Writing to Transplant Recipients and Their Families
You may choose to write to your loved one’s transplant recipient. This is a personal decision that may take time. Reaching out may bring comfort or closure to you and your family.

It is up to you whether or not you choose to write to a transplant recipient. Your last name will not be included on any letters that you send. No one will know who you are or where you live.

What are your questions? Please ask. We are here to help you.
If you would like to write to a transplant recipient, here is some information to guide you:

Tell them about your loved one
• Use your loved one’s first name only or simply say “our loved one”.
• Tell about your loved one’s area of work (not job title).
• Tell about your loved one’s hobbies or interests.
• Please use care in expressing any religious sentiments.
• Do not include the name of the town or city where you live.

Signing your card or letter
• Sign your first name only, or simply sign “The donor family”.
• Do not give your address or phone number.
• Do not give the name or location of the hospital where your loved one was a patient.
Mailing your card or letter

• Place your card or letter in an envelope. Don’t seal the envelope.

• Write your full name and the date of the donation on a separate sheet of paper.

• Place the unsealed envelope and the sheet of paper in a second envelope.

• Seal the outer envelope and send it to the Family Support Liaison at the address on the back of this pamphlet. The Family Support Liaison will review the card or letter to ensure confidentiality. Your card or letter will then be mailed to the transplant recipient.

Please be aware that your note will take time to reach the transplant recipient because it must be reviewed by the Family Support Liaison before it is forwarded.
Will I hear from the transplant recipient?

- You may or may not hear from the recipient. Hearing from donor families can be overwhelming for some recipients and their families. Know that it may take time before they are ready or able to respond.

- If you need further information about writing to a transplant recipient, please contact the Family Support Liaison.