

Your Talents Can Play a Part in Where Victory Begins!

BAWA supports The Beads of Courage program!

We're not asking for your dollars, we're asking for your talents in supporting the fight for survival against childhood diseases!



The [Beads of Courage](#) provides supportive care programs for children coping with serious illness. The program uses beads, the earliest art form known to humans, as visible, tangible symbols of the experiences these children are having as they go through their treatment process.

Participants receive a colorful bead for each illness related experience they have. These beads help document the child's story as symbols of the courage they show throughout their arduous treatment. They receive, for example, a red bead for each

blood transfusion they get, a yellow bead for each night's stay in the hospital, a star bead for a surgery they undergo, a white bead for chemotherapy treatment and many, many more.

For even more critical 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. These are works of art! And at the end of their treatment process, when they are in remission, they receive a purple heart bead!

Beads of Courage programs are now in 260 children's hospitals, supporting 60,000 children each year in the U.S., Australia, Canada, Japan, New Zealand, and the U.K. Every time a bead is given, courage is honored, suffering is alleviated, resilience is strengthened, and **the experience of human caring is affirmed.** Children in this program may collect hundreds, and even thousands, of beads, and they need a way to keep them.

That's where we come in!

We don't want your dollars, we want your talents!

The Bay Area Woodturners Association, your club and mine, is proud to support this worthwhile program, as is The American Association of Woodturners (AAW) and hundreds of woodturning clubs throughout the US and internationally. And now you can play a vital part in victory over these diseases!

Our role as woodturners is a simple one: to create and donate wood turned "boxes" for these children to keep their treasured beads in! These boxes become part of their story and one of their most valued treasures! They are an affirmation of the "**human caring**" mentioned above! As they endure their arduous treatment process, the children gain strength and courage from these tangible symbols of the love and support of the community around them. Your turning becomes a part of their strength to fight for survival! What could justify what we do as woodturners better than that?

What happens to your boxes?

We've contacted John Muir Hospital in Walnut Creek, Pediatric Oncology Department, and they would be "thrilled to get our boxes!" We're not sure how many they can take, but if we make more than they need -and that's the goal- there are lots of other hospitals in the bay area that support the program, so your creations will always get into the right "little hands"!

We hope you'll participate:

We hope you'll participate by building one or more boxes! The following information will explain the guidelines for making the boxes as well as how we'll get the boxes from you to the participating hospital and how you can get a Beads of Courage Logo Bead to incorporate into your turning if you'd like to do so.



The Bead Box Guidelines: Beads of Courage children may receive thousands of beads in the course of their treatment process, and it's important that the boxes you make be big enough to hold them all, so the measurements below are minimum, but **larger is better!**

1. **The interior diameter:** The recommended interior diameter for turned boxes is 6", five inches minimum.
2. **The interior height:** The recommended interior height for a turned box is 5", four inches minimum.
3. **Box bases:** box bases should be wide enough so the box is stable and does not tip over easily.

4. **Lids:** lids for Beads of Courage boxes should be easy for small children to remove or lift. A good analogy is that of a “cookie jar fit”.
5. **Knobs:** Any knobs (finials) should be easy for a small child to grasp and substantial to stand up to less than gentle use.
6. **Avoid** designs that may easily break or be damaged, and of course, eliminate sharp corners and other hazards that could injure a small child.
7. **The finish:** The finish you use is extremely important! Beads of Courage members who receive these boxes are often immunocompromised and, therefore, are susceptible to germs, infections and 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. (See “Clarifications” below)
8. **Please do not** use finishes like linseed oil that take a long time to off-gas.
9. **Please refrain from** painting Beads of Courage boxes. (See “Clarifications” below) Instead highlight the beauty of the wood with clear varnish, a stain, and/or by burning and/or carving.
10. **If you’d like to**, you can personalize your donation by writing your name, type(s) of wood, and the date on the box bottom. (Also, see “Beads of Courage Logo Beads” below.)
11. **The box you make** can be as plain or elaborate as you’d like, They can be made from single blanks, basic glue-ups or segmented pieces, and they can take many different shapes, as long as they meet the minimum box size guidelines. Also, the opening at the top should be wide enough for a child to easily reach in to place or retrieve beads. Box embellishments can be very basic or very elaborate. They can be beaded, textured, burned and carved. They can also be free of any embellishment with just a nice finish. Remember, they all look like “someone cares” to the child who receives them!

