



Sample letter: Writing to your donor family

When you write to express your gratitude and acknowledge the loss your donor's family has experienced: You are affirming the very reason for donation—to provide someone like you the gift of life and create meaning amid the loss of their loved one. Remember, there are no wrong words; even a simple thank you is appreciated.

You may wish to keep identities anonymous and confidential or you may choose to disclose your information. Please be aware that while Gift of Hope does not redact identifying information, some transplant programs have privacy guidelines that affect such disclosure.

We are here for you, for support in writing to your donor's family. 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

To my donor's family,

I am so sorry for your loss. My name is Charlie. I am the recipient who received your loved one's heart.

Words cannot describe the gratitude I have for you, your loved one and your family.

I was diagnosed with a heart condition that worsened over time and eventually landed me on the transplant list.

For years, I waited and finally one night I got the call. That call changed my life.

Since my transplant, I have been able to watch my son get married and play with my grandchildren without getting tired! My family and I are thankful every second of every day moving forward. I want you to know that I cherish and will protect this gift that was given to me. I am forever thankful to you, your family and your loved one.

If you wish to contact me directly, I would look forward to hearing from you.

Forever grateful,

Charlie

Charliesmith@email.org
(123) 456-7890