

## ATTENTION: Operating Room Staff

1. Please affix the tissue graft barcode sticker below.
2. Please give this to the recipient of the tissue.

Place Tissue Graft Barcode Sticker

# HERE

**SAMPLE**  
Tissue Graft  
Barcode Sticker



You are the vital link to the success of this program.  
We sincerely appreciate your compliance.

## Contacting the Donor Family

Dear Patient:

As your surgeon discussed with you prior to your recent surgery, you received an MTF acellular dermal tissue (skin) graft as part of the surgical procedure. This graft was made from donated human dermal tissue and was chosen by your surgeon because they felt it was necessary to achieve the best possible result. The tissue was donated at the time of the donor's death. Many families honor the previous donation decision of their family member and/or choose donation so that their family member may matter in death as they mattered in life. Today, you are a recipient of this gift.

Donor families often find comfort in receiving a card or letter from the patient who received donated tissue. It allows the family to know that donation has helped the life of the recipient. Many patients wish to express their thanks to the donor family, but are unsure of what to say. On the back of this document is a sample letter. You may use it as an example when you send a personal card or letter. We have also provided you with some suggestions to help you write to the donor family.

In order for us to be able to forward your letter, you must include this entire document with your tissue graft barcode sticker on it.

The donor family may wish to communicate with you in the future – the decision to accept correspondence from the family is strictly up to you. Please indicate your preference by checking the appropriate box below:

- YES, I am willing to receive return correspondence from the donor family.
- NO, I am not willing to receive return correspondence from the donor family.

**Your Name:**

**Date:**

If you include personal information (such as last name, address, etc.) in the card or letter to the donor family this may be disclosed to the donor family. For this reason, we encourage you to use your first name only.

Please mail your card or letter to:

### Musculoskeletal Transplant Foundation (MTF)

Linking Lives

125 May Street

Edison, NJ 08837

Thank you in advance for your compassion and support of the donor family. If you have questions about your tissue transplant or about the process of tissue donation, please speak with your surgeon, or contact us at: [linkinglives@mtf.org](mailto:linkinglives@mtf.org) or call our toll free number at 855-554-LINK (5465).

## Suggestions for Writing to Your Donor Family

You may wish to include some of the following in your message to the family:

- A thank you for your gift of donated human tissue.
- Some general information about your tissue transplant experience, such as why you needed a tissue transplant and how it has affected your life and that of your family.
- Something about you or your family members. This may include your first name, age, gender, hobbies or interests and activities you and your family enjoy.
- Please do not seal the envelope of the card or letter to the donor family.
- Include this entire document with your tissue graft barcode sticker on it with your card or letter to the donor family. Please do not remove the sticker from the notice.



*The butterfly is a symbol  
of hope and new life.*

**MTF** Musculoskeletal  
Transplant  
Foundation



*Sample Letter - You may use this as an example.*

Dear Donor Family,

I am writing to express my sympathy in the death of your loved one and to thank you for the very special gift of tissue that they donated. I will always be grateful for having the opportunity to receive donated tissue which is changing my life in so many positive ways.

I needed a tissue transplant because: *Add your thoughts here!*

The tissue transplant has allowed me to: *Add your thoughts here!*

Thank you again for honoring the wishes of your loved one or making a donation decision at a very difficult time. You and your family member will remain in my thoughts with appreciation for your generosity and kindness.

Sincerely,  
A grateful tissue recipient

**MTF** Musculoskeletal  
Transplant  
Foundation



## MTF Volunteer Program

In addition to the Linking Lives Through Letters Program, MTF also has a Volunteer Program. Please know this is voluntary and you can participate in Linking Lives and not sign up to be a volunteer.

MTF has found that one of the best ways to educate others about tissue donation is to share the wonderful stories of our tissue recipients. If you visit our website at [www.mtf.org](http://www.mtf.org) and click on the YouTube icon at the bottom of the home page, you will see several examples of the kinds of stories we often share with others. We are interested in learning more about your experience.

Thank you for your willingness to share your story and help increase awareness for tissue donation and transplantation.

*Yes, I'd like to sign up!*

### Contact Information

Name:

Address:

Phone:

Email:

I prefer to be contacted via: Email  Phone  Mail

Please check the ways you would be comfortable sharing your story (feel free to check more than one).

- Public speaking
- Donor Family Events
- Hospital Education
- Media Opportunities
- YouTube Video
- Newsletter Story
- I'm not interested in any of these events