

Harvard woman makes difference one card at a time

A day in the heartland

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(4/13/2009) By Dennis Kellogg - If you have ever looked at the world's problems and asked yourself, "What difference can one person make?" a woman in rural Harvard may have your answer.

Renita Farrall often writes letters to men and women she has never met — and probably never will.

"Dear soldier. Thank you for taking the time to protect our country. We want you to know that we are praying for you each day."

The letters are part of a project Renita started about a year ago. The idea is to gather as many cards from the community as she can and send them to soldiers overseas for the 4th of July and Christmas holidays.

"We decided to name it Make2Tell2 and encourage people, all you need to do is make two cards and tell two people what you are doing," said Farrall.

"Make2Tell2" is the first of what Renita hopes is many projects she wants to do to both bring families together and address needs in rural communities. It really is easy — just make or buy a card, sign it with a personal note, and give it to Renita. If you have the name and address of a soldier overseas, she wants that too. She either pays for the postage herself or uses money donated. The project is her way to make sure these soldiers hear the words they have earned — "Thank you."

"I have always felt that these men and women have gone out of their way, have sacrificed so much to give of themselves for our freedoms that we have because of that so I have always wondered how I could help them," Farrall said.

Renita gets all kinds of cards from all kinds of people. Senior citizen groups. Youth groups. Even one group at a state prison.

"They sent me 39 cards the first time. At Christmas time, I got 43 cards and they are all handmade," said Farrall.

And Renita said the inmates discovered the same thing she has every time she puts her heart into an effort like this.

"We think we are giving the blessings, but you are receiving back so much more," Farrall said.

Renita would prefer to see the war end, but until it does, she will continue to these soldiers far away from home.

"My goal has been to hit a million cards. So it will either be a million cards or the war will be done. The men will be back home," said Farrall.

But until the soldiers do return, Renita will keep writing, collecting and sending letters to these men and women she does not know, but truly appreciates.

"Know that we are thankful for your selfless sacrifice that you and your family have made," said Farrall.

Letters signed, sealed and delivered with love.

Love, Jerry and Renita Farrall.

Renita actually does a very similar project for Valentines Day, only the cards she collects at that time go to those in nursing homes across central Nebraska.

If you or your group would like to make cards or donate money for postage, you can check out the "Make2Tell2" website at <http://www.make2tell2.com>

She also has another project online here:

<http://www.thatsitimgoingtograndmas.org>