



# *Heartfelt Letters & Quotes*

from Cornea Recipients  
and Donor Families



*AltruVision is committed to enhancing a person's quality of life  
by restoring or improving vision through  
corneal transplantation, medical research and education.*

This book is dedicated to the selfless donor families who make the gift of sight a reality for so many who would otherwise live in darkness.

May we never forget their altruistic acts of donation.

It is our sincere hope that this collection of heartfelt letters and quotes will serve as a reminder that our mission leaves a legacy of sight for thousands of grateful transplant recipients.





Dear donor family,  
 Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for providing our baby with the gift of sight. We are so sorry for your loss but please take comfort in the fact that the donor has changed our daughter's life. On June 9, 2018 our beautiful baby girl was born. As first time parents, we weren't sure why her eyes looked cloudy and thought it was due to a long labor. When the doctors told us that she was born blind, with a rare eye condition called Peters Anomaly, we were devastated. We thought that she would never be able to see our faces. At four months old, on 10/17/18, she underwent a corneal transplant and she is now reaching for toys and smiling at us - two things we thought would never be possible. We thank you from the bottom of our hearts for allowing our daughter to begin to see the world around her. We are overwhelmed with gratitude as we watch her begin to use her vision! Please know that the donor has truly changed our daughter's life... and ours as well.

Thank you !!!



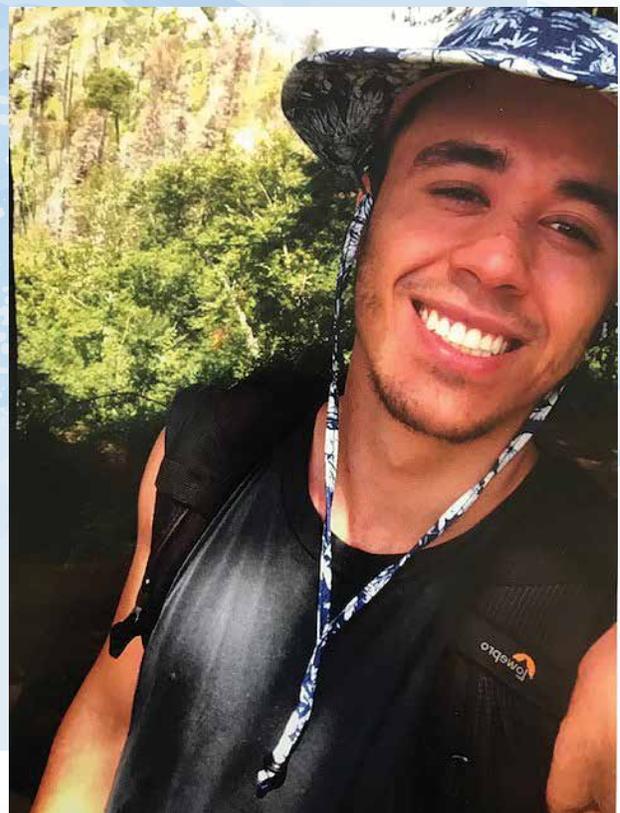
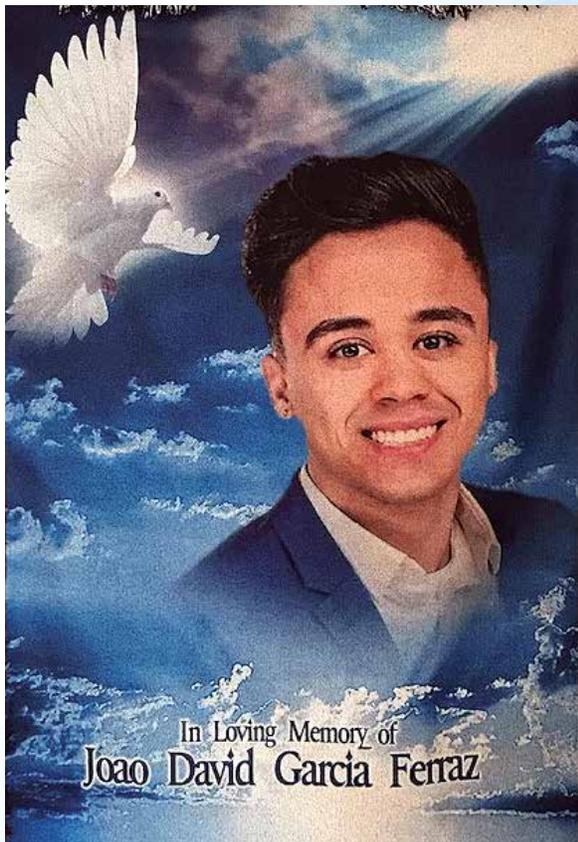
“ How do you find the words to thank someone for giving your daughter the Gift of Sight? There are not enough thank yous in the world to express our gratitude. We will never be able to take away the immense loss they suffered, but we will thank them every day for the rest of our lives for bringing light to such a dark time. ”

TARA  
Mallory's Mother



“ David had the most genuine heart. He was my best friend in the world. He will be missed, but I cherish every moment we spent together. ”

JOAO DAVID FERRAZ  
*David's Father*



Dear Donor Family,

Words can't express how eternally grateful I am to you and your loved one for your extremely generous donation. You have given me the most amazing gift, the gift of sight (something we sometimes take for granted)

Thanks to your gift, I am able to see all the beauty of nature around me. The vibrant colors of my favorite flowers, the beauty of a sunrise or sunset, even the tiny grey hairs on my 11 yr. old chihuahua's chin!

