

How are the cards being used?

I have been using your cards for a year, mostly to pay for folks in line behind me at the drive-thru.

Our hospital is just starting a Senior Link Program for senior citizens and we want them to not just come to meetings, but to reach out to others who have had disadvantages in their lives.

I plan to put one in each of my sister's lunches with a special surprise snack and note of love.

I have been sending cards and words of encouragement to everyday people serving others in great ways.

We are having a Random Acts of Kindness Week sponsored by the National Honor Society of our High School.

I manage a library in a medium security prison in Colorado. I would like to encourage positive actions.

I am a mother of 4 yr old girl with cancer and in the hospital. I see so many children in the same situation as my daughter and these kids go through so much pain and I hope these cards will put a smile on their faces for few moments.

To make someone smile who is long over due...

Smile Cards

Because kindness is contagious.

You're It!

In September of 2003, small cards like this one began appearing all around the world. They are markers of a new fangled game of tag, where "you're it" because someone has done something nice for you. Then it's your turn to do something nice for someone else and, in the process, pass the card along.

This is a game of pay-it-forward: anonymously make someone smile, leave behind a card telling them to keep the ripple going. It's easy and fun. We are the scientists and Boston is our laboratory. Is kindness truly contagious?



Our goal for the reunion weekend is to create a massive MIT ripple of smile cards around the city of Boston and Cambridge —our own version of a hack! So here's your chance....select one of the ideas listed below (or come up with your own) and be sure to leave the 'smile' card behind —

- Drop off a plant, flowers or apple pie at the police department in Boston or the MIT Police Department.
- Write notes or bring flowers or goodies to your past professors and to remember the people who don't normally receive any recognition, like the cleaning people in your residence hall or the secretary in your department.
- Do "drive by-flowering" near your old living group. During the night, tuck the flower under people's car wipers or leave it on their front door.
- Order someone a dessert anonymously at a restaurant or pay for the person behind you, at a drive-thru pickup window or pay for someone's gas anonymously at the gas station or put X dollars on a pump for the next person.
- Leave a note of appreciation for your Cambridge or Boston hotel bellhop, house-keeping or the concierge.
- Take flowers to a hospital ward at Mass General in Boston and leave them for someone who hasn't had any visitors.
- Open the Boston phone book, pick a name, and send them something (movie tickets, inspirational quote, you are appreciated card, book, etc.) anonymously.
- Write a thank-you note to a person from your past who has made a difference in your MIT experience (this could be another alumni).
- Bring home-cooked meals, blankets, a bathroom kit and/or socks to a homeless person in Boston.
- Send a letter of thanks to any of the media sources that highlight MIT in Cambridge/Boston:
 - MIT Tech, PO Box 397029, Cambridge, MA 02139-7029
 - Boston Globe, PO Box 55819, Boston, MA 02205-5819 (Attn to your favorite section of the paper)
 - WBZ News Radio 1030, 1170 Soldiers Field Rd, Boston, MA 02134
 - WCVB-TV, 5 TV Place, Needham, Massachusetts 02494 (ABC)
 - WHDH-TV, 7 Bulfinch Place, Boston MA 02114 (NBC)