

Donor families and tissue recipients find comfort in hearing from each other. A simple card, note, or letter can provide significant emotional uplift.

Thank you for helping others by sharing the gifts of life, health and hope.

For more information and resources, please visit healingthespirit.org.

WRITING TO Tissue Recipients & Their Families

Share your feelings with your loved one's tissue recipient.



HEALING THE SPIRIT



HEALING THE SPIRIT
healingthespirit.org

1864 Concert Drive
Virginia Beach, VA 23453
Phone: 800.847.7831



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How to Respond to Letters from Your Loved One's Tissue Recipient(s):

- 1 Write your first and last name, your loved one's full name, and the date of donation on a separate piece of paper. This will not be sent with your correspondence and is for reference purposes only.
- 2 Please address your correspondence to the recipient by name, if available, or refer to them as "recipient." For example: "Dear Recipient."
- 3 You can choose to identify yourself only as a donor family member or use only your first name. For example: "I am (your loved one's name)'s Mother, Deborah." If you wish to share your contact information, please include it in your letter.
- 4 **Mail to:**
LifeNet Health
1864 Concert Drive
Virginia Beach, VA 23453
Attention: Donor Family Services
- 5 Once we receive your letter, we will note it in our system, review it for confidentiality, and forward it to the recipient. Due to the steps, it will take a few weeks for your correspondence to reach the recipient(s).

Information to Include in Your Communication

Talk About Yourself and Your Loved One:

- Describe your loved one: What kind of person were they? Did they have children, etc.
- Your/their job or occupation.
- Your family situation (spouse, children, grandchildren).
- Your/their hobbies or interests.
- The state in which you live.
- Since the religion of the recipient's family is unknown, please consider this when making religious comments.

Talk About Your Donation Experience:

- Use simple language.
- Explain how the donation has helped you deal with your loss.
- Describe what has happened in your life since the donation.

Closing Your Card or Letter:

- If you wish to remain confidential, sign your **first name only**. Do not reveal the name of the hospital where your loved one died.
- You may sign your name and provide your contact information if you would like the recipient to contact you directly.

Will I Have Continued Correspondence with My Loved One's Recipients?

It may take several months, or even years for you to receive a letter from your loved one's recipient. When writing a response, keep in mind that this process may also be an emotional journey for them. While many recipients are grateful to receive correspondence from their donor family, others are overwhelmed with emotion and have difficulty expressing their gratitude.

Contact Donor Family Services with any questions. We are committed to assisting both you and the recipient in the communication process.

PHONE: 1-800-847-7831

EMAIL: DFS@lifenethealth.org

