



## Sample Letter to a Donor Family

Dear Donor Family,

I have tried to write this letter many times but could not find the words to appropriately express my gratitude for this gift of life and sympathy for a loss as overwhelming as yours in the same letter.

My name is Eric and I am in my middle 40's and live with my wife JoAnn. We have 2 children. For the past 10 years prior to receiving my new lungs, I was unable to work, travel, or enjoy hobbies such as playing the saxophone or swimming. During the six months prior to my transplant it was very hard for me to perform basic tasks such as showering or getting dressed. Despite the fact I never smoked or abused my body, I didn't have much longer to live.

My only hope to survive was a lung transplant but it didn't register that someone would die for that to happen. When I got the call from the transplant center, my thoughts were with you and your family as I faced this operation. I am extremely grateful that you and your loved one agreed to help others during which must have been a traumatic time. This decision was heroic.

My transplant has been a life saver. My quality of life is so improved. I can now spend time playing with my children and pursuing my hobbies. My wife and I took a much-needed vacation for the first time in 8 years.

I know that no words could possibly help with your overwhelming loss and grief, but please accept my heartfelt deepest sympathy.

From the bottom of my heart, thank you for the gift of life.

Eric