

## SMILES FROM OUR KIDS

In these uncertain times we are endeavoring to create an opportunity for our young people to be involved in community service by reaching out to our seasoned residents. Many in our senior population are struggling as they deal with the current restrictions....especially not being able to be with their family and or grandchildren due to the higher risk for those over 60.

Our President extended the current social distancing as we “shelter in place” until May 1st. Seniors and many others are at greater risk for of developing anxiety or depression as they are isolated from family and friends. Many are predicting it may be early June before we return to our new normal.

Greenwood Schools have received devices that will allow them to have e-learning days on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. We are hoping this will be an activity that will give the children a community related project plus letting them help bring smiles to the faces of our seniors.

Many of our seniors are accustomed to going to the Social of Greenwood (senior center) for daily activities, CICOA lunches or perhaps to play Bingo. Often they will go to a movie or to lunch or dinner with friends. Many of our city’s seniors rely on their social activities with friends to help them pass the day. This is a very difficult and frightening time.....especially for those who live alone.

We are currently in a “hunker down” and stay at home time period. Presently Governor’s Holcomb’s directive is through April 21<sup>st</sup> . However, our schools will continue e-learning until end of the school year. An email address [smilesfromourkids@gmail.com](mailto:smilesfromourkids@gmail.com) has been set up to help bring smiles to the faces of our older population as well as first responders.

**We are encouraging children to color a picture(s) and attach a short note to brighten the day of a senior, veteran, first responder or medical staff. The children can use their own picture or select one of the attached pictures to color. We hope that mom or dad will take a picture of the child’s picture and send it to [smilesfromourkids@gmail.com](mailto:smilesfromourkids@gmail.com) . Then the child accompanied by an adult or older sibling could take the picture and tape it to the door of a neighbor’s home. The emailed pictures we receive will be copied and distributed to other seniors, nursing homes or senior living communities to bring a special smile to the face of our seasoned adults. First responder and medical pictures will be distributed accordingly.**

Perhaps you may also decide to text your pictures to those that are not in your immediate neighborhood. This is a creative and safe way to avoid social contact yet send smiles and hugs to those that are so important to us.

Attached are pictures that can be used or the child can select their own picture(s) to color. It doesn’t make any difference.....it’s just about brightening the day of others. By the way....there is a kid inside all of us so adults are more than welcome to join in and help us make a difference.

Please feel free to contact me if you have questions or need additional information.

We appreciate everyone’s assistance (especially teachers, churches, business and friends) in helping us get the word out. Please help us send some make the day brighter!

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