



Writing to your Loved One's Recipient(s)

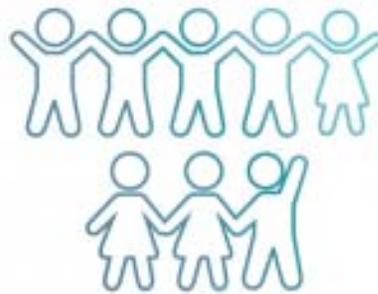
Carrie Schnieders
Donor Wife of Cletus Schnieders III

LifeCenter  

All Donation is *Life-Changing!*

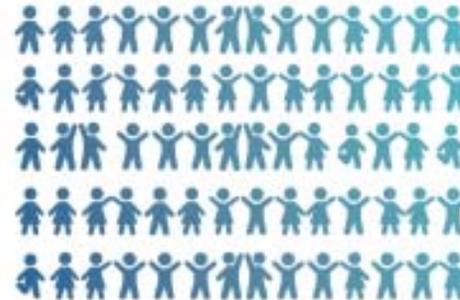
One donor can...

save up to
8 lives



through
ORGAN donation

heal up to
75 lives



through
TISSUE donation

Communication with Tissue Recipients

Communication differs from that of organ and cornea recipients, due to:

The *Large number* of lives enhanced with a single tissue donation.

The tissue processing phase can take *several months* to complete.

Tissue gifts can be transplanted for up to *5 years* following donation.

Communication with Tissue Recipients:

Tissue recipients must initiate the writing process, because LifeCenter does not receive contact information for recipients unless they send a letter.

If your loved one's tissue recipient(s) have not yet written, but it would provide your family comfort to write to them, we invite you to send your letter and we will keep it on file.

If LifeCenter receives a letter from a tissue recipient for your family, we will let you know.

The Decision to Write

Choosing to write to your loved one's recipients is a deeply personal decision.

There is no period of time that is too soon or too late to write.

The appropriate time is when you are ready to reach out.



Writing is an Opportunity

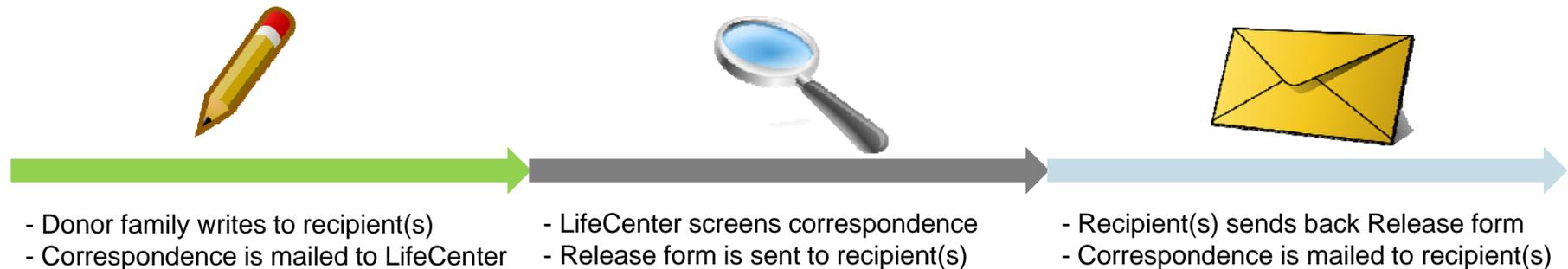
Because donation is *confidential*, LifeCenter cannot share information regarding any donor family or recipient.

Writing provides your family an *opportunity* to:

Share information about your loved one and your family

Learn more about your loved one's recipient(s)

The Writing Process



If a recipient writes first or responds to a donor's family, the same process takes place.

Writing continues through LifeCenter until both parties express a written interest in Direct Communication.

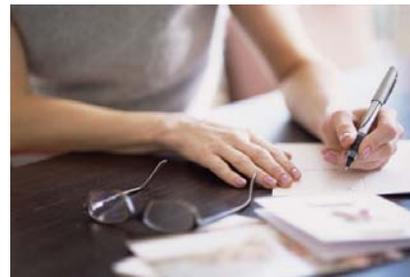
Getting Started

You may send a card, letter, or both.

Grab a pen and paper, choose a card, or sit in front of a computer.

Take your time...and think about the *message* you want to send to the recipient(s).

When in doubt, keep it simple and speak from the *heart*.



Since donation is confidential, what *may* I include about myself and my loved one?

- The first names and ages of your loved one and your family members
- Your loved one's occupation (what they did, not where they worked)
- The state in which you live
- Your loved one's hobbies and interests
- Special things your loved one enjoyed and that your family enjoys
- Some of your loved one's favorite things
 - Sometimes the little things can be points of connection (ex: my loved one loved pineapple on pizza).
- You may include a photograph of your loved one if you wish
 - Please be mindful of any proper names or identifying information within the picture.

To maintain confidentiality, what should I *not* include?

- The last names of your loved one and your family members
- Specific occupation(s) for you or your loved one
- The city or town in which you live
- Name of the hospital where your loved one passed
- Social media information for you or your loved one
- Your contact information
- Any information or combination of details that is identifiable if searched

Should I write separate letters if there are multiple recipients?

It's your choice.

If this is your first letter, do not feel like you have to write a unique or different letter for each recipient.

Often, donor families will write one letter or send one card and then LifeCenter can make copies for each recipient.

* Please send a *separate note* with your correspondence and tell us if you would like copies to be made for all recipients.

Where do I send my card or letter?

Correspondence can be mailed to:

LifeCenter

Attn: Family Aftercare

615 Elsinore Place, Suite 400

Cincinnati, Ohio 45202



Correspondence can be emailed to:

Aftercare@LifePassItOn.org

Please enclose the following on a *Separate* slip of paper:

Your loved one's full name

Date of donation

Hospital where donation took place



Will I hear back from the recipient(s)?

Honestly...we don't know.

Everyone's situation is different.

Everyone's transplant journey is unique.

Everyone's timeline is respected.

Some recipients respond fairly quickly, while others may need more time.

Some recipients may be too overwhelmed with emotion (also survivor's guilt) to respond.

Some recipients find comfort in hearing from their donor's family, but aren't ready to write.

We encourage those who wish to write, to do so.

There are no guarantees of a response, but the act of writing can be therapeutic.

Am I able to meet the recipient(s)?

As mentioned, donation is confidential and LifeCenter is dedicated to maintaining that confidentiality. For this reason, writing is facilitated through LifeCenter **unless** there is a mutual desire to communicate directly.

Direct Communication **only** takes place when a donor's family and recipient have established a written relationship (written back and forth), both parties have expressed an interest in meeting, exchanging contact information, or wanting to communicate outside of LifeCenter (including through social media).

If this occurs, LifeCenter will help guide the process of Direct Communication.



My Final Gift

It is now time for me to move on
Into the dusk, but also the dawn.
I will remain as the morning comes
As I've left behind a gift for someone.
So another may walk, may talk, may see
Where their life was locked,
I offered a key.
I am a donor to someone in need
My final gift, my final deed.

~ Author Unknown

Questions?



If you have specific questions, please call us at (513) 558-5555 and ask to speak with a Family Aftercare Coordinator or send an email to Aftercare@LifePassItOn.org.

Thank you.