Again, I can't thank you enough for thinking of a total stranger at such a sorrowful time. Your strength, generosity and compassion have not gone unnoticed.

I promise you, I will cherish your loved one's gift forever.

Most Sincerely,

Mary, cornea recipient



Dear Flower,

I am deeply sorry for your loss, but the miracle gift you gave me will never be forgotten.

It is with great gratitude that I thank you for your generous donation.

With a caring heart  
and love - Pat

Dear Donor Family,

I am sorry for the loss of your family member. Please know that the cornea you donated is making a huge difference in my life and me and my family are extremely grateful.

My left eye had Fuch's disease and was extremely painful, like sand in my eye. Vision was very poor and I could only see shapes at times but everything was always blurry. Much of the time I would keep my left eye closed. Right eye was OK!

I never heard of this disease before this and doctors said a cornea transplant was the only solution. I was not looking forward to the surgery. It now appears the surgery was a complete success!

I thank God for kind people like you and the skills of our medical professionals.

Please know that I will pay this wonderful donation forward!

Thank you!



Donor family,  
My name is Alexandra; I'm a recent college graduate teaching at a charter school in NYC. First and foremost, I want to say thank you. Thank you for giving me back the gift of sight — something I have always taken for granted but never will again. Thank you for giving me back my confidence and restoring my faith.

I had just started my new teaching job back in the beginning of August, when two days in I noticed something was wrong with both of my eyes. Literally overnight I developed ulcers in both of my eyes. The left eye had 2 ulcers caused by bacteria and was under control and treated within a month with medication, but my right eye kept getting worse & worse with no corneal specialist in NY being able to diagnose me. I'll never forget the sinking feeling of despair I felt waking up one morning and realizing I had gone blind in my right eye.

Since I couldn't get the help I needed in NY, in September I traveled to Willis Eye Hospital in Philly. The amazing Drs. there determined I had a rare fungal infection and they did everything they could to try + treat it.

I was so scared for the surgery because my Dr. told me due to the severity of the infection, the likelihood of my eye rejecting the transplant was extremely high.

Fast forward 2 months and (knock on wood) I could not have asked for a better outcome. My Drs. continue to be shocked with the rate my vision is returning and the way my eye is healing. I have recently returned to work and picked up where I left my life back in August.

I have learned so much from this journey and my eyes have been opened to all the things and people I have to be thankful for in this life. I am forever grateful to you and your family.

I would love to hear from you and learn your story.  
Love, Alex





“ My daughter Alana is my hero. At the time of her accident, she was just three days away from graduating from Drexel University. Alana had signed up to be an organ donor on her driver’s license, and I remember her discussing it when she learned to drive at 16. I knew that’s what she would’ve wanted. Eyesight is something that can be taken for granted when you have it. But I have learned it is something to be appreciated and treasured. I am so proud of my daughter for her gift to two people who in turn were given a second chance at life and the gift of sight. ”



DONNA  
*Alana’s Mother*



Dear Gift of Sight Recipient,

She was a beautiful young woman and a loving daughter, sister and granddaughter. We love and cherish every moment we had with her. She loved to help people with big and small acts of kindness. She read to kindergarten children, she helped out in the high school support class, she held her Grandfather's hand as he endured cancer treatments, she tried to cheer up friends when they were down and she would stop on the street to help someone who dropped a bag of stuff. She worked hard for everything she accomplished. She loved being part of the High School's Cross-Country team. I will never forget hosting the Cross-Country team for pool parties and pasta parties - she had the biggest smile at those parties. Her final gift was through organ donation in which she saved five people's lives and gave sight to two people. She should be remembered for her big heart!

God bless your family!



Blanca was a warrior fighting cancer until her last breath. She was a caring person and a blessing for our family. She was a great, daughter, sister, wife, mother and aunt. Blanca was a loving mother for Alyson, Noemi and Gael and her last wish was spend Christmas with her kids - We love her and she always we in our hearts.

Yoana M  
Sister



Hello,

I hope this message finds you well.

It's been two years since my older brother Keith (lovingly referred to as James) gave the gift of life.

We miss him dearly. James was very loyal and loved his family very much.

He loved fishing and music.

James was always there to help anyone he could.

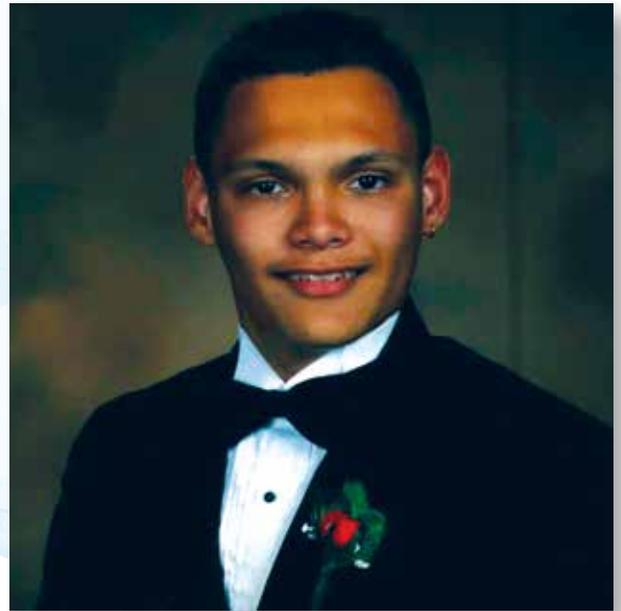
We would go to a store and I would watch James stand at the entrance and hold the door open for people while saying hello. It was those little things that made a difference to him.

