

"I think of the man who donated his heart to me daily. I think about him most when I am doing something that I thought I would never be able to do again. If it wasn't for that man's selfless decision to be a donor, I wouldn't be here today. It has given me a renewed sense of purpose and an incredible outlook on what life has to offer."

- **Donerik**, Heart Recipient



About LifeCenter

LifeCenter Organ Donor Network is the local non-profit organization that works with families whose loved ones have generously given the gift of life through organ and tissue donation.

615 Elsinore Place, Suite 400
Cincinnati, OH 45202

lifepassiton.org • 513-558-5555

Writing to Recipients

A SIMPLE GUIDE FOR FAMILIES



Max,
Kidney Recipient



The Decision to Write

Choosing to write to your loved one's recipients is a deeply personal decision. Many families may wonder whether they should write or when is the best time to write. The choice is yours and there is no "right" time to send a letter. Some families want to share information about their loved one right away, and some may not feel ready for quite some time. Either way is just fine.

You may be more comfortable sending a simple holiday or "Thinking of You" card rather than a long letter. Know that there is no time limit for sending a card or letter.

Information you may choose to include:

- The first names of yourself, your loved one, and your family members
- Tell about your loved one's occupation, hobbies, interests, and special things about him or her
- You may send a photograph if you wish

Things to avoid:

- Please do not include last names, cities, contact information, specific employers, names of hospitals or doctors
- If making any religious comments, please keep in mind that the faith of the recipient is unknown

Mailing Your Card or Letter

On a separate piece of paper, include:

- Your name and the donor's full name
- Date of Donation
- Hospital where the donation occurred

Mail your letter/card to:

LifeCenter

Attn: Family Aftercare
615 Elsinore Place, Suite 400
Cincinnati, OH 45202

Allow for Extra Mailing Time

Since the correspondence is first sent to us and then forwarded, please be aware that it may take several weeks for the process to be complete.

Will I Hear from my Loved One's Recipients?

You may or may not receive a response from them. Many recipients have shared with us that they have difficulty putting their gratitude into words, especially since their second chance was due to another family's loss. Some want to send a letter right away, and others may take several months or even years before they feel comfortable writing to their donor family.

If the recipient does reply, we will continue to forward letters. If the time comes when both you and the recipient wish to communicate directly or meet one another, LifeCenter will guide you through the process of sharing contact information.

If you have questions or need further information about writing to recipients, please call **LifeCenter** at **513-558-5555**, and ask for a Family Aftercare Coordinator.