

#### TRANSPLANT RECIPIENTS

Several weeks after your loved one's donation, LifeSource and/or the Lions Eye Bank will send you a letter explaining which tissues were donated and how they will help individuals in need.

To respect the confidentiality of both your family and the recipients, names and other specifics are not disclosed.

Since the reporting of tissue recipient information by hospitals is voluntary, personal information is often unavailable. While you may not hear from tissue recipients directly, if you are interested LifeSource will make every effort to provide you general information about the outcome of your loved one's donation. Please be assured, your loved one's generosity will always be remembered by those whose lives are restored.

#### CONTINUING SUPPORT FROM LIFESOURCE

In the months and years to come, LifeSource will continue to offer you support. Our donor family services coordinator will contact you in the coming months to answer any questions you may have, recommend reading materials or grief support groups, and to simply listen.

## LifeSource

*Organ & Tissue Donation*

**LifeSource**  
2550 University Avenue West  
Suite 315 South  
St. Paul, MN 55114-1904  
**Tel:** 651.603.7800  
**Toll-Free:** 1.888.5.DONATE  
**Fax:** 651.603.7801

*Tissue & Eye*  
DONATION

In your time of sadness and loss, we offer our sympathy. We hope you can find comfort in knowing your loved one may help renew lives of people in need through the donation of tissues and eyes.

Donation is an act of great compassion and generosity, and it leaves a profound legacy. Through the extraordinary gift of donated tissues and eyes, your loved one may help many people reclaim full, vibrant lives.

Surgeons use donated musculoskeletal tissue to replace bone, tendons and ligaments lost to cancer, trauma, joint disease, arthritis and other conditions. Donated skin allows burn victims to heal faster, reducing the risk of infection and complications. Transplanted veins and arteries restore circulation and save limbs. Donor heart valves save children born with congenital heart defects and help adults who have damaged valves, allowing patients to resume normal lives. And for someone facing blindness, donated eyes can restore or preserve vision.

#### [LIFESOURCE: WHO WE ARE](#)

LifeSource is the not-for-profit organization designated by the federal government to manage all aspects of organ donation in Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota and portions of western Wisconsin. LifeSource manages full-fledged tissue donation programs throughout the region.

We will support you as you honor your loved one's documented wishes or as you make a decision about donation. A donation coordinator will contact you soon to explain your options.

#### [AUTHORIZATION FOR DONATION](#)

Each individual has the right to make a personal decision about donation. If your loved one has expressed the wish to be a tissue and eye donor, LifeSource and the Lions Eye Bank will help you honor that wish.

If your loved one's wishes regarding donation have not been documented, you will be asked to provide authorization. Please remember these gifts can restore those living with severe health compromises to normal, fully functioning lifestyles – and transform loss into hope and growth.

#### [THE COSTS OF DONATION](#)

All costs of donation are covered by LifeSource. If you receive a bill related to donation, please contact us as soon as possible.

#### [FACTS ABOUT DONATION](#)

Your loved one may be a potential tissue and eye donor after cardiac death occurs. In cardiac death, the heart stops beating and no longer sends blood and oxygen throughout the body. In these cases, organ donation may not be an option. The option of organ donation is most often offered after brain death is declared.

## *The Process*

#### [HOSPITAL](#)

*The donation process begins only after all efforts to save the patient's life are exhausted and death has been declared. The doctors who care for your loved one are not the doctors involved with tissue and eye donation.*

#### [DONATION OPTION](#)

*The donation coordinator works with the hospital staff to perform medical tests to determine options for donation based on medical history.*

#### [DONOR AUTHORIZATION](#)

*The donation coordinator checks the driver's license registration, will, health directive or state identification card for donor designation and shares that information with the family. In the absence of donor designation, the coordinator will seek authorization from the family.*

#### [TISSUE AND EYE RECOVERY](#)

*Tissues and eyes are surgically recovered in the hospital operating room. Great care and respect is shown to your loved one so their appearance is not affected, and open casket funeral arrangements are possible.*

#### [TISSUE PROCESS](#)

*Donated tissue is sent to LifeSource's tissue processing partners who prepare the tissue for transplantation. Tissue recovered by LifeSource is transplanted within the LifeSource region unless an appropriate recipient is unavailable in which case it is distributed nationally.*