

FIAT

(Faith in Action Taskforce of Project Embrace)

HOUR CHILDREN/ST PATRICK'S BIRTHDAY ANGELS

“Whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me” (Matthew 25:40)

Mission: to provide a birthday gift for a child of an incarcerated or recently released mother

Instructions:

- Select and remove a candle from any one of the 12 monthly birthday cakes. Blue candles represent boys and pink candles represent girls. On the candle is the name and birthday of a child .
- (The candles are easily removed as they are attached with “fun tack”.)

- Fill in your name, email address and phone # on the white sheet next to the name of the child you have selected. This will enable us to give you a reminder call prior to the “due date” of the gift.

- Purchase a new appropriate aged gift for the child. (Please no violent toys or guns..even nerf guns. Comic book super heroes like batman and superman etc are fine)

- Please wrap the gift, and include a card with the child’s name and bring it back to St. Patrick’s Wallace Hall at least 2 weeks before your sponsored child’s birthday. We will ensure that it gets to the child in time for their birthday. You will receive a reminder phone call and/or e-mail so no child will be disappointed.

- You can be creative and include a cake mix, foil cake pans and can of icing or anything else that might liven up a child’s birthday.

- Thank you for helping to brighten the day of a child.

- If you have any questions, you may contact Donna Myers (Myersfam6@aol.com) or 273-5984)

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BIRTHDAY ANGELS

ST PATRICK'S/HOUR CHILDREN

Hour Children, a non profit organization, has provided supportive services to incarcerated and formerly incarcerated women and their families for over 25 years. The name of the organization was chosen to reflect how the children of the prisoners lives are dictated by the "hour" of their mom's arrest, the "hour" they are allowed to visit their mom in jail and the "hour " of her return. In 1986, Sr. Tesa and four other Sisters of St. Joseph led an initiative to open the doors of St. Rita's Convent where they began caring for children whose mothers were in prison. It is their goal to ensure that the children in their care are healthy, socially well-adjusted and achieving academically. Logically, in many cases the absence of their mother leaves these children vulnerable, particularly the older children, who face increased risk of involvement with crime, substance abuse, truancy and other anti-social behaviors. Without proper care and attention, these children also become victims of the prison system. The core of Hour Children's work is to reverse this vicious cycle of intergenerational incarceration.

Hour Children is unique in that they begin working with the women and their children while the mothers are still in prison. Their mission is to help the moms successfully rejoin the community, reunify with their families, and build healthy, independent and secure lives. They have comprehensive services including family visitation, advocacy to keep mothers and children together, parenting classes, housing, childcare, a food pantry, counseling, and employment assistance.

Hour Children reached out to St Patrick's Parish and asked if we would help them in their mission. We were asked to provide birthday gifts for the children living in the 5 residences run by their organization. It is a small gesture. However, one every mother and child can relate to. Everyone wants to feel special on their birthday and does not want to be forgotten. Every mother wants to be able to provide for her child and would be ever so grateful , if she were unable to provide, to someone who could help her out .

In Wallace Hall we have a "Birthday Angels" wall with the names and birthdays of several children who we would like to sponsor with a birthday present. The simple instructions on "how to" are listed as well. Please help a child feel special and loved.

In the Bible, St Matthew recounts that Jesus tells us:

"Whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me." (Matthew 25:40)

If you have any questions or would like further information, you may contact Donna Myers (Myersfam6@aol.com or 914-273-5984) Hour Children website: www.hourchildren.org

God bless the whole world....no exceptions