



Secret Pal Program

*"Therefore encourage one another and build up one another, just as you are doing."
1 Thessalonians 5:11*

Secret Pal Objective:

The objective of the Secret Pal program is to provide positive affirmation and encouragement for Christian inmates who don't receive visits. These inmates are matched with Christian volunteers anonymously. This provides a unique source of hope and friendship to lonely inmates, as well as a safe medium for the expression of Christian love from volunteers. This letter or card of encouragement may be the only contact this brother or sister has with the outside "free" world. Just imagine what it will mean to them to receive regular encouragement from you.

General Information for Volunteers:

- Volunteers must be a Christian and at least 18 years old.
- Volunteers should feel a calling to this ministry after spending time in prayer.
- **Minimum Commitment** – monthly encouragement for at least one year. Each year you will be given an opportunity to renew for an additional year or rotate off. When you renew, you may be given a new Christian inmate.
- Please pray about how many Christian inmates you would like to correspond with.

Rules governing the Secret Pal Program:

- Make sure that you are sending an encouraging card to your Secret Pal at least once a month. Remember this is one way communication so do not wait to hear back from the inmate before sending another card.
- **Do not** share any personal information.
- **Do not** send gifts, books or packages of any kind.
- **Do not** provide financial assistance or send money.
- **Do not** provide your name and address. We will provide you with a constant return address.
- Please let us know immediately if you are unable to continue with your one year commitment or if you have a change of address or phone number.

Suggested Correspondence:

- Cards for special occasions (birthday, holidays)
- Special Cards or Notes (Secret Pal, Thinking of you, Friendship)

If you have any questions or need further information, please contact the FOCUS Ministries office at (865) 694-3837 or email volunteer@focustn.org.