tissue donation

615 Elsinore Place, Suite 400
Cincinnati, OH 45202

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LifeCenter  

The Decision to Write

Choosing to write to your donor family is a deeply personal decision. Many recipients may wonder whether they should write or when is the best time to write. It may help you to know that many donor families have shared how meaningful it is to hear from their loved one's recipients.

It may be that you do not want to write at this time. You may be more comfortable sending a holiday or "Thinking of You" card at a later date. Know that there is no time limit for sending a card or letter.

Information you may want to include:

- Your first name and names of your family members
- Your occupation, hobbies, interests
- Use simple language if sharing why you needed a transplant.
- Describe how long you waited and the impact this had on your family.
- Acknowledge the donor family's loss, and tell how grateful you are to have received this life-saving gift.
- Share important milestones or day-to-day activities you have been able to resume since receiving your transplant.

Things to avoid:

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

Mailing Your Card or Letter

On a separate piece of paper, include:

- Your full name
- Date of Transplant
- Hospital where you received the transplant

Mail your letter/card to:

LifeCenter
Attn: Family Aftercare
615 Elsinore Place, Suite 400
Cincinnati, OH 45202

Allow for Extra Mailing Time

Since the correspondence is first sent to us and then forwarded, please be aware that it may take several weeks for the process to be complete.

Will I Hear from my Donor Family?

You may or may not receive a response from them. Some families may be overwhelmed with emotion or may have difficulty expressing their sentiments in words. Still others may take several months or even years before they feel comfortable writing to their loved one's recipients.

If the donor family does reply, we will continue to forward letters. If the time comes when both you and the donor family wish to communicate directly or meet one another, LifeCenter will guide you through the process of sharing contact information.

If you have questions or need further information about writing to donor families, please call
LifeCenter at 513-558-5555,
and ask for a Family Aftercare Coordinator.