**An Invitation to Churches to Participate in the Utrust Employee Appreciation Program**

At \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ School we have established a student appreciation team (A-Team) with a mission to transform the culture of our school to one where students recognize and express appreciation to others who do things to make their lives. We’ll have another group of students called the G-Force (G for gratitude) working with us all year long to help develop a school-wide attitude of gratitude. We want the students in our school to develop an attitude of gratitude. We believe that this will carry over into students’ homes and community.

We think churches in our community are the experts in recognizing, valuing and appreciating individuals. We also believe that churches want to reach out to their communities to make them better places to live. We know that many members of your church are concerned that God has been taken out of our schools. Your church can help put God back in our school by showing His love to our staff through your members. We want our staff to know that they are appreciated not only by the students but also by the community. For these reasons, we’re inviting your church to join us in this effort.

We have learned that employees who know that their work is recognized and appreciated by the students and the community will go the extra mile to give their best effort.

We have divided our employees into eight groups and have designated eight appreciation days so that a different group of school employees will be celebrated on each of the days. We invite your church to join us in making one or more of these days special. An individual member or two or a Sunday School Class or two may want to do something small for each of the eight appreciation days or eight individual members or Sunday School classes may each take just one of the eight days and do something that would honor the group of employees being recognized on that day.

This program is not about buying things of great monetary value for the employees being honored. Rather, we are primarily interested in sincere expressions of appreciation such as a personalized card or a note or a telephone call to thank staff members being honored on behalf of the church for what they do. You may choose to include a token of appreciation such as a homemade brownie or cookie individually wrapped or even a pie or a cake or something as elaborate as a meal for their family. We want your church to be identified with whatever you might do because we want our staff members to feel loved by a group that is in the business of loving people.

To make the appreciation days more fun for everyone concerned, we have chosen a theme for each day. If you choose to participate in our program we ask that you incorporate the theme in some way. We have included some suggested activities, but they are just suggestions. We hope that you will welcome this opportunity to serve others and make a difference in our school and community. If your church chooses to be involved with any or all eight days, please let us know how you want to be involved. Each appreciation day will include individual recognition of each employee and we’d welcome a representative of your church to be a part of the presentation.

Sincerely,

The \_\_\_\_\_\_ School A-Team