



Elderwerks

Make a Senior Smile Program

Are you able to color, draw or write a letter? Then this simple program is for you! Please create something fun for a local senior to receive and help put a smile on their face! Once your creation is complete please either drop off or mail to:

Make a Senior Smile
c/o Elderwerks Educational Services
251 E. Northwest Hwy
Palatine, IL 60067

Elderwerks Educational Services is a not-for-profit 501(c)3 organization providing older adults, seniors, and families information, referrals and guidance for senior living, home care, support, and benefits. We act as "senior guidance counselors". For your personal assistance call 855-462-0100 or visit www.Elderwerks.org.



Elderwerks Make a Senior Smile Letter Writing Guidelines

We need your help. We want you to write letters that will uplift an elderly stranger. Take a few minutes to sit down and write a letter to a senior telling them about yourself, maybe say a joke or a riddle and let them know that they are loved and appreciated. Making a difference can be so simple, yet it can be incredibly impactful! It might feel difficult at first to be writing to someone you don't know. Our advice: just pretend like it's a conversation! What kinds of things would you want to talk about to a grandparent?

1. **Letters must be legible (large print). Handwritten is preferred.** No worries if you're not artistic- make your card or letter as what you'd like to receive.
2. **Avoid religion.** Please refrain from including anything religious in your letters such as religious quotes and words like "God," etc.
3. **Embrace creativity!** Recipients love it when the letters are personal. We encourage you to make your letters detailed, thoughtful, and heartfelt.
4. **Be kind and thoughtful** This is a one-way letter exchange, meaning you will not receive a letter back, so remember that no reciprocation attached is part of the beauty of your act of kindness and the recipients don't feel burdened by feeling obligated or being unable to respond.
5. **Envelope your letters if you can!** It's so much nicer to open up an enveloped card, don't you think? Please leave your enveloped letters unsealed and unstamped.
6. **Share your act of kindness!** We love seeing photos of your letter writing and it helps promote our cause more than you know. Let your friends, family, and coworkers know about our Make a Senior Smile program to see if they'd like to participate. Feel free to tag us on social media! #elderwerks #makeaseniorsmile #positivemessage #helpingseniors etc.
7. **Send us as many cards as you'd like!** We accept letters year-round so there's no deadline for when you must send them by. Seniors that are isolated are always so happy for mail.

All done?

Send or drop off: Elderwerks, 251 E. Northwest Hwy., Palatine, IL 60067