

Ministry Minute

The Lovas Family: Letters of Care “Handwritten Hope - Letters Bring Joy Across Generations”



Some things take a village to accomplish, but sometimes great things happen with just a few words or a child’s hand-drawn picture.

Anna and Nick Lovas and their three young boys live a busy life. This summer, there were lots of youth baseball games, Camp WAPO for the boys, and a trip to the Paris Olympics for Anna and Nick to cheer on a friend.

But in September, as the family got back into their school routine, Anna sat down and wrote a letter to some special Westwood friends the family has made in the past few years. It was the kind of letter one might send at Christmas, but it talked about those summer adventures and what was happening in their lives right now.

“Brecken is at a new school as a 3rd grader but still has Spanish immersion. He’s adapted well and enjoying it so far. Brecken’s continuing break dance, playing baseball this fall, as well as soccer. Edison is a 6th grader at a new school, joining Jacob. Both are playing saxophone in their respective grade bands. Nick’s back at Hopkins High School teaching (and helping coach the middle school cross-country kids), so he’s back to school, too. Anna’s working from home ...”

Anna writes the letters, tucks them in a unique card, and mails them off to several elderly or homebound Westwood friends. Some include a note or picture drawn by one of the boys.

“A few years ago, Sara Moran, Director of Congregational Care, was looking for people to connect or visit with elders,” Anna said.

“I actually love doing that, but at the time, I couldn’t do visits because of work and the kids’ schedules. I’ve always loved writing notes and letters to cousins and friends, and that was something I definitely could do,” she said. “And I could get the kids to contribute too.”

So, she started writing, and the boys started drawing.

And then COVID hit. The Lovas letters became an even more important connection for many who were homebound during those long months.

“It helps to get a piece of mail that looks personal,” said LaVonne Grotta, a Westwood member since 1965 and a grateful recipient of the letters.



This mother of three and grandmother of four often watches Westwood’s services via livestream. She greatly enjoys the connection the letters make with other Westwood members.

“I’m amazed that in their busy lives, they have time for me,” LaVonne said of the Lovas family.

Longtime member Jerry Stanton also loves being on the receiving end of the letters.

“They sort of adopted me,” said Jerry, who will turn 102 next month. “I don’t know why they chose me. They’re very good to me. They are very nice people.”



The cards, letters, and pictures make a difference for the Lovas family as well. “I think, if nothing else, (the boys) are really aware of the elders in our church. They’re good at saying ‘Hi’ and connecting with older people at church,” said Anna. “It’s intergenerational awareness and learning.”

“It’s joyful for me and brings a little joy to others,” she added.

