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A Palentine's Day Project

The Ottawa Newspaper Guild executive is proposing local participation in the Palentine's Day project that involves sending hand-made cards of love and support to individuals using, working in or volunteering at domestic abuse shelters.

This year's effort involves sending cards to arrive by Palentine's Day, Feb. 13.

Shelters are matched with groups producing agreed-upon numbers of cards. Cards only go to shelters that submit requests and in each case are mailed to a secure address supplied by the shelter.

"A lot of people hate Valentine's Day, but I imagine spending the day in a shelter because the person you love has been abusing you is particularly devastating," overall campaign organizer Meg Crane says. "That's why we send a little note of love to let these brave, strong folks know we're thinking of them."

The project began in 2014 with store-bought Valentine's cards sent to a Winnipeg homeless shelter. Since then, the number of handmade cards sent to women's shelters across Canada has increased from 377 in 2015 to more than 2,000 in each of the past three years.

2020 marks the first year in which cards will be sent to mark Palentine's Day.

At the ONG, we're hoping to organize a card-production event for a Sunday afternoon in mid to late January. Come have a snack, have some fun and participate in this initiative.

If this interests you, send a note to the ONG office (ong@cwa-scaCanada.ca) or to ONG Secretary-Treasurer Gord Holder (gordholder@bell.net), including your availability for a couple of hours on the afternoon of Jan. 19 or Jan. 26, 2020. Those are currently the most likely options for us to gather for this project.

The goal of the project is to provide inspiration and comfort to those in need of a lift because of circumstances. Come help us be part of that effort.