Clarifications:

1. The guidelines posted on the Beads of Courage (BOC) web site ask that we don't paint these boxes; however, there are many images of at least partially colored boxes on the internet and in photos from the AAW. We contacted the head of the BOC national program for box donations and their spokeswoman clarified that if we want to add color, we should be sure not to use toxic paints, dyes or other colorants, and any of these should be allowed to off-gas before being donated. Please don't paint the entire box, but instead use color as an accent if at all.
2. Regarding finishes, the important thing to remember is that any finish you use needs to be allowed to off-gas completely before we donate your creation. From the discussions we've had and research we've done, it appears that most finishes are safe if allowed to off-gas, some for thirty days or more. Please don't use materials like linseed oil that can take up to ten weeks to dry.

Safe finishes include (but are not limited to) polyurethane, lacquer, milk paint and other water based materials. Also, shellac is safe but may not withstand "little hands" or daily abuse.

In order to insure that finishes are given the appropriate time to off-gas before boxes are donated, please slip a simple note inside your completed box indicating the date the last coat of finish was applied and what kind of finish you used.

3. A member brought up the question of the use of exotic woods that could be toxic to these children. He was kind enough to put us in touch with Seri C. Robinson, Associate Professor, Anatomy of Renewable Materials in the Department of Wood Science & Engineering at Oregon State University. We asked her about the safety of the use of toxic woods and finishes for these boxes; here is her answer:

"This is a great question! Generally if the wood is well finished, the species doesn't matter. Please be mindful of wax-based finishes, as these are just polishes and rub off readily, which would leave raw wood exposed to the child. I'd suggest not using oil finishes without solvents as there is a LARGE difference in time between dried and cured. Water-based finishes would generally be the safer option. "

“I’d generally recommend avoiding aromatic woods like cedars because if the finish isn’t done well enough the smell could leak out. Most wood smells are broadly toxic and with immunocompromised kiddos, you don’t want to take any risks.”



Beads of Courage Logo Bead and Artist Card:

The Beads of Courage is a non-profit organization, and therefore, relies on donations and some paraphernalia sales to run the program. In order to get the word out, they would like us to include reference to the program, “Beads of Courage”, somewhere on the box, but it’s not mandatory to do so.

If you would like to incorporate the logo bead pictured above in your turning, please email Larry Batti at: lbattiwoodturning@gmail.com. Include your name, address and phone number, and you’ll receive them free of charge. The only requirement is that you make the box! And If you need more than one bead and card, please indicate the number you’d like! On line, there are thousands of examples of alternatives to the logo bead, but again, it’s not mandatory that you reference the Beads of Courage on your turning.

Some of the BOC logo beads are hand made and, therefore, are inconsistent in size, but they’re approximately the diameter of a quarter and about three-eighths of an inch deep. Each will need to be fitted according to their unique dimensions.

How to get your finished turning to us:

Right now, while the Covid 19 pandemic is still with us, if you live relatively close to, or in, the Tri-Valley, when you’re ready to donate your box, we’ll coordinate a

mutually convenient time for someone to come to your home for a socially distanced and safe pick up.

If you live outside of the tri-valley area or a long distance away, we'll coordinate something with you that's mutually convenient.

In either case, when you're ready for pick up, please email Larry Batti at: lbattiwoodturning@gmail.com.

Once we resume in person meetings, you can simply bring your turnings to meetings or workshops for donation and for all to admire and enjoy!

Recourses:

There are hundreds of videos online on the Beads of Courage program including many on making the BOC wood turned boxes. And as you can imagine, there are thousands of pictures of a great variety of these boxes, so there are many, many references for you to explore! But one of the best recourses we all have, as you well know, is each other! There is so much talent in this club, so bring your questions to meetings and no doubt, someone will have an answer.

We hope you'll participate and play a positive role in the recovery process of these children!

We hope you'll choose to participate in BAWA's Beads of Courage program by making one or more boxes for this wonderful cause. In doing so, you show support and love for these courageous children and play a positive role in their recovery process, all the while giving grater meaning to your craft!

Happy turning, and be well!

The Board