Often, James would make it a point to mention the importance of organ donation.

He was very proud to help others.

The week that James passed away I was driving home. I suddenly realized the place I had drove by countless times on my way home was the Gift of Life center.

That was one of many signs from my brother. My family finds solace knowing we could fulfill James wishes of helping others.



“ Registering as an eye, organ, tissue donor was Rickey’s decision and I couldn’t be more proud. Giving back is Rickey. ”

DAWN  
*Rickey’s Mother*



Rickey restored sight for two individuals  
in The Delaware Valley

Dear Donor Family-

I cannot thank you and your family member enough for your extremely generous donation. You have given me an amazing gift, the gift of sight. Being able to see all of my beautiful children and grandchildren again and being able to partake again in their lives has truly been a wonderful gift to me. I am truly thankful to you and your family - more than you will ever know.

The other day I was able to drive my car for the first time in a year and I feel independent again.

Thank you for finding the strength, after losing your loved one, to donate to another life. Your generosity and compassion will remain with me forever.

most sincerely,  
Ronell, Cornea recipient

Dear Donor Family,

I am so grateful to your love one to receive the gift of sight.

The world has been opened to me in vibrant colors and clear images.

I am so sorry for your loss and the sacrifice made for me. I can't begin to understand what sorrow all of you have endured.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart for giving me back my life. I will forever be indebted for your kindness.

With gratitude,  
Emily  
Recipient of  
CORNEA

Dear Donor Family,  
I am a pediatric oncology nurse, living and working in New York City. My vision started to suffer in my right eye last year, affecting my daily life. Surgery became my only option to fix it. I cannot thank you and your family member enough for your extremely generous donation. You have given me an amazing gift; the gift of sight. I was able to return to work yesterday for the first time since my transplant. Being able to "see" all of the beautiful children that I care for reminded me how thankful I am to you. Thank you for finding the strength, after losing your loved one, to donate to another life. Your generosity and compassion will remain with me forever.

- Marissa,  
Cornea Recipient



TO THE FAMILY OF THE CORNEA I RECEIVED ON JUNE 30, 2015. WORDS CANNOT EXPRESS THE GRATITUDE I HAVE FOR YOUR VERY BRAVE DONATION AT SUCH A SORROWFUL TIME.

I WAS TOLD TO LEARN TO LIVE WITH VISION IN ONE EYE, EVERY PERSON COULD LIVE WITH IT. SO COULD I. I ACCEPTED THIS VERDICT FOR A LONG TIME, UNTIL MY RETINA SPECIALIST ASKED IF I WANTED A SECOND OPINION. SO WHAT DID I HAVE TO ANSWER?

WHALES EYE DRG WERE WONDERFUL! AS FAR AS I WAS CONCERNED A MIRACLE HAPPENED THE DAY AFTER SURGERY I COULD SEE AGAIN!

EVERY DAY I SAY A PRAYER FOR YOUR LOVED ONE WHO DONATED SO VISION CAN BE RESTORED AGAIN

I HAVE MOST 7000 SONS + A HUSBAND + DIDN'T HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO DONATE ANY ORGANS. BUT MY OTHER CHILDREN HAVE IT IN THEIR HEARTS TO DONATE. THEY SEE WHAT A DIFFERENCE YOUR GENEROSITY HAS DONE FOR ME.

very much

THANK YOU SO MUCH

BARBARA

Dear Donor Family,

I am very sorry for your loss. In your time of grief I would like you to know how thankful I am to you and your loved one. I was able to successfully have a corneal transplant. This has changed my life dramatically. I have been having problems with my vision for the past 15 years. Because of the generous gift I am now able to do things at work more confidently. I can now enjoy many of the hobbies I was not able to prior to surgery.

It's hard to put into words how grateful I am but I hope you'll find comfort in knowing your loved one's donation has improved my quality of life.

Thank you and God Bless,  
Sincerely  
David, cornea recipient



To the soulmate of Jagdish:

When my condition was diagnosed, I was devastated and not quite sure what the next steps were until they told me I was a candidate for cornea transplants. Through the kindness and compassion of others like your soul mate Jagdish this was a possibility for me. I am eternally grateful to him and yourself for making this possible. Thanks to a very humble, intelligent and compassionate person like Jagdish my eyesight has been restored. I truly believe he is walking and seeing with me as I continue through my life. I will always feel his warmth and love as I am the recipient of his cornea transplants.

