



After Jelene's mother passed away, she recalls looking through her mother's cedar chest, finding Valentine cards with two-cent stamps on them. Her mother treasured these cards and kept those sweet memories in her midst so she could enjoy them time and again. Jelene understands the value of a specially made card with a hand-written personal message.

Jelene worked with a company for 11 years conducting workshops and teaching participants how to make their own decorative cards. She then turned her love for making cards into a ministry to touch the shut-ins at her church and has been faithful to this call for over eight years now. She doesn't do this by herself, however. Jelene leads a close-knit group of about 12 women who meet once-a-month to make special, one-of-a-kind cards to send out to those on their church shut-in list. The support and fellowship of these women is what makes it special for Jelene.



Jelene prepares the projects and the women go to work in an assembly-line fashion, embossing, stamping, gluing and fellowshiping. The spirit of these ladies is priceless. One of the ladies even brings her 94 year old great aunt, who lives with her. What a blessing to include her in this ministry!

While the church pays the postage, Jelene provides most of the supplies, with the other ladies pitching in with some donations or materials where needed. "It's not a gift unless it costs you something," said Jelene, explaining her time commitment and joy in supplying the necessary materials to make these cards. But the real joy comes when this close-knit group joins hands and prays for those receiving the cards. "We pray that they will receive these cards with the same happy heart that they were made."

"I feel like God has gifted me with this. He gives me the imagination and ideas." Jelene humbly takes these gifts and invites others on this journey with her to bring joy and a happy heart to elderly shut-ins who come from a generation that treasures the hand-made card with a personal note inside.

Jelene hopes that this article about RAK will inspire other churches to glorify God through a similar ministry to their shut-ins. Perhaps your church has a related ministry or maybe God is nudging you to start one. Pray about it and talk with your leadership team. What a blessing it will be to both the giver and the receiver!

