Writing to Your Donor’s Family

You have the opportunity to write to your donor’s family to express gratitude for the gift of sight you received. It may help to know that many families are comforted by communication they receive from the recipient of their loved one’s donation. The decision to communicate with a donor family is a very personal one. Lions Eye Bank of Wisconsin (LEBW) will respect your decision.

Should you decide that writing to your donor’s family is right for you, we’re honored to help facilitate that process. The first step is to write a letter/card and send it to the LEBW office. These directions will help guide you through this process:

1. Write about information that you feel comfortable sharing. This may include describing your personality, interests, occupation, or information about you and your family.
2. You may include photos if desired. To maintain confidentiality, please do not include other identifying information in your letter, such as your last name, address, email, etc.
3. Write about your transplant experience. You may want to describe your life before your transplant and the impact it has made since.
4. You may wish to thank your donor family and express your sympathies for their loss.
5. Include a separate sheet of paper with your full name, address, date of surgery and surgeon. This information is necessary for identification purposes only and will not be shared with the recipient. Send both items to LEBW via mail or email to:
   Lions Eye Bank of Wisconsin
   Attn: Family Services
   5003 Tradewinds Parkway, Madison, WI 53718
   Email: FamilyServices@lebw.org

After exchanging at least one letter between you and the donor’s family, there are options for direct communication. If you have questions or concerns, please contact Family Services at 877.233.2354 ext. 212 or email FamilyServices@lebw.org.