

Make the Holidays More Special With Personalized Cards And Gifts

(NAPSA)—Being close to family and friends is important, especially when loved ones are miles away. Technology, such as e-mail, could have made handwritten holiday cards a distant memory, but today's technology can actually make holidays more personalized. Homemade cards and gifts touch the heart like no store-bought item can. With the right tools, anyone can create inventive cards and gifts at home that will be a hit.

A picture's worth a thousand words

Digital cameras will be a hot gift again this season, making it easy to trade photos over e-mail. However, when feeling nostalgic, there's nothing better than a crisp, full-color photo of loved ones.

A unique twist to holiday cards is to feature a picture on the front that includes both the sender and the recipient of the card. If the desired photo isn't available digitally, simply scan it into the computer to make reprints. Digital photos can be printed on a high-resolution color printer, then framed or made into personal holiday cards. For photo-quality printouts, an inkjet printer with a resolution of up to 2400 by 1200 dots per inch is ideal.

One device that can help is the PrinTrio™ by Lexmark, a high-resolution printer that also features a color copier and flatbed scanner, enabling a variety of creative projects. The PrinTrio is great for consumers because it is easy to use and less expensive than similar devices on the market. The PrinTrio comes with easy-to-understand photo editing soft-



ware, which can re-size or edit the photo. The photo editing software can also help create gifts. If a loved one's cherished photo is old and tattered, simply scan the photo to make it look like new.

Pint-sized Van Gogh

Couldn't get the kids to sit still for a photo? Then check the refrigerator—most parents have their child's latest masterpiece hung there. A child's drawing makes a unique holiday card. Using a flatbed copier and scanner, the pages from a favorite book or other three-dimensional items can be copied. This is ideal when making color copies of an artwork that includes glitter or pipe cleaners. Scan the drawing into the computer, and use the photo software to edit out fingerprint smudges or other blemishes. A creative saying, such as "wishing you a colorful holiday," will help complete the theme.

It's the thought that counts

A holiday gift doesn't have to be expensive to be special. There's no better way to capture the essence of the holidays than to create a card or gift from scratch. Adding personal touches makes gifts more meaningful, bringing both sender and recipient closer during the holidays, even if they can't be in the same place.

For more information on the PrinTrio and creative arts and crafts, visit www.lexmark.com.