

Torch/Kairos Prison Ministry

"Hands of Love"

Share your love with the boys at St. Charles Illinois Youth Center by making a '*Hand of Love*'.

- o Draw an outline of your hand on a piece of colored construction paper.
- o Write a brief, one sentence expression of love within the outline of the hand.
- o Sign your first name only. For children, it is nice for them to sign their first name and write their age...example, "Amy, age 6"
- o Then cut out the hand.

Please do not use glitter, glue, or stickers to decorate the hands...additional decoration can only be in the form of coloring with crayons, markers, or color pencils. **Please do not laminate these items.**

Examples of expressions of love:

"Whenever you feel alone put your hand on mine and know that I love you and so does Jesus".

"I love you".

"Jesus wants to hold your hand---put it in mine".

"Jesus loves you and so do I".

"God is no further away than this hand".

"My prayer is for Jesus to fill your heart with love".

"You are in His hands and He loves you".

Please feel free to write whatever the Spirit moves you to say...Your favorite Bible verses are great too.

The "hands" that you will make will be unveiled to the men during the weekend. During breaks in the program it is quite common to see guys walking along where the "hands" are displayed...reading inscriptions and looking closely at the cut-outs. These truly are a tangible reminder to them that Christian brothers and sisters are present in prayer and caring for them. We quite literally encircle the room in these "hands".

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Posters

The intent of the posters is to greet these men with love that come to the Torch or Kairos program.

- o Address the poster, as desired or as shown: "To Our Young Men attending Torch #3".
- o Messages of encouragement in the Lord would be welcomed.
- o Any artwork would also make the posters special. These posters will remain in the facility.
- o If you are giving your poster as a group..please include your group name, but please do not make reference to any addresses. Example..."Young Life", "6th Graders of Lord of Life"

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Placemats

At every meal we have placemats at each dining seat. Again, these placemats are a gift of love and encouragement that we use to reinforce the message that God loves them. These can be done on letter or legal size simple piece of paper. This is a great project for children. Make placemats decorated with drawings and messages of God's love.

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In the past, the men have saved their placemats and took them back to their cells. What we think is a simple thing, is extraordinary to them!