Dear Donor Family,

Words can't express how eternally grateful I am to you and your loved one for your extremely generous donation. You have given me the most amazing gift, the gift of sight (something we sometimes take for granted)

Thanks to your gift, I am able to see all the beauty of nature around me. The vibrant colors of my favorite flowers, the beauty of a sunrise or sunset, even the tiny grey hairs on my 11 yr. old chihuahua's chin!

Again, I can't thank you enough for thinking of a total stranger at such a sorrowful time. Your strength, generosity and compassion have not gone unnoticed.

I promise you, I will cherish your loved one's gift forever.

Most Sincerely,

Mary, cornea recipient



May 20, 2015

Thank You!  
I am so very appreciative of your loved ones gift of a cornea.

This is a gift that will go on giving and constantly remind me of the generosity of a good person.

Such a kind gesture. Thank you again for the wonderful gift that has been given to me.

Joyce

I WANT TO WRITE AND THANK YOU FOR THE MOST GENEROUS GIFT YOU HAVE GIVEN ME, YOU HAVE GIVEN MY SIGHT BACK TO ME. IT MUST HAVE BEEN INCREDIBLY DIFFICULT IN TIME OF YOUR LOSS TO MAKE THE DECISION TO DONATE YOUR LOVED ONE'S CORNEA.

I RECEIVED A FULL CORNEA TRANSPLANT BACK IN JAN. OF 1995. RECENTLY DUE TO THE AGE OF THE GRAFT SOME OF THE CORNEA TISSUE WAS GOING BAD AND AFFECTED MY VISION. WITHOUT NEW TISSUE MY VISION WOULD BE VERY BAD.

AGAIN I THANK YOU AND YOUR FAMILY FOR THIS LIFE- SAVING GIFT.

MOST SINCERELY

TONY, CORNEA RECIPIENT

Dear Transplant Recipient & family,

I hope this letter finds you well and that you are healing from your recent surgery. I wanted to reach out to tell you a bit about the incredible person who donated their corneas to give the gift of sight to two people.

My husband was the most generous person I have ever known. He dedicated much of his adult life to giving back to others, volunteering to help children with medical conditions and raising money for pediatric cancer research. His eyes have seen many adventures—from skydiving, to swimming with sharks and manta rays, hiking the Swiss alps, watching sunrises and meteor showers, and climbing mountains. He enjoyed fishing from his kayak, spending time at the lake, running, and playing with our dogs. Later in life, he became an avid woodworker and filled our home with his beautiful creations. He was kind and cared deeply for everyone he met. He was smart, hardworking, and was continuously improving himself and the world around him. Although short, his life was filled with friendship, good memories, and lots of love. I miss him terribly.

Always remember that you carry a part of his generous soul within you now and I ask that you continue his legacy of giving back to others. My hope is that you will see all of the good that this world has to offer through his eyes. Please feel free to reach out if you wish. I would love to hear from you.

Wishing you the very best,

Jen

There's not enough words to express how thankful and how grateful I am to you. You have changed my life in a positive way. I am humbly thankful to God for you. The gift of life has restored my ~~sight~~ sight. To be able to see is a wonderful and beautiful thing. So I say, Thank You, Thank you

Thank You so very much.  
Your New Friend  
Aleathia



Dear Donor Family,

I am sorry for the loss of your family member. Please know that the cornea you donated is making a huge difference in my life and me and my family are extremely grateful.

My left eye had Fuch's disease and was extremely painful, like sand in my eye. Vision was very poor and I could only see shapes at times but everything was always blurry. Much of the time I would keep my left eye closed. Right eye was OK!

I never heard of this disease before this and doctors said a cornea transplant was the only solution. I was not looking forward to the surgery. It now appears the surgery was a complete success!

I thank God for kind people like you and the skills of our medical professionals.

Please know that I will pay this wonderful donation forward!

Thank you!

Donor Family,

Words cannot express the sincere gratitude I have for your amazing donation of a new cornea. After a four year journey with severely distorted vision, there is now hope for a much more positive outcome with vision that enables me to see the world clearly once again. This would not have been possible without your unselfish generosity.

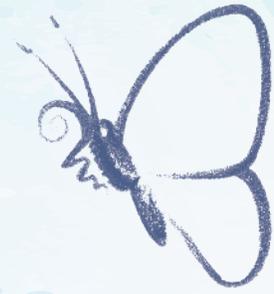
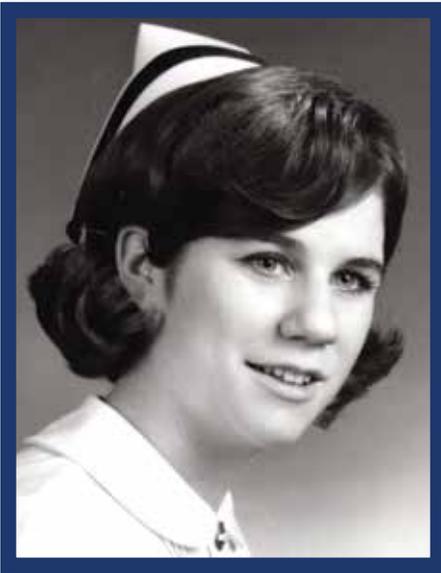
I can't imagine the pain of your loss but would like you to know that a part of your loved lives on in me. The process occurred only a few weeks ago, so, it's still far too early for my vision to be good. I'm told that it will take between one and two years. I'm confident that my new cornea will allow me to see better than I ever have. I have you to thank for this.

