McLimans explained that after the event was part of Teens Give Back, a series of service programs organized by Cecil County Public Libraries. CCPL Youth Services Coordinator Katelyn McLimans exclaimed that Teens Give Back, which started up well before the pandemic, is a way to build collaboration between community organizations. With this project, they sought to follow the model of the Teens Give Back programs but make it virtual. "Teens are a population that really want to give back and provide a service in the community," she said. "This was the perfect way to start that service learning project, even in this socially distanced atmosphere." Participants were invited to register ahead of time and pick up their kits at the library branch. Sixty-four young adults registered, and those who were unable to attend Friday’s Zoom call can still create and submit their own cards. Anyone is welcome to participate, although the kits also included a form to earn library service credit. The library will accept cards delivered to the book drop off through this week, quarantine the cards for a few days and then deliver them to the Conowingo Veterans Center. The center itself is also accepting cards by mail for delivery to residents. Raye Ragan, director of operations at the Conowingo Veterans Center, joined Friday’s event to chat with attendees, explaining what types of messages would be most appropriate, how to address the cards — top picks include ‘buddy’ or ‘friend’ — and how to personalize the cards. McLimans said she was heartened to see the interactions between attendees as they constructed their cards, asked Ragan questions and socialized. Many of the young people making cards wanted to personalize their cards, asking what are some different techniques that they could use to make the cards. McLimans shouted out Liz Drummond, the Perryville teen librarian who described as an “expert card-maker,” offered tips for participants to make unique designs. She just makes those beautiful works of art, and it’s just a hobby for her,” McLimans said. "This is how she has been familiarizing herself with these techniques that they could use to make the cards. She showed them how to create different materials, how to make them."

In addition to spreading some holiday joy and connecting Cecil County’s young adults with our veterans, McLimans said it was rewarding to see the attendees gathered together to create cards, meeting for the first time in over a year. "It helps teens learn a little bit more about the community, the issues that people might face within the community and how they can help," McLimans said. "It gives them ideas for ways that they can continue to support those agencies in the future."

For McLimans, it was heartening to see the interactions between attendees as they constructed their cards, asked Ragan questions and socialized. Many of the young people making cards wanted to personalize their cards, asking what are some different techniques that they could use to make the cards. McLimans shouted out Liz Drummond, the Perryville teen librarian who described as an “expert card-maker,” offered tips for participants to make unique designs. She just makes those beautiful works of art, and it’s just a hobby for her,” McLimans said. "This is how she has been familiarizing herself with these techniques that they could use to make the cards. She showed them how to create different materials, how to make them."

In addition to spreading some holiday joy and connecting Cecil County’s young adults with our veterans, McLimans said it was rewarding to see the attendees gathered together to create cards, meeting for the first time in over a year. "It helps teens learn a little bit more about the community, the issues that people might face within the community and how they can help," McLimans said. "It gives them ideas for ways that they can continue to support those agencies in the future."

For McLimans, it was heartening to see the interactions between attendees as they constructed their cards, asked Ragan questions and socialized. Many of the young people making cards wanted to personalize their cards, asking what are some different techniques that they could use to make the cards. McLimans shouted out Liz Drummond, the Perryville teen librarian who described as an “expert card-maker,” offered tips for participants to make unique designs.