

You Made a Difference

ALLOW EXTRA MAILING TIME

A KODA Aftercare Coordinator will review your card or letter to ensure confidentiality (information that breaches confidentiality will be removed) and forward it to the transplant center. The transplant center will then send it to the recipient.

Since your card or letter must be mailed to KODA first and then forwarded, please allow extra time for your letter to reach the recipient. It may take a few weeks for the transplant recipient to receive your correspondence.

WILL I HEAR FROM THE TRANSPLANT RECIPIENT?

You may or may not receive a response from the recipients. Some of the transplant recipients write to donor families immediately. However, many other transplant recipients have said that they are overwhelmed with emotion and have difficulty expressing their gratitude in words. As a result, for some, it may take several months or even years before they feel comfortable writing to their donor family. **Even if you never receive a letter, we hope you will take comfort in the knowledge that your gift has helped save many lives.**

We Are Here for You

NEED ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE?

If you have questions or need additional information, call Kentucky Organ Donor Affiliates at **1-800-525-3456** and ask to speak with an Aftercare Coordinator or email us at: **donorfamilies@kodaorgan.org**

Sharing a Bond

WRITING to Recipients



KENTUCKY ORGAN DONOR AFFILIATES
1-800-525-3456



Writing Is a Personal Decision

CHOOSING TO WRITE A LETTER

The decision to write to transplant recipients is a very personal one. Sometimes, donor families choose to write to transplant recipients and their families to share information about themselves and their loved one. For some donor families, this sharing with the transplant recipient helps them in their grieving process. Whether or not you decide to write to the transplant recipient is your choice.

Should you choose to do so, the Kentucky Organ Donor Affiliates (KODA) will facilitate written correspondence between your family and transplant recipients. All correspondence is completely anonymous and identities are kept confidential.

WRITING TO ORGAN RECIPIENTS

If your loved one was an organ donor, you do not need to wait until you hear from the recipient(s) before writing your letter. You may make the initial contact and write whenever you feel ready. A letter from your family may encourage a recipient to write, knowing that your family is ready and willing to receive correspondence.

You may send a greeting card, letter or photos. Please refer to the listed suggestions for guidance.

WRITING TO TISSUE/CORNEA RECIPIENTS

If your loved one was a tissue donor, it may take up to five years before the tissue is ultimately transplanted. Most tissue recipients receive their gift during a surgical procedure in a hospital or outpatient facility and their follow-up care is much different than an organ recipient who is followed by a transplant center after receiving their organ transplant.

Because of the time line and follow up care for tissue recipients, they would need to initiate contact and your family may then respond accordingly. In other words, it is not possible for your family to send correspondence to a tissue recipient until they reach out to you. Please be assured, your loved one's generous gift will always be remembered by those whose lives were restored.

* Time frames and accessibility of information for cornea recipients may vary. Please contact the KY Lions Eye Bank at kylionseyebank.org for questions or additional assistance.

If you receive correspondence from a tissue recipient who has provided their address to our tissue partners, you may respond to their letter. Please follow the suggested guidelines provided here for you.

PROVIDE GENERAL INFORMATION:

Suggestions on what to include:

- Include your loved one's **first name only**.
- His or her job or occupation.
- His or her hobbies or interests.
- Your family situation, such as marital status, children, or grandchildren.
- Since the religion of the transplant recipient is unknown, please consider this if you are including religious comments.

CLOSING YOUR CARD OR LETTER:

- Sign your **first name only**.
- Do not reveal your address, city, or phone number.
- Do not reveal the name of the hospital where your loved one died.

SENDING YOUR CARD OR LETTER:

Should you wish to mail your letter:

- Place it in an unsealed, unaddressed envelope.
- Place the plain envelope in a mailing envelope and on a separate piece of paper include your full name, address, phone number, your loved one's full name and the date of donation.

MAIL TO:

**Aftercare Coordinator
Kentucky Organ Donor Affiliates
10160 Linn Station Road
Louisville, Kentucky 40223**

—or—

If you wish to send your correspondence electronically, please email your letter to:
donorfamilies@kodaorgan.org

“Writing to the transplant recipients has brought comfort and healing in my grief.”

- KODA Donor Family