I'm a Licensed Professional Counselor who runs a supportive housing program for people who suffer with mental illnesses. My wife and I are also professional dancers. In both cases, vision is of paramount importance. I'm an Italian guy who was born on St. Patrick's Day who will be celebrating five years of marriage to a wonderful woman on June 21<sup>st</sup>. We just experienced the birth of our newest grandchild on November 1<sup>st</sup> of last year. What a cutie pie, Alexandria.

In closing I would like once again to thank you for this extraordinary gift.

Sincerely,

  
Scott



Dear Donor Family,

First I would like to express my sincere sympathy for the loss of your loved one.

At this difficult time you chose to Donate Life and I am forever grateful.

I am the recipient of a cornea. It is truly amazing that such a small piece of tissue has made the difference between no vision and being able to see again. Know that from this time forward I will be seeing the world thru your loved one's eye.

I am a retired Registered Nurse and I continue to be an active member of Ski Patrol and care for injured skiers.

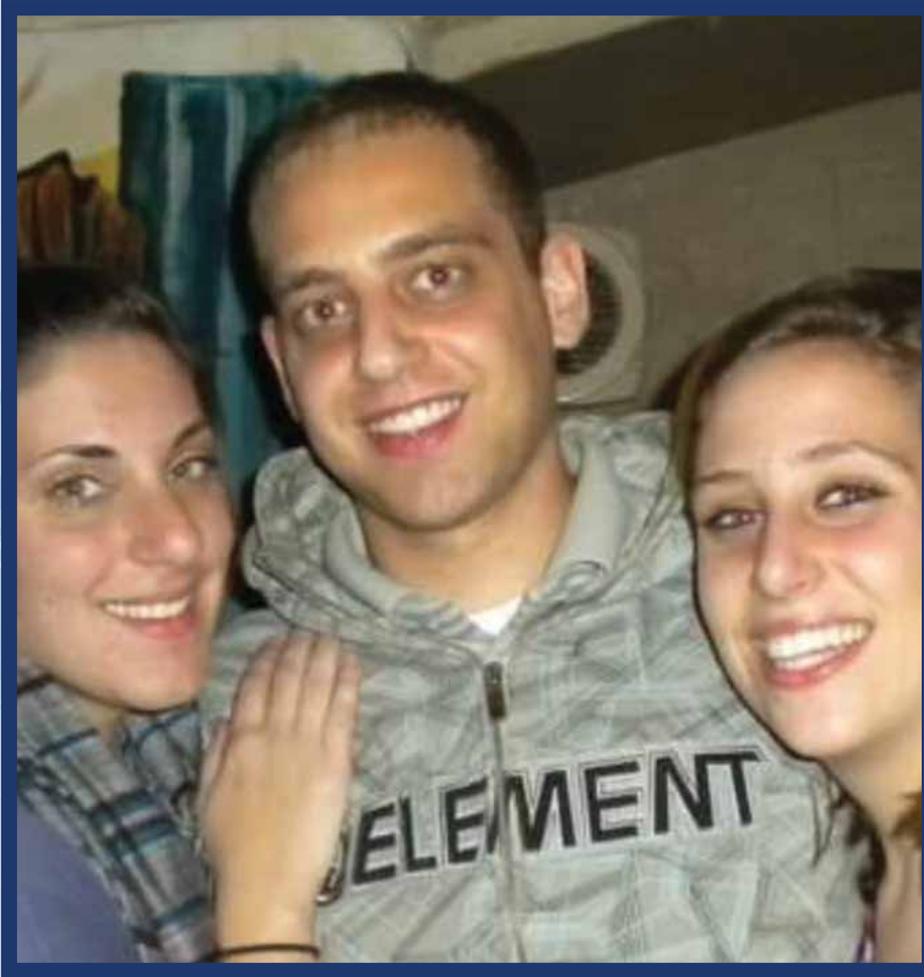
I have a 5 year old grandson who loves me to read to him.

Since retiring my husband and I are taking the opportunity to travel.

All of these are enhanced by the selfless gift you have given. I will remain forever grateful for that gift.

Sincerely,

Vicki - Cornea Recipient



Thanks to Jake's donated corneal tissue, two individuals received the gift of sight.

**JAKE**  
*Cornea Donor*

“ We all miss Jake a lot... I heard (the recipients') lives were transformed. It was such an amazing gift. ”

**SHARON**  
*Jake's Mother*

Dear Donor Family,

Because of the generosity of you and your loved one, I received my cornea transplant on March 15, 2016. It has taken me this long to come up with the right words to express my gratitude for this selfless gift. But please know, not a day has gone by since that I do not think about your loved one and your family and appreciate the precious gift I was given. I now know there are no right words so I will speak from my heart.

Thank you for the kindness that you were able to show beyond your grief. I am 34-years-old, and I have a disease called keratoconus. I knew it was only time before I would need to have a cornea transplant. I avoided it for over 2 years but once it affected my work, I knew it was time. In those 2 years prior to my transplant, I was a nurse working in a neonatal intensive care unit. It had gotten to the point where I could not safely perform my job and care for the preemies and their families due to my poor vision, constant eye tearing, and sharp pain.

