

The View of Lifesharing

Lifesharing encourages written correspondence between recipients and donor families. All correspondence is completely anonymous and confidential.

Lifesharing is a community-based, federally designated, nonprofit organization dedicated to saving and enhancing lives. Our work includes promoting donation, recovering organs and tissue for transplantation, and supporting transplant recipients and donor families.

Established in 1984, Lifesharing is responsible for organ and tissue recovery services to approximately 31 hospitals and 3.0 million residents of San Diego and Imperial Counties. We provide comprehensive information to families as they make their decisions on organ and tissue donation.

If you need further information about writing to recipients or are interested in volunteering for Lifesharing, please call Lifesharing at 619-521-1983. Lifesharing needs your help to bring the important message of organ and tissue donation to our community.

Will I Hear from the Recipient Family?

Some recipients may send a letter or a card to you in response to your letter. Other recipients may choose not to write to you at this time – it is their personal decision.

Others may take several months or even years before they feel comfortable writing to the donor family.

Many transplant recipients have said that they are overwhelmed with emotion and have difficulty expressing their gratitude in words.

Adapted and reprinted with permission from Lifesource, Upper Midwest Procurement Organization, Inc. Minneapolis, Minnesota



Talk to your family about donating LIFE.

Lifesharing | 
A Donate Life Organization

*A division of the University of California San Diego
A non-profit 501(c)3 organization*

7436 Mission Valley Rd
San Diego, CA 92108
P: 619-543-7225
www.lifesharing.org

Writing to Transplant Recipients



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Choosing To Write

The decision to write a transplant recipient is a very personal one. As a family member of a donor, you may or may not decide to write a note to the transplant recipients. It is your personal choice.

Families of organ donors (*donor families*) may choose to write the transplant recipients 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. You decide whether or not to write the recipients. Whatever decision you make – it is your choice.



If you would like to write the transplant recipients, you may send a greeting card or a letter. If you have any questions, please contact Lifesharing for assistance.

Suggested Guidelines

Provide General Information

The following guidelines may assist you in deciding what type of information to include.

- Your loved one's:
 - First name only.
 - Job or occupation.
 - Hobbies or interests.
 - Special things that your loved one liked to do or information about your family.
- The state in which you live.
- Your relationship to the donor.
- Your family situation such as your marital status, children or grandchildren (*first names only please*).
- Since the religion of the transplant recipient is unknown, please consider that your faith may differ from that of the recipients.

Closing Your Card or Letter

- Sign your first name only.
- Do not reveal your address or phone number.
- Do not reveal the name of the hospital where the donation took place.

Mailing Your Card or Letter

1. Place it in an unsealed envelope.
2. Include in the envelope on a separate piece of paper:
 - Your full name.
 - Your loved one's full name.
 - The date of the donation.
3. Mail to:
Lifesharing
3465 Camino Del Rio South, Suite 410
San Diego, CA 92108

Allow Extra Mailing Time

Since your card or letter must be mailed to Lifesharing first, and then forwarded to the recipient's transplant center, please allow extra time for it to arrive.

The transplant center will review your correspondence and forward it to the recipient's family. In the case that a recipient's family does not wish to communicate, a Lifesharing staff member will notify you of their decision.

Be patient, it may take a few weeks for the recipient to receive your letter or card.