

Guidelines for Writing a Letter to a Donor Family

As a Corneal Recipient, you may receive a letter or other correspondence from the family of the corneal donor who made your transplant possible. Many recipients choose to respond by writing a letter to the donor family. These letters are forwarded by the San Diego Eye Bank with identifying information removed to protect the confidentiality of both donor families and recipients.

Suggestions of what you may want to include in a letter or card:

- Start the letter with: "Dear Donor Family" or something similar
- The date of your transplant
- Your ocular diagnosis, or why you needed a transplant
- Do not reveal you doctor's name or the hospital where you had your transplant
- What your eye sight was like prior to and after your transplant
- How your blindness affected your life
- How having a transplant changed or improved your life
- Your occupation (do not reveal where you work)
- Your hobbies, interests, personality traits
- City and state where you live
- If you are married, have children, grandchildren, etc.

Closing the letter:

- Sign your first name only

Mailing your card or letter:

- Place the letter or card in an unsealed envelope
- Do not address the envelope
- Place the envelope in a larger mailing envelope

On a separate piece of paper include the following:

- Your full name
- The name of your doctor who performed the cornea transplant
- The name of the hospital where you had your transplant
- Your mailing address and telephone number
- Put this piece of paper in the mailing envelope along with the letter or card to mail to the San Diego Eye Bank.
- Include the Release Form for authorization to print your letter or card in any of the San Diego Eye Bank's printed materials, such as the newsletter or annual report.

Mail to:

San Diego Eye Bank
9246 Lightwave Avenue, Suite 120
San Diego, CA 92123