

Beads of Courage

One of the programs which Chicago Woodturners is proud to participate in is Beads of Courage (www.beadsofcourage.org) in conjunction with Lurie Children's Hospital. During our April and May meetings we will be collecting boxes to be distributed in May. Please help us by making one or more boxes for our presentation. Following is information relating to the program and the guidelines for Beads of Courage Boxes.

Beads of Courage, Inc. is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization committed to strengthening resilience and promoting the well-being of children coping with serious illness, their families, and the clinicians who care for them. Beads of Courage, Inc. achieves its mission through the development and implementation of innovative Arts-in-Medicine programs. The Beads of Courage Program is a resilience-based intervention designed to support and strengthen children and families coping with serious illness. Through the program members tell their story using colorful beads as meaningful symbols of courage that they receive to honor and acknowledge each step of their treatment journey. Beads are given according to a program specific program bead guide. For milestones in their treatment journey, they receive handmade one-of-a-kind glass beads that are donated by members of the International Society of Glass Beadmakers (ISGB). Children in this program may collect hundreds, or thousands, of beads and they need a way keep them.

Children and young adults are finding strength in a whole new way by receiving handcrafted, beautiful boxes. The gift of having a safe place to keep hard earned Beads of Courage can bring a sense of comfort to the heart and is a beautiful way to honor the strength and courage of children battling serious illness.

Bead Bowls/Boxes Guidelines:

Beads of Courage members may receive thousands of beads. It is desirable for your boxes to hold them all. As a result, turned or rectangular lidded boxes need to be large. Larger is better! Recommended interior dimensions for turned boxes are 6" diameter (5" minimum), 5" height (4" minimum). Recommended interior dimensions for flatwork boxes are 4" x 6" x 4".

Box bases should be wide enough so the box is stable and does not tip over easily. Lids for Beads of Courage boxes should be easy for small children to remove or lift. Any finials should be easy for a small child to grasp. Avoid excessively elaborate designs that may easily break or be damaged.

Finishing of boxes is extremely important! Beads of Courage members who receive these boxes are susceptible to gems/infections/mold. Bowls that have not been properly sealed can harbor mold. Please take the time to ensure that you are using a

safe finishing process that does not contain toxic materials. Also, do not use finishes like linseed oil that take a long time to outgas.

All kinds of wood are beautiful! Please refrain from painting Beads of Courage boxes. Instead highlight the beauty of the wood with clear varnish, a stain, and/or burning.

Many woodworkers use the Beads of Courage ceramic logo bead in their design. (20 beads for \$25.00 with free shipping). Chicago Woodturners will provide these beads. In lieu of the ceramic logo, engrave, burn or letter "Beads of Courage" onto the lid or side of the box.

Personalize your donation. Marking your name or initials, type(s) of wood, and the date on the box bottom is one way. It is also nice to include a personal note of encouragement, business card, etc. inside the box.