



South Carolina Department of Corrections South Carolina Department on Aging

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For immediate release

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COLUMBIA, S.C. – Holiday gifts made by inmates at the S.C. Department of Corrections are being delivered to long-term care residents across the state this week.

The gifts are part of Operation Spread the Joy, which began in 2020 as an effort to lift the spirits of long-term care residents during the COVID-19 pandemic as part of the collaboration between SCDC and the S.C. Department on Aging.

The gifts include hand-made crocheted stuffed animals, blankets, knitted caps, scarves, blankets, cards and other items.

“Our inmates are proud to be part of this annual tradition,” SCDC Director Joel Anderson said. “It means a lot to them to be able to give back to the community, especially at the holidays.”

More than 1,400 gifts are being delivered to residents across the state from inmates in South Carolina’s 21 prisons. Inmates look forward to participating in this yearly project, saying it allows them to help make the holidays happier for those in need.

“These special handmade gifts and cards by the inmates are a treasure for our residents because many do not have visitors, and these are sometimes the only piece of joy they may have during the holiday season,” SCDOA Director Connie Munn said. “This opportunity allows both agencies to collaborate and spread joy to so many of our long-term care residents.”

The gifts and partnership are invaluable to those on the frontlines of caring for South Carolina's most vulnerable residents.

The S.C. Department on Aging's mission is 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 44,000 residents in long-term care settings.