

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.

Information you may wish to share:

- › Your job, hobbies or interests.
- › Your family situation, such as marital status or any children or grandchildren you may have.
- › Photos of you or your family.
- › Describe how long you waited for a transplant or how the transplant has improved your health and changed your life.
- › You may wish to thank your donor family for their generosity.
- › Contact information, such as phone number, email address or social media profiles may be included if you would like the donor family to be able to contact you directly.

Things to consider:

- › Religious information or medical details can be sensitive to some people. Please use discretion if you choose to include this information.
- › Keep in mind that anything you share cannot be taken back and Midwest Transplant Network (MTN) has no control what the donor family may choose to do with that information. By including your contact or identifying information, you understand that it will be forwarded to your donor family and they may contact you. If you choose not to include identifying or contact information, MTN will not share your personal information without your permission. MTN remains available to facilitate anonymous communication on your behalf.
- › Although MTN supports open communication between donor families and recipients, some transplant centers and organ procurement organizations may limit what recipients can share and receive. In most cases, they will allow information to be shared with the completion of a release form. We will work with these organizations to obtain the required documentation and will notify you if a release form is needed.

Sending 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 give them to your transplant coordinator or mail to:

Midwest Transplant Network
Donor Family Services
1900 W. 47th Place, Suite 100
Westwood, KS 66205



- › If you prefer to email your letter, it can be sent to aftercare@mwtm.org. Please include your full name, date of transplant and name of your transplant center in the email.

Will I hear from my donor family?

You may or may not receive a response from your donor family. While most find it healing to hear a recipient's story, some families prefer privacy and choose not to communicate with the recipient(s) of their loved one's donation. It is possible they may never respond. If we receive a response for you, we will forward it to your transplant center, and they will deliver it to you. For more questions about this process, please speak with your transplant coordinator.

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

The decision to communicate directly with or meet your donor family is a deeply personal decision and both you and the donor family must mutually agree to this. The first step is to write to your donor family or respond to their letter if they have written to you. If you choose to include contact information, the donor family may reach out to you directly. Should you and your donor family decide to meet in person, coordination of this meeting will be arranged between both parties. MTN is pleased to offer use of our facility as a safe and neutral meeting location for your meeting at no cost. Please note any travel, lodging or other expenses related to meeting with your donor family will be the responsibility of each party. MTN will not cover or reimburse these expenses. If you wish to use our facility as a meeting location, please contact us.

Please accept a sincere
Thank you.

