



## NEWSLETTER TO SUPPORTERS: JANUARY 2010

---

### Our volunteers

Penfriends' band of volunteers – there are about 70 of them and a long waiting list – provide references, receive guidelines, are offered an advice service and attend training. Many of them are now experienced in writing to prisoners and have written to a number. When a prisoner leaves prison, we ask his or her penfriend to comment on the correspondence. This September, we received this reponse:

“Being a penfriend has given me the most tremendous feeling of helping someone. I feel that it has given me an insight into someone’s life that I would perhaps not mix with in “normal” circumstances. It has helped me to not judge people because of the situation they’re in.

“I feel that, over time, my penfriend opened up and was more willing and able to discuss his emotions and feelings. I also feel that the correspondence has given my penfriend the feeling that someone outside cares for him and is interested in him (he received very little contact from his family during his imprisonment). He sees me as a friend who does not judge him.”

This volunteer continues to write to her penfriend now he has been released from prison, after a long sentence. They have just exchanged Christmas cards.

*It would be impossible to continue this work without your most generous help.*

*A huge “thankyou” to all our supporters.*