



Treasure Boxes For Kids

Painted Boxes Donated to the Shriner's Hospitals for Children

Treasure Boxes for Kids Program

Hand painted boxes for children at the Shriner's Hospitals was launched at the Society of Decorative Painters (SDP) conference in Nashville. Creating smiles one child at a time is our motivation. We are encouraging our 300 + painting chapters throughout the USA and Canada to begin this very worthwhile community service project. However, since we are an international society, we are even receiving help from artists in other countries.

Convention attendees were surprised with the appearance of two highly polished Shriner's Harley Davidson motorcycles in the middle of the convention floor. Nobles Mike Cunningham and Ed Riners from the Minneapolis Zhurah Shrine Cycle Corp. displayed their motorcycles next to the painting station for the Treasure Boxes for Kids. They helped greet people attending the conference and encourage artists to paint boxes for the program. How fun it was to see the looks on faces entering the convention floor. First they were confused and shocked gazing at the motorcycles and two Shriners - at a painting convention? Then the shock turned into excited smiles as they were encouraged to become a part of the Treasure Boxes for Kids Program. It was amazing as we talked with many convention attendees, just how many peoples lives had been touched by the Shriner's Hospitals.

There was dancing in the aisles as people entered the SDP annual meeting June 7th at the Gaylord Opyland Hotel and Convention Center, We were honored to have Shriners from Nashville; Al Menah Potentate Jim Cain and his Divan, which included the arousing melodies of the brass band. Jim Cain graciously accepted the painted boxes on behalf of the children. By the end of Conference we delivered 125 boxes to the temple. Everyone that sat down to paint a box was given a ribbon printed with "Treasured Painter" to wear. Police Officer Tom Fitzhenry from Richfield, MN donated them. Painters also received Shriner pins from Mike and Ed as an extra thank you for their time and talents.

We are busy signing up people to act as depot stations to accept and deliver the treasure boxes to the various Shriner's Hospitals. The program is a big success and artists are eager to develop it in their own areas. Our goal is to not only bring smiles to children's faces but to develop more awareness and appreciation for decorative art. Jillybean Fitzhenry who originally enlisted the Shriner's Hospitals, Jo Lutness, Judy Westeguaard and Jan McGraw (originator of the idea), worked together to help launch this program. For more information about SDP, please visit our website: www.decorativepainters.org and see what we are all about.

Warm Regards,
Jillybean Fitzhenry
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Society of Decorative Painters
Nashville, TN - Gaylord Opyland Hotel
June 2006





Treasure Box Painting Station (Above)
 Jillybean Fitzhenry, Jo Lutness, Judy Westegaard
 (Program Task Force)

(Left) Ann Johnson - Past President
 Mike Cunningham - Minneapolis Zuhrah Shriner

(Bottom left)
 Ed Reiners - Minneapolis Zuhrah Shriner
 Mike Cunningham - Minneapolis Zuhrah Shriner

(Bottom right)
 Johnny Dudley - Nashville Al Menah
 Potentate Jim Cain - Nashville Al Menah
 Jillybean Fitzhenry - SDP Vice President





(Above)
Nashville AI Menah Band at the SDP Annual Meeting in Nashville - June 7th, 2006

(Below)
Potentate Jim Cain accepting the painted Treasure Boxes at the SDP Annual Meeting.
Program Task Force - Jo Lutness, Jillybean Fitzhenry, Judy Westegaard

