

We Remember Them

In the rising of the sun
And in its going down,
We remember them.

In the blowing of the wind
And in the chill of winter,
We remember them.

In the opening of the buds
And in the rebirth of spring,
We remember them.

In the rustling of the leaves
And in the beauty of the autumn,
We remember them.

In the beginning of the year
And when it ends,
We remember them.

When we are weary
And in need of strength,
We remember them.

When we are lost and sick at heart,
We remember them.

When we have joys we yearn to share,
We remember them.

So long as we live,
They too shall live,
For they are now a part of us,
As we remember them.

*From Gates of Repentance,
The New Union Prayer Book
for the Days of Awe, C.C.A.R.*



Illinois Eye-Bank
547 West Jackson Blvd., Suite 600
Chicago, IL 60661-5717
(800) 548-4703
www.illinoiseyebank.org



A special message for
donor families wishing to
write to those who have
received their loved one's
Gift of Sight...





Many cornea transplant recipients feel that a personal letter or card from their cornea donor's family helps them appreciate their gift of sight even more.

As a service to the donor families whose generosity enables us to accomplish our mission, the Illinois Eye-Bank acts as an intermediary between donor families and cornea transplant recipients who wish to communicate with one another. To protect the privacy of both parties, we forward letters and cards anonymously, unless both parties sign a confidentiality waiver that allows their identities to be revealed.

When a donor family sends a card or letter intended for their loved one's cornea recipient, we must review the correspondence to ensure confidentiality. We contact the recipient privately, asking whether he or she would be willing to receive the donor family's correspondence, and then forward the card or letter if permission is given.

Occasionally, cornea recipients send a note or card in response to the donor family's correspondence. The Eye-Bank encourages them to do so; however, recipients often find it difficult to express their gratitude in writing. As a donor family member, you should not be discouraged if the cornea recipient is unable to write back.

Whether or not you choose to send a card or letter to your loved one's cornea recipient, we invite you to pay tribute to your loved one by creating a memorial page for him or her on our Donor Tribute site. Visit www.donortribute.org to learn more about this special way to honor the life of someone who wanted to offer the gifts of sight and life through eye, organ and tissue donation. Even if the donation was unsuccessful or did not result in a transplant, you are welcome to create a Donor Tribute. We are simply grateful for the selfless generosity that led you and your loved one to say 'yes' to donation.



Suggestions for Writing

Anytime is a good time to write. Whether it has been weeks or months since the loss of your loved one, recipients are grateful to hear from you.

- Using only first names, tell them something special or unique about your loved one and family in a letter or a "Thinking of You" card.
- You may want to write about your decision to donate the gift of sight.
- Be sensitive regarding religious comments and views, since the recipient's religion is unknown.
- Please sign only your first name. Do not use last names, street addresses, city names, phone numbers, or names of hospitals or physicians.
- Place your letter or card in an unsealed envelope.
- Include a separate note to the Illinois Eye-Bank with your request to mail the correspondence to the recipient. We will need your full name and the full name of the donor, as well as the donor's date of death.

Mail both pieces in one envelope to:

The Illinois Eye-Bank
547 West Jackson Blvd., Suite 600
Chicago, IL 60661-5717