

Season's greetings cards share kindness and good will

By Ben Polk

Letting someone know that he or she isn't forgotten is one of life's kindest and most thoughtful acts. Greeting cards are one of the simplest ways to do it. Did you know that sending greeting cards can be traced back to the ancient Chinese who exchanged messages of good will to celebrate the new year? By the early 15th century, handmade paper greeting cards were being exchanged in Europe.

Now, with isolating restrictions placed on so many older adults for the past two years, Edgewater Village Chicago is again co-hosting the Season's Greetings Card Giving Project with the Edgewater Branch of the Chicago Public Library. "Both organizations are natural partners as our missions are to engage and serve the wider community at large," said Ginger Williams, executive director of Edgewater Village.

In 2020, the Village launched the project with 29 dedicated participants who wrote 541 cards that were delivered to senior residences in Edgewater, Uptown, Andersonville, and Rogers Park. "It only takes a small effort, but may have a big impact," Ginger added. "Please join us to make this year's efforts even bigger as we reach out to share season's greetings to more people."

Katy Linehan, co-chair of Edgewater Village's Program Committee and adult services librarian at the Edgewater Branch Library, explained how the project began. "Especially during the pandemic when older adults were isolated in their residences and not allowed to have in-person visitors, we wanted to let them know they were not forgotten," Katy said. "Just because we couldn't be together doesn't mean they had to be completely alone. We hope the cards would put smiles on their faces and let them know we're thinking about them."

Non-denominational purchased or handmade cards may be signed with your first name only or first and last names and may be dropped off at the Edgewater Branch, 6000 N. Broadway, by Dec. 19. Email Katy at Klinehan@chipublib.org if you'd like to participate.

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