



Resident of the Sky Bridge at Town Center Helps Spread Love With Unique Hand-Crafted Cards

Renee Manago Griffin leads Watermark University class to create heartfelt pieces and memories with fellow residents

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Renee Manago Griffin, a resident of The Sky Bridge at Town Center, teaches a Watermark University class on making holiday cards by hand in December 2024. PHOTO COURTESY WATERMARK RETIREMENT COMMUNITIES

UPPER MARLBORO, Md. (Jan. 31, 2025)—Giving and receiving cards for Valentine's Day has a long tradition of bringing joy and love to others. For one resident of The Sky Bridge at Town Center, a Watermark retirement community, this tradition has taken on new life as she now leads a Watermark University class to teach her fellow residents how to make their own unforgettable cards by hand.

Renee Manago Griffin has always been a crafter, enjoying the process of making something by hand, especially when it's for others. "For years, I've done a lot of different crafts; I've tried my hand at flower arranging, clothing designs, jewelry, crocheting, and of course, card making."

"I decided to make a few cards for the women at my church. After the holidays they told me that they threw out most storebought cards but kept mine because they loved that they were specially made," said Griffin. "It's not as common to get cards these days so handmade cards are extra special."

Around major holidays she began to send out even more cards, a pursuit she enjoyed with fellow artists at Riverdale Baptist Church, where "everyone would come to just talk, do art, eat together, and socialize." During the pandemic, she and the church community used cards to cheer up others in the community during that difficult time.

This passion for card making has followed her into her new home at The Sky Bridge at Town Center, as well. After moving to the community in August 2023, Griffin embraced having an entire room dedicated to crafting and started teaching a class on card marking for her fellow residents.

Now, around major holidays, residents in the community come together to bring out their creative side and brighten the spirits of those around them. This month, they will get to pour some extra love into their creations in honor of the Valentine's Day holiday.

"I'm so pleased with the group," she said. "We just have a lot of fun."

Griffin's work with card making has even drawn national attention throughout the Watermark Retirement Communities. She was featured in the Expressions calendar for the 2025–26 year. "No matter what, it brings people joy to get a card and to make a card," she said.