

The Gift of Sight

CORRESPONDENCE GUIDELINES

Donor families and recipients often find comfort and healing in hearing from each other. A simple card, thank you note, or letter can be uplifting to the donor family and reassure them that they made a wonderful decision to help others in the midst of their grief. Writing a brief note to the donor family is a simple act that can provide a strong sense of well-being for the recipient. Recipients may benefit greatly from hearing information about their donor and the donor family.

The decision to communicate with your donor family or a loved one's recipient is a very personal one. If the decision is made to correspond, we ask that you abide by the following guidelines when writing about yourself or your loved one.

- Only first names should be used in the letter and closing signature.
- Write about information that you feel comfortable sharing about yourself, your loved one who donated, and other family members. This may include your occupation, hobbies, or perhaps, special things your loved one liked to do or how your transplant experience has affected your life.
- You may include a photo of yourself and loved ones.
- Keep identities anonymous and confidential. Avoid including any last names, street addresses, city names, phone numbers, or names of hospitals or physicians.
- If donor families and/or transplant recipients wish to reveal identities to each other, both parties must sign an authorization to release form before any personal information will be released by the eye bank.

After you have completed your letter or card, place it in an unsealed envelope.

- Include a separate sheet of paper with your full name, and name and date of death of your loved one, or date of your surgery.
- Mail both your letter or card and the separate note to:

CorneaGen
Attn: Donor Family Correspondence
2902 N. Orange Ave, Suite I
Orlando, Florida 32804

- Email submissions can be submitted to diann.mccormack@corneagen.com

All letters are reviewed to ensure confidentiality before the letter is forwarded to the donor family or to the recipient, via the transplanting surgeon. Recipients and donor families may send a letter or card in response; others may choose not to write to back — this is their personal decision. Many have said they feel overwhelmed with emotion and have difficulty expressing their gratitude or sharing information about their loved one in writing.

Questions, please contact the Family Services Team at 321-445-6764.