



South Carolina Department of Corrections South Carolina Department on Aging

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For immediate release

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COLUMBIA, S.C. – Offenders at the S.C. Department of Corrections made holiday cards and gifts for nursing home residents this week as part of an effort to lift spirits during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The offenders drew cards by hand and made jewelry, knitted caps and footies, stuffed animals, bookmarks, blankets and other comfort items as part of “Operation Spread the Joy,” a collaboration between SCDC and the S.C. Department on Aging.

The items were delivered to nursing home residents across South Carolina today.

“Many of our offenders want to be part of something good, and this gives them the opportunity to brighten spirits for someone else,” SCDC Director Bryan Stirling said. “They understand that even a small card or gift can mean the world to someone.”

More than 3,000 items were delivered to residents across the state.

“For many of our residents in the facilities, these cards and special items may be the only things they receive during this holiday season,” SCDOA Director Connie Munn said. “We are grateful for the partnership with SCDC and their efforts to reach out to spread the joy to our older residents.”

The S.C. Department on Aging was created to enhance the quality of life for seniors in South Carolina. The agency works with local organizations and a network of regional offices to provide

services that help seniors in their communities. The agency also operates the state's Long Term Care Ombudsman Program, which serves as the advocate for more than 45,000 residents in long-term care settings.

Hundreds of offenders across SCDC participated in the project, which many said gave them an opportunity to help someone in this time of need.