

Thanksgiving Letter Template:

This letter is a guide to help you create a customized Thanksgiving letter to send to your friends and/or family. Feel free to talk to your donor search coach to get recommendations on what information to include and guidance on making changes and additions that are best for you. Areas that need to be customized are highlighted.

Dear family and friends:

I hope this letter finds you well and happy. As we approach Thanksgiving, I want to take a moment to share my gratitude for having you in my life—and also some important health news.

Over the past few months, I have had some health challenges, and my medical team now recommends a kidney transplant as the best way for me to regain my health and quality of life.

Kidneys are vital organs that filter waste products and excess substances from the blood, regulate blood pressure, and produce red blood cells, among other things. When the kidneys stop working, it affects the whole body and can be life-threatening.

There are two ways for me to receive a kidney: from a deceased donor or from a living donor. I'm sure you know that you can donate your organs after death, but many people don't realize that you can donate a kidney to someone while you are still alive, which is called living kidney donation. Each of us has two kidneys, but we only need one to live. A living donor can donate one kidney and continue to live a full, healthy life—most people never even notice they only have one kidney!

I **[am on/plan to join DELETE THE VERSION THAT DOES NOT APPLY TO YOU]** the waiting list to receive a kidney from a deceased donor, but there are close to 90,000 people in the U.S. waiting for a kidney, and there are not enough to go around.

A living kidney donor is a much better option for several reasons. First, it would help me get a transplant much sooner. Second, living donor kidneys tend to last twice as long as deceased donor kidneys, which would mean many extra healthy years for me.

I am sharing this with you because I am now looking for a living kidney donor. I want to stress that you should not feel obligated in any way to donate a kidney, and neither I nor anyone in the family will try to convince you to become a donor. I know it is a big deal and I would never want you to feel pressured or uncomfortable. Honestly, having your love and support at this time is more than enough, and I am very grateful for it.

Of course, if you or anyone you know is interested in learning more about the living kidney donation process or exploring the possibility of becoming a donor, I would be happy to

discuss it openly and answer any questions you may have. I understand that this is a significant decision, and I want everyone to make the choice that feels right for them.

You can visit my microsite to learn more: [\[ADD YOUR MICROSITE URL HERE\]](#).

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter and for being an important part of my life.

Wishing you a warm and joyous Thanksgiving.

[Your Name]

[Phone number or email address if comfortable sharing]