

**EllynAnne Geisel** turned her passion for sharing homemade goodies into a national day of giving back.



## GOOD NEIGHBORS

# Tied with Heartstrings

An apron and a random act of kindness inspired a new Thanksgiving tradition. **BY ELLYNANNE GEISEL PUEBLO, CO**

**T**en years ago, as I was preparing for Thanksgiving, a neighbor's tragedy came to mind. So I wrapped a loaf of my cranberry almond bread in a spare apron and slipped a handwritten card in the pocket. Still wearing my own apron, I walked out the door and two blocks to her home.

After ringing the doorbell, I considered leaving my offering on the porch and bolting, but I'm forever happy I didn't drop and run. My neighbor looked stunned as I handed her the bread and told her I'd been thinking about her family. As I stepped off the porch, she was standing in the doorway, holding the bundle and smiling. She waved, and my heart leapt as I walked home.

That a simple act could make someone else so happy—I knew I needed to share the experience with others. I started Tie One On

Day as an annual encouragement to give from the heart through an act of kindness.

Celebrated the day before Thanksgiving, Tie One On Day inspires participants to wrap a baked good in an apron or cloth and tuck in a personal note, then deliver the package to a neighbor, friend or community group that could benefit from the gesture. The more people who join in, the more who receive. Each year I'm inspired by others who give.

Over the years I've switched up my own offerings with mini pies, chocolate-dipped shortbread and cranberry mousse. But this year I'm returning to my cranberry almond original, as a reminder that it's a blessing to have our daily bread—and extra to share.

Learn more at [apronmemories.com/tie-one-on-day](http://apronmemories.com/tie-one-on-day). If you participate, you can enter a goodie giveaway for a chance to win a little something for yourself, too.



## Gift a Basket

Use these suggestions to give your Tie One On Day surprise a personal touch.

**Stir** cheddar cheese, crushed pineapple, or chopped green chilies into a boxed corn bread mix before baking.

**Secure** an encouraging note with colorful butchers twine.

**Present** soup, chili or stew in a glass container if it's from scratch; canned will do, too.

**Line** the carrier with new or vintage napkins, dish towels or a colorful apron.