Now I have 20/20 vision in my right eye. I never imagined that would be possible. And that would not be possible without your loved one.

I can remember being in the pre-op area the day of my transplant, waiting to be taken back to the operating room and that is when it hit me and I started to cry. In order for me to be able to see again, another family would have to go through the unimaginable. And I am so sorry for your loss.

I hope that my constant thoughts of your loved one and your family, my deep appreciation for my gift of sight, and knowing that a part of your loved one will continue on will help to ease a little bit of your unthinkable pain.

Forever grateful,

**ALLISON**

Cornea Recipient



Dear Donor Family,  
I want to express my appreciation for your generous gift, which allowed me to have my sight back. First, I want to express my condolences for your loss, and to thank you from the bottom of my heart for this huge contribution that I received from you and your loved one. Words cannot describe how moved I am to be receiving your donated cornea, which is now transplanted in my right eye. This transplant made a significant difference in the quality of my life as a 73-year-old woman, currently residing in a nursing home, with the intention of going home very soon.  
My thoughts and prayers are always with you and your loved ones!

Appreciatively,  
Carol, cornea recipient

I am deeply touched and eternally grateful for the amazing gift of Cornea that I received from your Family! I know that your gift came from the heartbreaking loss that your Family endured. However, you turned your Family tragedy into a courageous and generous gift of Sight!

Your gift changed my life and I now can see, read, walk in the park, play chess and admire the beautiful colors of life around me that I could not do before. Thank you from the bottom of my heart. God bless you!  
Alex

August 2018

### To Our Donor Family,

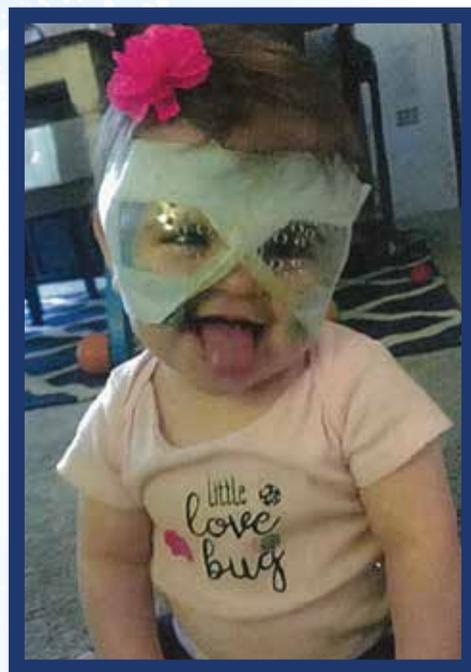
First and foremost, we are so sorry for your loss and express our most sincere and deepest condolences. We know there is not much that can be said to comfort you in a time of loss and grief, but hope there is a bit of light in this darkness when you read about the difference your loved one has made.

My name is Stephanie, and I, along with my husband Dominic, are humbled by the selflessness of your family member and the choice to impact so many lives when they were no longer here and able to. As a result, the recipient of one of the corneas and of their generosity is our daughter, Eliana, who just turned one in May.

She was born two months premature with an unrelated, incredibly rare congenital eye condition called Peter's Anomaly. The irises and corneas of her eyes failed to develop the space between them that typically exists, causing scarring and opacities. Because her corneas were opaque and blocking her pupils, from what we were told, her vision was limited to light perception. Of course, this was not the journey Dominic and I anticipated we'd be on as first-time parents, but we made the decision early on to help Eliana be the best version of herself, no matter what that meant. After a long road of research and doctors' appointments, we found ourselves at Wills Eye in Philadelphia where we ultimately made the decision to go ahead with bilateral corneal transplants, despite the risks and odds of success not being in our favor. She had her first cornea transplant on December 13, 2017 in her left eye and her second on April 4, 2018 in her right eye.

While I will spare you additional details and emotions, I remember distinctly after that first surgery in December, once the swelling went down and she opened her left eye, that we learned they were brown, we felt as though we could see into her sweet soul and the overwhelming emotion we felt, realizing that our daughter was given the gift of sight, is something we will never forget. This exact feeling was repeated after she received her second transplant; she would finally be given the opportunity to see more clearly and we could finally truly look into her eyes.

Eliana is learning so much more about her world through sight than we ever could have imagined or hoped for, and that is because of your loved one. She has had two clear



“ Words cannot adequately express my gratitude to your loved one, as they have given the gift of our daughter smiling when she sees our faces, not just when she hears our voices... ”



corneas for four months now and her world has become very different in the best way. While her vision will always be limited because of her anomaly, what she is capable of is not; the generosity of her donors gave her the chance she needed to reach her full potential. She currently wears two plastic shields taped to her face to protect her transplants, gets numerous steroid drops every day, makes biweekly (or sometimes more often) trips to Wills Eye from our home in Western New York, receives multiple early intervention services and recently had her fifth surgery for an exam under anesthesia and suture removal. Despite all of this, Elliana is the happiest, funniest and sweetest little girl. She is crawling around like a woman on a mission all of the time, (without running into anything!), she loves to "cruise the couch," walk while holding your hands or using her push toy, dance to music, play with her toys, turn book pages, play peek-a-boo, is constantly on the move, and loves Veggie Straws and milk. She also loves to give herself kisses when she sees herself in the mirror.

