

Christmas Card recipients say . . .

"Thank you for remembering that even though inmates committed a crime we are still human and have feelings." ~ Wes

"To the wonderful people who remembered those often forgotten, who know the difference between a sin and a sinner, who took the time to bring some warmth to a cold place, who softened our hearts and maybe even watered our eyes, you are the hopeful future. You clearly reflect His light." ~ John

"The Christmas card that Jenny, age 10, drew and sent me really touched my heart. Thank you so much for sharing the true meaning of Christmas with me." ~ Gaye

"If someone could tell Christian how much his card meant to someone else, a stranger he'll never know or need to know, maybe I can transfer the warm feeling I got back to him to let him know the value of giving." ~ Thomas

"Though I am Jewish I can still appreciate the beauty in your message. May the GOD of Abraham – your GOD and mine – bless you all tenfold for your selfless acts of human kindness and compassion." ~Victor

"Dear Jessica, Your card was a little ray of sunshine in a place of cold steel and concrete." ~Douglas

"My gratitude and thanks to all the children who spent their time and effort to bring happiness and joy to an otherwise bleak time behind bars." ~Anonymous

"Thank you for making it possible for the inmates to receive holiday cards. Even though I'm Muslim, I was very touched with your charity which really is the true spirit that I pray to (God) will become contagious in our daily lives. Your intentions probably rehabilitate more inmates than the prison system. May (God) bless you." ~Yasin

"Thanks for your lovely Christmas card and for the words of care and Christian love you sent in every line. I will pray for you and I will always remember your kindness. God bless you." ~ Nicole

Centre County
United Way



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Christmas Cards for Inmates



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What is it? Each holiday season, children aged 5 -18 from all over Pennsylvania and beyond decorate Christmas Cards which are sent to incarcerated men and women across Pennsylvania.

How it works: Children decorate the cards, then sign only their first name & age. Each card is carefully screened to ensure there is no identifying information on them before cards are distributed to prisoners.

Benefits for children: Children who decorate these cards learn that everyone should be remembered and cared for, regardless of what they may have done in the past. Children also learn compassion and the importance of giving.

How it started: This program started in 1982 with the simple goal of offering a little humanity to people behind bars in one PA prison. Since then, the program has grown to serve over 30,000 men and women each year in 27 state prisons and dozens of regional and county jails.

ABOUT CENTREPEACE: CentrePeace promotes a restorative justice system by modeling programs within our communities and correctional facilities that are based on healing brokenness rather than on vengeance, on peace rather than on fear and offering avenues for accountability rather than alienation.

What it means to recipients: The holiday season is an especially bleak and difficult time for people who are incarcerated. For many, the card they receive from a child through *Christmas Cards for Inmates* is the ONLY piece of mail they will receive all year.

These cards deeply touch the men and women who receive them. Each year, CentrePeace receives hundreds of letters of appreciation from prisoners. Their own words reveal the power of this program:

"Your card was one of the most selfless and thoughtful presents I have ever received. I suppose the Lord does truly work in mysterious ways." ~ Jim

"Thank you for your wonderful Christmas cards. The thought behind your gift to not only give, but to share the giving through teaching these fine young people, inspires hope and goodwill in all of us." ~ Michael

"I myself and most of the other guys thoroughly deserve to be in jail. But some of the guys come from a background almost guaranteed to produce the cynical anti-social attitude that leads to criminal acts and jail terms. By demonstrating that at least some people have kindness and regard for others, as you have done, you provide a model for the guys. It may be just enough to make the difference. Thanks again." ~ Frank

"Many days have been brightened by your beautiful cards!" ~ Judith

How can you participate?

Christmas Cards for Inmates

If youth in your organization would like to participate in making Christmas Cards for Inmates, please send this information to us. In late summer each year, we will send blank cards to your organization to decorate with instructions about how to return the decorated cards to us.

Contact name: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

Phone #: _____

Email: _____

Approximate # of cards your youth (ages 5-18) could decorate: _____
(note: we encourage each child to decorate more than one card)

Please return completed form via mail or fax, or send information by email to:

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