

HANDMADE CARDS FOR HURLEY KIDS

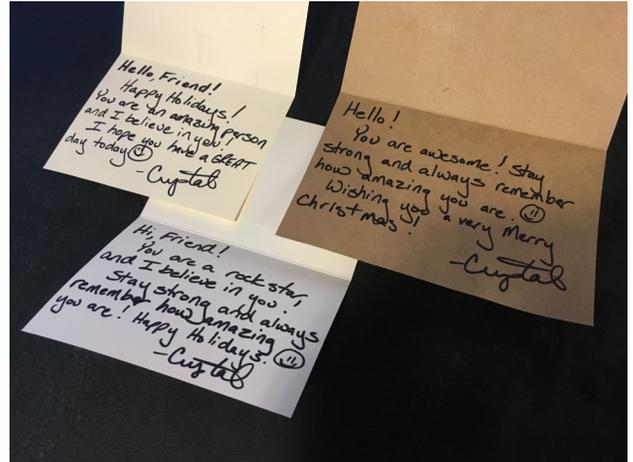
Flint Handmade partners with Hurley Medical Center to distribute handmade cards to children their two pediatric units. Occasionally, cards may also be delivered to the pediatric intensive care unit (PICU) or the pediatric emergency department.

Specialists from the Child Life Department, including art and music therapists, present the cards to children as part of the healing process. Therapists may say, "You got a card! Do you want to make one?"

WHAT TO WRITE

They recommend writing uplifting messages, such as:

- **Stay strong**
- **You are awesome**
- **Never forget how amazing YOU are**
- **You rock**
- **I hope you have a great day today**
- **You shine brighter than the sun**
- **You inspire me**
- **Be Brave**
- **I believe in YOU**



These messages focus on the child as a whole, rather than their illness, which is important, according to Child Life Specialists.

- Print CLEARLY. It's great when the kids can read the cards themselves. Messages can be long or short.
- Please sign your FIRST NAME ONLY on the card to humanize the message and let the kids know that people are rooting for them!
- If you wish to address the card, "Hello, Friend!" or "Hi, Friend!" or something similar is encouraged.

WHAT NOT TO WRITE

- Get Well, Feel Better or other illness related comments. Some of the kids that receive our cards suffer from chronic, life-threatening and/or terminal conditions. Some may also be facing uncertainty regarding their treatment and diagnosis. This is why it is important to write uplifting messages rather than "Get Well" or other illness focused comments.
- Any personal information, such as last name, phone number, address, email address, etc.
- Any religious comments such as "God Bless" or "I'm praying for you." Hurley treat patients of all religions as well as patients that do not practice religion.

GENERAL AND HOLIDAY CARDS

- Cards are welcome for all major holidays, including but not limited to Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas, Hanukkah, New Years, Valentines Day, St. Patrick's Day, Easter, 4th of July, etc.
- Cards may include a specific message for the particular holiday, such as "Happy Valentines Day," "Have a Great Thanksgiving," "Happy Halloween," etc.
- Seasonal cards are also appropriate. Happy Spring, Happy Fall, etc.

If you have any questions, please let us know!



SOURCES: Hurley Medical Center and www.cardsforhospitalizedkids.com