



CARDS OF  
HOPE  
GUIDE

**Thank you for your desire  
and initiative to help us  
bring HOPE!**

As you plan to make Cards of Hope, please read through this guide. It will explain why these cards are so important and also give you all the instructions you'll need to participate.

But even if it wore me out for a week, it was worth it to go down to that mail box, pick up that card, struggle back up the stairs, sit down on the couch and open it from someone that really cared.  
- Phil Zielke

## WHY CARDS OF HOPE MATTER

The Phil's Friends Cards of Hope program sends thousands of encouraging newsletters, postcards, and colored cards (the ones you're about to make) to cancer patients all across the country. Why? We do it to let them know that they are not alone on this journey.

It doesn't matter what type of cancer someone has, what stage it's in, or how great someone's support system is, the journey through a battle with cancer is extremely difficult. At some point, everyone enduring that journey feels alone.

So imagine the overwhelmingly positive feeling someone has when they check their mail and there is a card that someone just like you had made with Phil's Friends!

# TESTIMONIES

Please tell everyone how much my wife looked forward to the "Phil's Friends" correspondence. the joy she expressed when commenting on each piece of mail received said a lot about the impact it had on her. - Michael

My husband always enjoyed them so much. He would take them with him when he went to the cancer center and shared them with the staff and other patients. - Eleanor

Thank you so much for the wonderful cards and messages that came along with them. I would show them to my husband and read them to him and place some of them in his room. - Noreen

# MATERIALS AND PRINTING

Here's what you're going to need:

- Downloaded PDF of desired template
- 8 1/2" x 11" plain white paper
- Printer that can print on both sides
- Coloring crayons and/or pencils
- Return envelope and postage
- Instructions for other volunteers, provided for you in this guide.

We recommend that you don't use markers simply because they bleed through the paper very easily. That could interfere with the rest of your awesome artwork on the other side of the sheet!

You can choose any template that you wish to use. There are several options available for download as a PDF at

**[www.philsfriends.org/cards-of-hope](http://www.philsfriends.org/cards-of-hope)**

Print as many copies as you think you'll need. When you print the PDF, remember to print on both sides of the paper and flip on the short end.

# WAYS TO INVOLVE OTHERS

## SCHOOLS

Many schools and classrooms already participate with Phil's Friends by making cards that go to cancer patients. They incorporate it into their curriculum, into serving projects, home rooms, assemblies and more.

Making cards is a simple way to engage students in a project that makes a positive impact on the lives of those affected by cancer.

## CHURCHES

Sunday school classes, Bible study groups, and other groups or committees have found that making cards for Phil's Friends offers an opportunity to serve others in tangible, meaningful ways.

## FAMILIES

Make cards for cancer patients as an activity for the whole family.

# WHAT TO WRITE & COLOR

We encourage the creativity and quality of your card versus the quantity of the cards that you make. Chances are that the more effort you put into just one card will make even more of an impact on the individual who will receive it.

Of course, we do have to watch out for a few things.

Please don't add anything to the card that will protrude off the paper, like large stickers, beads, etc. These cards are processed and fed into envelopes thousands at a time by machines. These sorts of add-ons can interrupt that process and the card will most likely get ripped and be too damaged to use. We don't want your hard work going to waste!

Please, no seasonal or holiday themes!

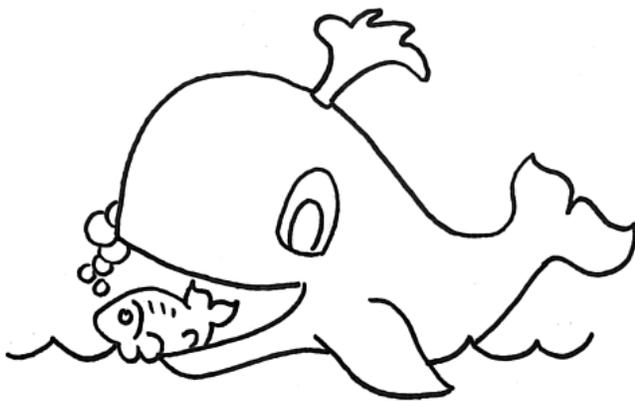
Keep it clean and lighthearted. We can't send a card with ninjas wielding swords. Please keep the imagery, message, and the overall theme of your artwork appropriate.

Lastly, please do not include the following phrases:

- Get well soon
- Feel better
- You can beat cancer
- If you pray, God will heal you.

# WHERE TO WRITE IT

Please write your messages underneath where it says, "Dear friend..." as in the image below. After you've written an encouraging message, please write your name (first name only) and your age so that the patient who receives the card will know that you made it.



**SWALLOW THE LEADER!**

Dear Friend...

**JUST WANTED TO LET YOU  
KNOW THAT I'M PRAYING FOR  
YOU! HAVE AN AWESOME  
DAY!!**

**SINCERELY,**

**THOMAS, 21**

# WHEN YOU'RE FINISHED

When you're cards are completed, collect them all to be returned to Phil's Friends. If you're doing cards on a regular basis, returning the finished cards about once a month should suffice. Otherwise, we recommend returning them soon after your project.

If you live near the West Suburbs of Chicago, you're more than welcome to drop off the cards at our Hope Center during business hours.

However, if you are not nearby, you'll need to mail the cards to us. Please place all the cards in a protected envelope if you are able to and mail them to:

Attn: Cards of Hope  
Phil's Friends  
1350 Lake Street Ste I  
Roselle, IL 60172-3370

We can't thank you enough for your help and participation! These Cards of Hope mean a lot!

If you have any questions and need assistance, don't hesitate to contact us.

Phone: 224.653.8315  
Email: [info@philsfriends.org](mailto:info@philsfriends.org)