

## LifeQuest Organ Recovery Services

is the federally designated organ procurement organization for all of northern Florida. Our mission is to recover organs for transplantation and educate the community on the importance of organ donation.

If you would like additional information on writing to transplant recipients, please call our office at (352) 733-0530.

The information contained in this brochure is based on the guidelines set forth by the National Kidney Foundation's National Donor Family Council.

For additional information on the NDFC, call (800) 622-9010.



*LifeQuest encourages correspondence between donor families and recipients, and most transplant centers encourage their patients to write to their donor families.*

*Writing To  
Transplant  
Recipients*



720 Southwest Second Avenue  
Suite 570 North  
Gainesville, Florida 32601  
(352) 733-0350  
[www.LifeQuestFLA.org](http://www.LifeQuestFLA.org)

## **Why should my family write to the recipients?**

LifeQuest encourages correspondence between donor families and recipients, and most transplant centers encourage their patients to write to their donor families.

Making the decision to write to your loved one's organ recipients is not an easy task. It may be hard to know where to begin or what to say.

Some families write letters to the recipients because they want to share something personal or sentimental with those who have received such special gifts from their family members. Sharing such information can help families through the grieving process and provide comfort.

## **What should I write about?**

Here are some suggestions:

- Open your letter with Dear (Liver, Heart, Kidney, etc.) Recipient
- Describe your loved one and what they were like
- Mention any hobbies or special interests they had or places they liked to visit
- Write about their career or what they studied in school
- Tell them about special memorials or other tributes your family and friends have done in their honor
- Write a bit about yourself and the rest of your family and your relationship to your loved one
- Include photos if they do not contain identifying information

You can write about any of the things you feel comfortable sharing. If writing an original letter is overwhelming, you may wish to send a greeting card instead. *There is no waiting period, so you can write as soon as you are ready.*

## **What information is off-limits?**

Letters should not include information that might identify you. We ask that you not include last names, street addresses or cities, phone numbers or e-mail addresses, names of hospitals or places of employment. While LifeQuest encourages donor families to communicate with recipients, it is important that we respect the privacy and confidentiality of both donor families and recipients. LifeQuest will review all correspondence and remove any identifying information before a letter is forwarded.

If you have any questions about whether or not something is appropriate for this letter, please call LifeQuest at (352) 733-0530.

## **How do I mail my letter?**

- Place your letter in an unsealed envelope
- On a separate piece of paper, include your full name, your loved one's name and the date of donation

Mail these two items to:

LifeQuest Organ Recovery Services  
720 Southwest Second Avenue, Suite 570 North  
Gainesville, FL 32601  
Attn: Donor Family Services

We will keep a copy of your letter and send the original to the coordinator at the appropriate transplant center. If there are multiple recipients, we will send copies of your letter to each center.

***We respect the privacy and confidentiality of both families and recipients.***

***Getting a letter from a donor's family can answer questions many recipients have.***

## **Do recipients write back?**

The recipients will have received limited information on your loved one, not much more than their age, gender and geographic region in which they lived. It is natural for them to be curious about the donation and the person who gave them the gift of life.

Getting a letter from the donor's family can provide answers to the many questions they may have, but it also may be difficult or overwhelming for them to reply. Please understand that the individual receiving the letter may not respond promptly or may not respond at all.

The process of exchanging these letters takes some time. We ask families to be patient if they do not receive a letter right away.

## **Will I ever be able to communicate directly or meet the recipients?**

When both a donor family and a transplant recipient express their desire to communicate directly, LifeQuest will help facilitate the process. This normally happens after several anonymous letters have been exchanged, and it has been at least one year since the donation.