

Your Logo Goes Here

A Community of Compassion

Dear Patient,

Your corneal transplant today was made possible because a selfless donor and their family chose to give the gift of sight through cornea donation. **Last year, over 80,000 corneas from US donors were transplanted**, both in our country and around the world. There are **nearly 12 million blind or visually impaired people worldwide waiting for a cornea transplant**.

Many donor families find great comfort in knowing that their donation has improved the lives of others, and I encourage you to consider sending a thank you letter to your donor's family. I know this may be unlike any other letter you've written, so here are some suggestions to help you get started:

1. Begin with "Dear Donor Family".
2. Acknowledge the donor family's loss and thank them for their gift.
3. Tell them about yourself; your family, occupation, hobbies and interests
4. Explain the difference your transplant has made in your life. For example, if you returned to work or school, or can do routine activities again, like reading, driving or living independently.
5. Do not include your name if you're not comfortable doing so; you can sign the letter "A Grateful Recipient" or something similar.

On a separate piece of paper write your name and date of surgery so the eye bank can identify your donor family and send your letter to them. Put your letter in an unsealed envelope and send it with your name and surgery date to the eye bank at the address below. This ensures your privacy and the donor family's; only the eye bank that provided the cornea can link you to your donor's family.

(Insert EBAA member eye bank contact info here)

Other ways to express your gratitude could include:

1. Registering as an eye, tissue, and organ donor at: RegisterMe.org, and encouraging friends and family to do the same.
2. Have a conversation with your loved ones, letting them know your donation wishes.
3. Follow your local eye bank at XXXX or the Eye Bank Association of America at @RestoreSight across social media platforms to help spread the word about sight restoration.

Your donor family may or may not acknowledge your letter; they've recently lost a loved one and are understandably upset. But countless donor families have said that letters from cornea recipients were a great source of comfort in their time of loss.

Sincerely,
Doctor Name