

Corresponding with Your Donor's Loved Ones

The Gift of Sight is confidential. All identities will remain anonymous through the correspondence process. The information below offers guidelines for writing to your donor's loved ones and directions for submitting your letter to Iowa Lions Eye Bank. We encourage and receive correspondence from both recipients and donor loved ones, then forward it to the appropriate individual(s).

Please fill out the enclosed information card with your personal information (name, date of birth, address, date of transplant, name of transplant surgeon, etc.). This information is used to correctly link you with your donor and is for eye bank records only. Your information **will not** be sent with your correspondence to the donor's loved ones.

- ✚ Please address your correspondence to "Donor Loved Ones."
- ✚ Use your **first name only**, whether introducing yourself or in the closing.
- ✚ Recognize the donor family and their loss of a loved one, sincerely thanking them for the gift you have received.
- ✚ Provide **general information** such as your occupation, hobbies and interests, family situation (marital status, children, grandchildren).
- ✚ Explain how the transplant has improved your vision and how life has changed for you and your loved ones.
- ✚ Share important events in your life (birthday, marriage, becoming a parent or grandparent, new job, returning to school) and how restored vision has made those occasions more meaningful.
- ✚ **Communicate in a sensitive and caring manner.**
- ✚ Before making religious comments, please consider that the beliefs of the donor's family are unknown.
- ✚ Do **NOT** include the following:
 - Your address
 - Your phone number
 - Your email address
 - The name or location of your surgery center
 - Your surgeon's name
 - Exact dates

Mail your correspondence and the completed information card to:

**Iowa Lions Eye Bank
Family Services Coordinator
BioVentures Center
2500 Crosspark Road, W300
Coralville, IA 52241**

All correspondence is subject to editing by Iowa Lions Eye Bank in order to maintain confidentiality.

Choosing to write to your donor's loved ones is a personal decision...

We realize that, although the Gift of Sight dramatically improves the lives of cornea recipients, it is often difficult to put emotions and gratitude into words that seem adequate. Recipients may also fear intensifying the donor family's grief. Rest assured that donor families do indeed find comfort in receiving a simple note of thanks from the recipients of their loved one's corneas. Your written expression of gratitude often reassures them of their decision to donate and help others in the midst of their grief or confirms their support in fulfilling the prior wishes of their loved one to be a donor.

You may or may not receive correspondence from the loved ones of your cornea donor. Some donor families have stated that writing about their loved one helps them in the grieving process, while others prefer privacy and choose not to write to their recipients. Individuals differ in managing grief; choosing to write is a personal decision for the donor's family, just as it is for you, the recipient.

QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS?

Please contact us:

(319) 335-4888

info@iowalionseyebank.org

"I will never be able to tell my donor 'thank you' or how much he has changed my life. I can only live each day to make him proud. There isn't a day that goes by that I don't think about his compassion and courage and the decision he or his family made so that someone like me could see again."

-Melanie, cornea recipient



IOWA LIONS
EYE BANK
OUR VISION IS YOUR VISION