Will I hear from the transplant recipient(s)?

While you may wish to correspond with a transplant recipient, it also is a personal choice whether the transplant recipient returns the sentiment. Some transplant recipients have said that the lifesaving gift can be overwhelming, and it is difficult for them to express their gratitude in words. Still others may take several months or years before they feel comfortable responding to their donor family.

If you need further information about corresponding with transplant recipients, please contact LifeGift at donorfamilyservices@lifegift.org or 800-633-6562.
The decision to correspond with a transplant recipient is a personal one for a donor family.

Some wish to share information about their loved one; others want to share tidbits about the donor to assist in the grieving process. Whatever the reason – it is your choice whether you wish to correspond with a transplant recipient.

As the organ recovery agency making the donation and subsequent transplant possible, LifeGift can help you with this process – sending written correspondence from you to the transplant center, which will then forward the letter or card to the recipient(s). All correspondence is completely anonymous and identities are kept confidential – if you so wish.

If you are considering writing to your loved one’s transplant recipient(s), LifeGift recommends the following to guide you in drafting your correspondence.

Provide general information, which may include:
- Your first name and relationship to the donor – *Please do not include last names.*
- Your loved one’s first name – *Please do not include the last name.*
- His or her job or occupation
- The state (not city) in which the donor lived
- The donor’s marital status, children, grandchildren – *Please do not include last names.*

Carefully consider whether to include religious comments because the views of the recipient(s) are unknown.

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

Prepare to send your letter.
- Place the letter in an unsealed envelope within the mailing envelope.
- Include a separate piece of paper listing:
  - Your full name
  - The donor’s full name
  - Donation date

Mail your correspondence to:
LifeGift
Attention: Donor Family Services Coordinator
2510 Westridge
Houston, Texas 77054

A LifeGift staff member will review your correspondence to ensure confidentiality. We then will forward it to the transplant coordinator at the transplant center, who then should send it to the recipient. Please allow several weeks for this process to take place.

Gail, Conner & Jody Barnes
Donor family, Lubbock