Dearest friends,

My name is Annie. Together a couple friends and I pulled together to get a gift card. We sincerely hope it can help you get a few things this holiday. No matter what you believe or how you celebrate we offer our love and peace this season. I also wanted to share that I know how it feels to be a recipient during the holidays. Growing up my Dad was unemployed for 5 years. During those years money was tight. I knew my mother and father went without to feed our family. I knew how hard it was on my mother. I remember Christmas Eve some of our church friends came to our door and left boxes of food, gift cards and clothes. I remember feeling both excited and slightly embarrassed. My father taught me a great lesson that year. He told me to put all feelings aside and to remember the spirit of the season. The spirit of the season is about family, gratitude, kindness and love. I have learned that in our lives we will all be both givers and receivers. Giving and receiving is what connects the human race. It helps us see beyond differences in race, religion, status, gender... it makes us one. We all have struggles in life. If we did not give or receive help these struggles would be unimaginable burdens. Luckily in my life I have had tender mercies during my struggles. I know we can be happy in all our circumstances if we choose to give so. I know that my greatest happiness comes from giving and showing gratitude. I hope this season is full of magic, love and peace.

Best Wishes, Annie

contribute: Megan, Jonathan + Natice