

Bravery Beads Boxes

Bravery Beads Program

The Bravery Beads program supports children and families dealing with significant health problems, such as cancer, in children's hospitals. Under the program, children who may need to stay in the hospital for significant periods are awarded special beads to mark personal and treatment milestones achieved while they are in hospital. At the IWK Children's Hospital, Bravery Beads children receive beads documenting their admission date and name, along with a string for their beads, on admission. Over their stays, they receive beads to mark dates like birthdays, blood transfusions, trips home, and positive test results. On average, the IWK enrolls 100 families per year in Bravery Beads.

Bravery Beads members receive **LOTS** of beads. Having a safe place to keep their Bravery Beads can comfort the children and their families. Since 2016, the Guild has supported Bravery Beads by making boxes and giving them to the kids so that they have those safe places. Our boxes also honor the strength and courage of children battling serious illness. The Atlantic Woodworkers Association, Highland Quilters Guild, and Scotian Quilters Guild have partnered with us for this project. We are helping children and young adults find strength in a whole new way when they receive our beautiful, handcrafted containers.

Bravery Beads Boxes Guidelines

Size

Bravery Beads boxes need to be able to potentially hold hundreds of Beads. As a result, Bravery Beads boxes need to be large – the larger the better! Recommended interior dimensions for turned boxes are 6" diameter (5" minimum), 5" height (4" minimum).

Design

Box bases should be wide enough so the box is stable and does not tip over easily. Lids for Bravery Beads boxes should be easy for small children to remove or lift. Any finials should be easy for a small child to grasp and not too elaborate so they don't break. They also should not be pointed. Knobs are probably best. Avoid designs that may easily break or be damaged.

Material

All kinds of wood are beautiful, but people can be sensitive to certain species. Please avoid rosewoods and nut woods to avoid sensitivity problems.

Finish

Box finish is extremely important! Bravery Beads members are often susceptible to gems/infections/mold. Please take the time to seal your boxes and use safe finishes that do not contain toxic materials. Mineral oil, followed by paste wax, is a good combination. Please avoid finishes, like linseed oil, that take a long time to outgas.

Please refrain from painting Bravery Beads boxes. Instead highlight the beauty of the wood with clear varnish, a stain, and/or burning.

It is nice if you can personalize your donation. Marking your name or initials, type(s) of wood, and the date on the box bottom is one way. It is also nice to include a personal note of encouragement, business card, etc. inside the box.

Delivering Your Boxes

The IWK's Child Life Department provides the Bravery Beads program. You can bring your boxes to a monthly Guild meeting and tell us about them, and give them to Brian Sharp, who will deliver them. As an alternative, you may deliver your boxes to the Child Life office; however, their hours tend to be a little unpredictable, so call ahead – (902) 470-8888.

Thanks for supporting Bravery Beads!

For examples and ideas, try searching Google for

“Bravery Beads turned boxes”

“Beads of Courage turned boxes”

Etc.