



## WRITING TO TRANSPLANT RECIPIENTS & THEIR FAMILIES

Donor families and transplant recipients may find comfort in writing to each other. For some donor families writing to the recipients helps them in their grieving process. A simple card or thank-you letter about their donor can be uplifting to the recipients.

### WILL I HEAR FROM THE TRANSPLANT RECIPIENTS?

You may or may not hear back. Many transplant recipients would appreciate correspondence from their donor's family; others may be overwhelmed with emotion and have difficulty expressing their gratitude. Other recipients, even though they may be grateful for the donation, may prefer not to write to their donor's family.

VisionFirst is here to facilitate the communication between you and the recipients. Consider writing two letters as your loved one most likely restored the sight of two individuals.

## INFORMATION TO INCLUDE IN YOUR LETTERS:

- Your loved one's first name
- Discuss your loved one's job or occupation
- Include information about your loved one's family (spouse, children, grandchildren)
- Describe their hobbies and interests
- Talk about what giving the gift of donation has meant to you and your family

## INFORMATION NOT TO INCLUDE IN YOUR LETTERS:

- Do not use last names (can sign "The Donor Family")
- Do not include your address, city, telephone number, or email address.
- Do not reveal the name or location of the hospital where the donation took place.
- Do not use exact dates
- Be sensitive regarding religious comments and views, because the donor family's specific faith is not known.

## MAILING YOUR LETTERS:

- Enclose your letter(s) to the recipient's in individual envelopes.
- Include a separate piece of paper with the donor's full name and the date of his/her death. (This is for VisionFirst's information.)
- Place these items (envelope(s) to recipient(s) and paper with donor's name and death date) in a larger envelope and mail it to:

VisionFirst  
4745 Haven Point Blvd.  
Carmel, IN 46280

- Upon receiving your letter, we will review to ensure privacy and then forward it to the transplant recipients.