



Texas Organ Sharing Alliance

Mission

To maximize quality organ donation within the Texas Organ Sharing Alliance service area and to provide the regional transplant centers and the national Organ Procurement Transplantation Network with a professional and responsive organ recovery program. In so doing, the Texas Organ Sharing Alliance will constantly maintain the utmost consideration and concern for the donor family, the potential donor and the donor hospital staff

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Toll-Free

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The pictures in this brochure are of quilt squares created by donor families honoring their loved one.

How do I close my card or letter?

- Sign your first name only.
- Include the state you reside in, but not your address, city or phone number.

Where do I mail my letter to?

- Place your card or letter in an unsealed envelope.
- Include a separate piece of paper with your full name, date of transplant and name of your transplant center, and organ received.
- Place all these items in another envelope, seal and mail to the TOSA San Antonio address which appears on the back of this brochure.

Will my donor family write to me?

You may or may not hear from them. Some families are anxious to hear from their loved one's recipients and will send the first correspondence. However, other families prefer privacy and choose not to write. If by chance, we are unable to locate the Donor Family, a copy of your correspondence will be kept on file and the original returned to you.

Please remember...

Although simply hearing from you may bring your donor's family a sense of comfort and joy, they are still coping with the death of a loved one. Therefore, we ask you to please communicate in a sensitive manner.



Should I write To
My Donor
Family?

Congratulations! You've received a successful transplant and are once again planning your future and enjoying an active life!

You're probably wondering about the person, and his or her family, that gave you the precious gift of life. Many recipients feel there is little they can offer the donor family – the family who chose to donate the organs of someone they love – who brought hope back into the recipient's lives.

However, there is something you and only you can do. You can let them know you're thinking of them.

The decision to write to your donor's family is a very personal one – just as the decision to donate was very personal for them. However, simply hearing from you may bring comfort to them by knowing their gift of life has prevented another family from experiencing the same grief they are living with.



You may choose to send a greeting card or write a personal letter. Whatever method you choose to thank your donor's family, we ask that you follow some simple guidelines.



What can I write about myself?

- Include your first name, family situation, such as marital status, children, or grandchildren (first names only please).
- Let your donor family know about your job or occupation, and any hobbies or interests you might have.
- Write what state you are from, but don't include the city. Do not include the name or location of your transplant hospital.
- Since the religion of your donor's family is not known, please consider this if you include religious comments.

Can I talk about my transplant experience?

- Recognize the family and thank them for their gift. Make sure you use simple language.
- Describe how long you waited for a transplant. What was the wait like for you and your loved ones?
- Explain how the transplant has improved your health and changed your life. Can you participate in

activities now that you couldn't participate in before you received the transplant?

- Share with your donor family what has happened in your life since your transplant. Have you celebrated another birthday? Did your son or daughter marry? Have you become a parent or grandparent? Did you return to school or work?



Can I send my donor family pictures of me and/or my family?

Pictures that contain no identifying information, location or last name will be forwarded to the family.

In almost every instance, recipients admit this is one of the most difficult letters they have ever written. Sometimes the hardest part is writing those first few words. If you want to write and are having trouble, or if you need more information, please don't hesitate to call our office at 1-866-685-0277 and ask for the Donor Family and Volunteer Services Coordinator.