So in a time of tragedy, I hope you can find some solace in the way our sweet baby girl Elliana's life has been so positively impacted. Words cannot adequately express my gratitude to your loved one, as they have given Dominic and I the gift of our daughter smiling when she sees our faces, not just when she hears our voices, something we weren't sure we would ever be able to experience. I also hope that you can find some comfort in knowing this blessing went to a child as young as ours because again, she is learning so much about her world as a result of her sight.

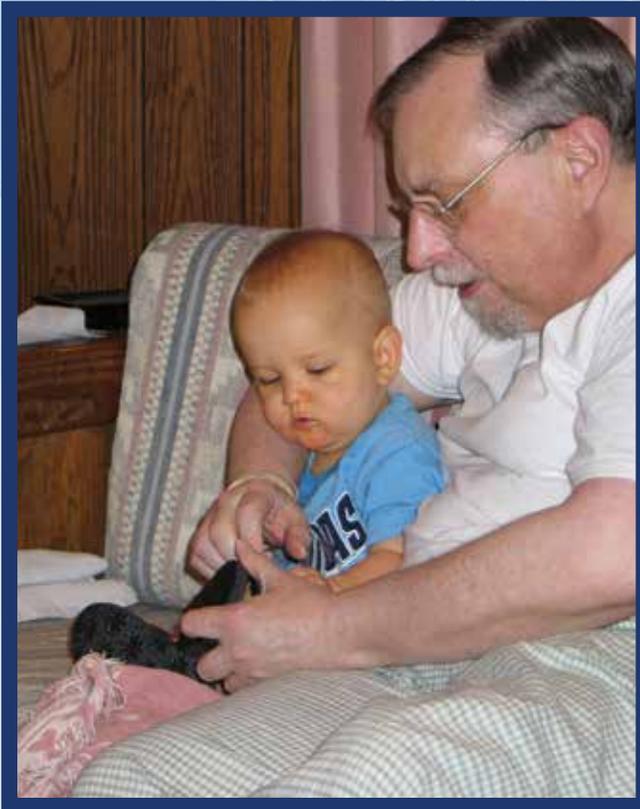
We have included some pictures of Elliana, so you can see the impact her donors have had on her life and on ours. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts, we are eternally grateful and again express our deepest condolences.

Please feel free to write back as we'd love to hear from you, but if not, please know we are always thinking of you, and each night we say how grateful we are for each day of sight Elliana is blessed with and what it means to our family. And without reference to religion, Dominic and I both lost our fathers, so we hope they are personally thanking your loved one.

*Forever grateful,  
Stephanie, Dominic & Elliana*

“ Allen was a character bigger than life itself. He was a very honest man. He was a civil rights advocate in the 1960s. He believed in and practiced tolerance. He became a grandpa, which is something that he wanted desperately for many years. His grandson Benny was born 16 months before Allen passed away. ”

LEAH  
*Allen's Wife*



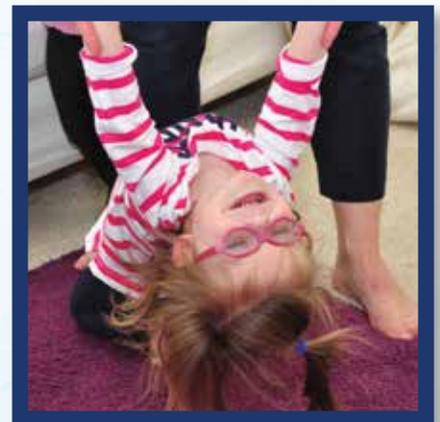
ALLEN  
*Cornea Donor*





“ It is just impossible to express our gratitude to someone who would be so thoughtful and willing to help someone in need. It puts us on a path to a new and improved quality of life for our daughter. ”

BRIAN  
*Svea's Father*



Hello My Donor Family,

The past two years have been such a wonderful and grateful experience. Your loved-one gave me sight again and that's one of the greatest things on earth.

I have my license and car now. This is my last year at Newark Charter. Without the help of your loved-one, I wouldn't be able to have a license, car, complete high school, and go to college.

Sincerely,  
Cameron



August 9, 2016

Dear Donor's Family,

Thank you for your most gracious gift of sight. It was truly an act of kindness and thoughtfulness that will resound through time

I have recently retired. My life's desire was to take off for multi-months trip across the country. Through your kindness, I will again be able to drive. I will see sunrise at the Grand Canyon once again. I'll be able to see the moose in Jenny Lake at the Grand Tetons. I'll be able to look down from Half-Dome at Yosemite National Park.

Once again, life is limited only by our own imagination.

I've been an active volunteer in my community for a number of years. Now I will be seeking volunteer positions at the national parks and introducing those visitors to the beauty of our national parks.

So, in a way, your gift will enable others to see the glorious parks through his/her eyes.

I close, wishing blessings to all in your family.

