

WRITING TO RECIPIENTS

The decision to write to organ transplant recipients is a very personal one and is completely up to you. Sometimes, donor families choose to write organ transplant recipients and their families to share information about themselves and their loved one. For some donor families, this sharing with the recipient helps them in their grieving process. While most of our correspondence is between organ transplant recipients and their donor families, tissue recipients can and do write to their donor families as well. It can be possible to reciprocate that communication. A Family Resource Specialist can help answer those questions for you.

You may write one letter, and we will ensure that a copy is forwarded to each recipient. You may also write to specific recipients. Please indicate the specific recipient by either addressing the letter as: "Dear Heart Recipient" or indicate which organ/tissue on the outside of the letter.

If you would like to write to the recipients, you may send a card, letters, and even a photo. The following guidelines may assist you in deciding what type of information to include.

Provide general information such as:

- 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's family is unknown, please consider this if you are including religious comments.

Closing Your 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

Mailing Your Letter:

- Place it in an unsealed, unaddressed envelope.
- You do not need to include a stamp on the unsealed envelope. We will cover all mailing costs to the recipients.
- 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:

Family Resource Specialist
HonorBridge
7000 Millhouse Rd.
Chapel Hill, NC 27516

Please be patient as the exchange of correspondence may take several days to several weeks. Once you have sent your correspondence to HonorBridge, we forward your letters on to the local recipient's transplant hospital or to another organ procurement organization (OPO) if the recipient is located out-of-state.

FamilyResources@HonorBridge.org
HonorBridge.org
800.200.2672

