

# Dear Donor Family:

To my donor's family,

Hello, my name is Sandy. I would like to thank you for the gift of vision that was given to me, through your loved one.

I am truly so sorry for your loss. Although I did not know them, he or she must have been a very generous person to have given so selflessly. I am the recipient of two corneal transplants due to a degenerative eye condition called Fuch's dystrophy. I was given the first transplant in 2014 in my left eye, and the second in my right eye, three weeks ago. Already the vision in my right eye has improved remarkably; 20/400 to 20/40! My husband and I have four children who are all married, and live near us. We have also been blessed with three grandchildren, and another on the way. Since I am recovering from surgery, I have not been working at my job as a school nurse. Instead, I spent yesterday afternoon with my granddaughter. We laughed and ate lunch together, played piano and sang, and I helped her to sew a teddy bear that she wants to bring to her preschool teddy bear picnic. Later that evening, I was preparing to write you this letter. I began reading some of the stories written by donors, and recipients of corneal transplants that are posted in the Lions Eye Bank; Rochester, NY. website, and I began to weep. The immense reality of your gift to me has me weeping again, today.

My surgeon has told me that without these transplants, I would be blind. I would not have had the joy of watching my granddaughter or seeing her smile or helping her to sew her own teddy bear. I would never see my newest grandchild, due this June. I am a person who appreciates nature, and beauty in all forms. I recently took a drawing class with my new daughter in- law; my life is full of visual pleasures and practical uses, and you have made all of this possible.

I will return to work next month, but not before visiting the Florida home that belonged to my husband's family. I will be watching sunsets, tropical flowers and birds, and enjoying these sights with my husband of 40 years. As you can imagine, he is as grateful as I am that my vision has been restored; there is much left for us to see and do together! I have wonderful eye doctors; both my eye surgeon and optometrist have been a tremendous blessing to me on this journey to visual healing. I am very grateful for the way they have allowed their expertise to be used in such a life-giving way.

However, without a donor I would not have hope for restored vision. I hope that you understand the depth of my gratitude to you and your loved one. By taking the time to make arrangements for their donation, they (and possibly you) have made the priceless gift of sight available to me. All that I have to give you in response to this most generous gift, is my thanks, and grateful prayers. I truly hope that they are a source of some comfort, and hope for you.

With sincere appreciation

-Sandy