

Writing to Recipients



The decision to write is a personal choice. Sometimes, donor families choose to write to recipients to share information about their loved one and themselves. For some, this sharing may help in their grieving process. Transplant recipients consistently express appreciation for the letters that they receive and welcome learning about the person responsible for their renewed health and hope.

A note about Writing to Tissue Recipients: Not all tissue banks have a correspondence program in place at this time. However, if your loved one was a tissue donor, please feel free to call us to see if correspondence is a possibility for you. You may reach us at (781) 373-7945 or email us at AC@neds.org, and we will be happy to provide you with more detailed information.

Where do I start?

Write what you feel comfortable sharing about your loved one and other family members. This may include marital status, occupation, hobbies, or perhaps special interests your loved one enjoyed. You may want to write about how the donation decision has impacted you, your family and your community. Carefully consider religious comments as the views of the recipients are unknown.

You may wish to keep identities anonymous and confidential. However, if you choose to include your personal contact information, it will be forwarded along to the recipient.

Will I hear back from the transplant recipients?

You may or may not receive a response to your letter. Some recipients like to wait until they are further along in their recovery before writing. Others may feel overwhelmed with emotion at the gift they have been given and have difficulty expressing their gratitude through written communication. It is possible that several months or even years could pass before they feel comfortable writing; however, we have found that most recipients find comfort in hearing from their donor's family first. When a donor family writes first, this indicates to them you are open to receiving correspondence at that point in time.

Can I have direct contact with my loved one's recipients?

New England Donor Services supports connections between donor families and recipients. It may be possible for you to have direct contact with your loved one's recipients if they also show interest in this type of connection. Please call an Aftercare Specialist for more information regarding taking this next step.

Who do I contact if I still have questions?

Aftercare Services:
Phone: **(781) 373-7945**
Email: **AC@neds.org**

Where do I mail my card or letter?

Place your card or letter in an unsealed envelope. **On a separate sheet of paper**, please write your full name, mailing address and email along with your loved one's name and date of donation. This information is used by Aftercare Specialists for identification purposes only.

Mail both your letter or card along with information sheet in one envelope to:

Aftercare Services
New England Donor Services
60 First Avenue
Waltham, MA 02451

If you prefer email, please forward your letter along with the identification information to AC@neds.org