

Katherine Ponte
Psych Ward Greeting Cards

May 19, 2025

Dear Katherine,

I am writing today, during Mental Health Awareness Month, to personally thank you for the thoughtful work you are doing with ForLikeMinds and for including our patients in the “Psych Ward Greeting Cards” project.

Bellevue Hospital has a long and storied history of caring for the city’s neediest and most underserved populations. Today, its mission as a safety net hospital continues to be to deliver high quality healthcare with compassion, dignity, and respect to all, without exception, regardless of their ability to pay. We serve the psychiatric needs of children, adolescents, adults, and geriatric populations. All the folks coming to us at such a vulnerable time need to know that they are not forgotten when they enter a hospital setting. With partners like you, we can indeed make this a place of comfort, safety and dignity.

When you first reached out to us in 2022, we were honored and eager to have you visit our patients with the hand-made personalized greeting cards. I was immediately struck by how touched the patients were to see that people with similar experiences think about them when they are in crisis, and take such care in bringing messages of hope. The beauty, the details, the sentiments of the greeting cards and your personal message were just what they needed to hear.

The feedback and questions from the participants showed just how tuned in they were. You listened to them as they share their own experiences. You gave them so much space to be heard. Thank you for being authentic and forthcoming with your lived experience. Thank you for honoring theirs.

Thinking of them again during Valentine’s season was also special. That holiday can bring up difficult feelings when loved ones are far or perhaps when there are no strong ties in their lives. You spoke of bringing a connection from the outside in and that was received loud and clear. You were so right about the scratch and sniff cards as well. We all enjoyed the sweet sensory experience along with the message of kindness and love. It was a privilege to witness and a pleasure to be able to make it happen with you.

Your positive impact on our patients continues through the partnerships you have cultivated with your generous donors. Most recently, the socks and chocolates delivered during the holidays brought dignity through kindness. All these efforts help foster a sense of connection and hope, crucial to the healing process. Please know that the ongoing shipments of cards and treats are shared with our many psychiatry inpatient units so that all our patients can know that you and your donors are out there, holding hope, spreading awareness and fighting stigma.

It is a pleasure and a privilege to collaborate with you.

Sincerely,



MILICA RAMIREZ LCAT, LMHC

Associate Director, Mental Health