



## **Writing to Transplant Recipients A Guide for the Family Members of Eye Donors**

The decision to write to a transplant recipient is very personal. As a family member of a donor, you may or may not decide to write a note to the transplant recipient(s); it is your choice. Some recipients may reply to your letter, others may make the personal choice not to write to you at this time. Transplant recipients may not respond right away because their sight may not stabilize for several months. Many others have said they feel overwhelmed with emotion and have difficulty expressing their gratitude in writing.

If you decide to write, here are some suggestions:

- Include information you feel comfortable sharing about you and/or your family member who donated eye tissue. Consider including notes on his or her occupation, hobbies, or interests — perhaps special things he or she liked to do or information about their family.
- The religion of the recipient is unknown. Please consider this if you choose to include religious references.
- Please keep identities anonymous and confidential, you may include first names of yourself, your loved one and other family members, as well as the state in which you reside. Please avoid including last names, street addresses, phone numbers or names of hospitals or physicians. If, at some time in the future, both parties agree to exchange this information, the Rocky Mountain Lions Eye Bank will act as the facilitator.
- Again, please sign only your first name.
- If the transplant occurred outside the United States or if the recipient does not speak English, the eye bank will have your letter translated at no charge. Letters from recipients back to you will also be translated to English, if necessary.

After you have completed your letter or card:

- Place the card or letter in an unsealed envelope.
- Include a separate sheet of paper with your full name and name and date of death of your loved one.
- Mail both your letter or card and the separate note to:

Rocky Mountain Lions Eye Bank  
Community & Professional Relations  
1675 Aurora Court, Mail Stop F751  
Aurora, CO 80045

- Letters may also be emailed to [info@corneas.org](mailto:info@corneas.org). Please include the information about your loved one and the date of death in the body of the email.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Community & Professional Relations Department at 720-848-3937 or [info@corneas.org](mailto:info@corneas.org).