

Sample letter: Writing to your loved one's recipient

The decision to write is a personal choice. Sometimes, families choose to write to their loved one's recipients to share information about their loved one and themselves. For some, this sharing helps in their grieving process. Transplant recipients consistently express appreciation for the letters that they receive, and for learning about the person responsible for their renewed health and hope.

You may choose to keep identities confidential, or you may choose to disclose your information. We are here for you, for support in writing. Please reach out any time we can answer questions or be of service.

Gift of Hope Organ & Tissue Donor Network
Donor Family Services
donorfamilies@giftofhope.org
877- 577-3747

Dear Recipient,

My name is Mary, and my son John was an organ, eye and tissue donor. My family and I live in Indiana.

John was 23 years old when he died and had just finished college. He has two younger sisters: Olivia and Gracie. They are 18 and 16 years old. I have included a photo of the three of them; I took it at our last Christmas together.

John loved his family and friends. He would do anything for anyone, especially his two sisters! John also loved woodworking and football. He built me a nightstand not long before he passed, and I will treasure it forever. He was a huge Colts fan and always scheduled his weekends around games. Growing up, he often had his many friends over to our house to watch the games. I was tasked with ordering pizzas and cleaning up after them, but I cherish those memories of youthful boyhood energy filling my home.

Though devastated by the tragedy of John's death, we were overcome with pride that John had registered as an organ and tissue donor. It made so much sense considering he would give the shirt off his back to anyone who needed it. We miss John so very much but are comforted by the fact that he lives on through you and others.

I hope you are doing well and on the way to a full recovery. If you are comfortable with it, we would love to hear more about you and the gift of hope that you received. If you wish to contact me directly, feel welcome to email or call! I have listed my contact information below.

Sincerely,

Mary and Family

Marylovesjohn4@email.org
(123) 456-7890