



STATE OF NEW MEXICO  
**Aging & Long-Term Services**  
**Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham**  
Katrina Hotrum-Lopez, Cabinet Secretary

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **New Mexico Aging and Long-Term Services Department and the Public Education Department partner to bring valentines to seniors**

*Handmade valentine cards will be distributed to seniors across the state*

**SANTA FE** — The State's Aging and Long-Term Services and Public Education departments have partnered to bring handmade cards to seniors this Valentine's Day. More than 70 teachers from across the state have had their students participate in this project, resulting in over 4,000 handmade cards. These cards will be distributed across the state at senior centers and long-term care facilities.

In addition, on Monday, Feb. 14, ALTSD Cabinet Secretary Katrina Hotrum-Lopez (dressed as Cupid) will be handing out some of the cards to seniors in Santa Fe. The Secretary will be joined by Lt. Gov. Howie Morales at the Mary Esther Gonzales Senior Center starting at 11am.

"We are always striving for ways to foster more intergenerational connection," said Secretary Hotrum-Lopez. "It is clear that kids love seniors, and vice versa, and so we hope to do more heartwarming events like this in the future."

"This has been a great opportunity for New Mexico school children to do something fun that will brighten someone else's day," Public Education Secretary Kurt Steinhaus said. "We are grateful to our partners at ALTSD for coming up with the idea and to the many teachers across the state who participated."

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*The State of New Mexico Aging and Long-Term Services Department [ALTSD] serves more than 200,000 seniors, adults with disabilities, and caregivers across the state with support, services, and resources. Throughout the pandemic, ALTSD provided more than 3 million meals to seniors and adults with disabilities and continues to provide approximately 21,000 grab-n-go meals each day. With a dedicated staff and the help of 4,700 senior volunteers, the department strives to help thousands of New Mexicans achieve healthy aging, attain lifelong independence, and maintain their dignity.*