

As woodworkers, our part of this journey is to provide a lidded box for kids to store their beads. Basically we need a box with a capacity of approximately 6" deep x 6" diameter. This can be any shape you want to make. Creativity is very much encouraged. We have Bead of Courage *Logo Beads* to distribute to the Guild. They are 3/4" in dia. With a 1/8" dia. through hole. These logo beads are recommended to be glued into the project bowl with epoxy or silicone as CA glue has proven to let go during a child's multiple handling's. Some turners have made the beads on a wood dowel built into the lid so they can spin around. We have to think of safety when designing these boxes. No sharp edges or points that could harm the child or one of their siblings. The finish has to be nontoxic and stable. The bowls do not have to have the logo bead embedded into it. They can be painted, engraved or carved. It is up to you. Another option is to turn a base and lid ring with a top and use 6" diameter plastic pipe as the side walls instead of hollowing out so much wood. The plastic ring is covered with spray glue and a child's favorite fabric images are glued on. Can be Disney prints, firetrucks, Minions, balloons, Nemo, flower, sports or whatever you can find.

There are simple guidelines to follow like in order to hold the beads, turned boxes for the Beads of Courage program need to be about 6 inches in diameter (5 inches minimum), or if rectangular lidded boxes about 4x6x4 inches. If possible, have Beads of Courage engraved or burned in the lid or use the Logo Bead. Make sure the lids are easily removable. Also, finials should be easy for a small child to grasp and not too elaborate. We need to fill out a donation form for each box as some children do write back to the artist that made their box. Some of these messages will tug at your heart. You can also specify the value of your donation for a tax receipt. Links to all of this will be on a separate email to the guild members. I can foresee that we will have a gallery table just for Beads Of Courage projects and a special section in our newsletter. We have a lot to share with each other on this very worthwhile project for the GVWG.