Most kindly and respectfully

*Bert*

Bert, cornea recipient

*I would like to acknowledge a special thank you and appreciation to the parent(s) of the donor of the Corneal tissue transplant that was done on Aug. 5, 2016 at Wills eye hospital in Philadelphia. It has made a significant difference in my life, to have the clarity and visual acuity I haven't had for over 30 years. I am so grateful for how well everything has been so far. the best of wishes for a joyful Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year.*



TIFFANY  
*Cornea Donor*



“ Tiffany’s life wasn’t just a blessing to her family and the people who received her gift. She left a mark on many. She continues to live through the people she has helped—her family, her friends, her peers and her corneal recipients. ”

ALTHEA  
*Tiffany’s Mother*



Dear Donor Family,  
I am terribly sorry for your loss. My life has been forever changed because of the generous decision you made in your time of sadness. I suffered an eye infection that left me nearly blind in my right eye, and I am so grateful to you for gifting me with sight again. I am about to graduate high school and go to college, an experience that will be completely different thanks to you. I am forever thankful for this gift.  
Thank you,  
Carter, 17 yrs old, cornea recipient



Hello..

My son passed away almost a year ago. He wanted to be an organ donor, and his wish was granted by his loving family.

We are ready to contact his organ recipients, and would like them to know about the man who hopefully gave them the gift of life. His sister couldn't have written about him more beautifully, in describing the kind of person he was. She wrote his memorial, and I will share part of it with you:

He enjoyed good food, watching Marvel movies and listening to all kinds of music. His own laugh was infectious, but making other people laugh was one of his favorite pastimes, and he was damn good at it. His family credits him with being the funniest person they know. Those lucky enough to be loved by him knew him as a generous man, so no one was surprised to learn that he is an organ donor. Even after his passing, he is giving what he can to those in need. His proudest achievement was becoming a father to his beautiful, silly, happy son. Watching him with his son was a true joy—his love, patience, and adoration when they were together was beyond measure.

To have known him at his best was a gift. He will be missed forever..

We would like to know how you are all doing. And hopefully meet with you if you are willing. We love you just knowing you have a piece of him. If not, we wish you well.

Sincerely and with love,  
Karen

On August 5<sup>th</sup> 2016 I  
was given the gift of  
improved sight.

I would like to  
express my gratitude  
to the donor family  
for their unselfish act  
of the donated cornea.  
Alfred

I wish to thank my  
donor for the clearer  
vision I now enjoy.  
This gift has been a  
blessing & words cannot  
be found to thank you  
enough.

Dear Family

Wanted you to know how  
appreciative I am for this gift of  
sight. I understand how your  
loss was devastating. Please  
take comfort in the fact that  
she has given me a gift I could  
never repay. Having constant pain  
and loss of sight gone has improved  
my life in so many ways. Sincerely,  
Eileen

Dave was the middle son of 5 siblings, having an older brother and sister and a younger brother and sister. He was 40 years old. He was single and had no children. He worked as a server in multiple restaurants.

Dave was a kind, gentle, caring and funny guy. He lit up the room when he entered it and made each person feel special when he talked to them.

Dave loved photography and fireworks and hotdogs. He was especially known for his DANCING. He was also SCUBA certified. Dave had two nieces, 4 and 8. He would look forward to Halloween and loved showing up in costumes, anything to bring a smile to their faces.

Dave made friends easily and everyone who ever met him or worked with him loved him. He would go out of his way for anyone and saw the good in everyone. He was accepting of EVERYONE!!

Dave was a very important part of our family and I hope his gift has brought your family happiness and health. That's what Dave would have wanted.

Best wishes from Dave's Dad,

Gary



## About Us

AltruVision, the region's local nonprofit eye bank, is entrusted with restoring sight and preventing blindness by recovering, processing, and distributing cornea tissue for transplant surgery in our community and around the world.

The work we are privileged to do would not be possible without individuals who choose to create a legacy of sight for others. There is no substitute for human tissue. The transplantation process depends upon the gift of cornea donation from one human to another.

Cornea transplantation is the most common and successful transplant surgery and gives people the chance to live an independent life with restored vision.

Since 1957, AltruVision has helped coordinate nearly 50,000 transplant surgeries in Delaware, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania.

Become involved by visiting [AltruVision.org](https://www.altruvision.org) or email us at [info@altruvision.org](mailto:info@altruvision.org). Register to become an eye, organ, and tissue donor yourself today to help someone see tomorrow, visit <https://registerme.org/>.

## Interested in learning more?

Join the AltruVision community!

Visit us on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram or the AltruVision website:

 [www.facebook.com/altruvision](https://www.facebook.com/altruvision)  [www.altruvision.org](https://www.altruvision.org)

 [@AltruVision](https://twitter.com/AltruVision)  [@altruvision1](https://www.instagram.com/altruvision1)



### AltruVision

401 North 3rd Street  
Suite 305  
Philadelphia, PA 19123  
**215-563-1679**

## Send a Note

If you would like to write to the recipient of your loved one's corneas, please send your letter to the following address:



AltruVision  
401 N. 3rd Street, Suite 305  
Philadelphia, PA 19123

Due to HIPAA confidentiality laws, please do not include any personal information such as name, telephone number or email address in your correspondence. Thank you for your selfless gift of kindness.





## Get Involved!

Join the AltruVision community!

Visit us on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram or the AltruVision website:



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[www.AltruVision.org](http://www.AltruVision.org)



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