

ReTURN TO COMMUNITY

Best Practices: #063 Community Charities Chapter and Regional Symposium community program

Overview of AAW program

In the AAW's Return to the Community program, the local chapter hosting each year's national symposium selects a local charity. AAW members and chapters are invited to donate turned wooden items for the benefit of that charity. There are two models for charity donations used by AAW, Regional Symposium and many chapters. For your chapter or Regional Symposium to implement the program we have provided suggestions and guidelines.

The first model is an "Empty Bowls" with the donations being donated and sold, all profits then donated to the selected charity. The second is "Beads of Courage" a program where the donated turned item is given to a child suffering series illness.

Empty Bowl Community Charity Program

How to select a charity

Start with a wide search and then narrow the selection to the charitable organization that best matches the area of community need that you want to address. One goal should be to establish a relationship with a non-profit group that will benefit not just from the financial donation, but also benefit from volunteer time or teaching skills your group can provide. Many chapters will have members that are already associated with a charity, so start the search within your membership for suggestions. The organization's volunteers are often a good measure of their effectiveness. We suggest a few key points to serve as guides:

Clarify the focus of your search

- Think about what matters most to your members. The environment? Youth education? Hunger? Helping sick children?
- Think about where you want to make an impact. In your neighborhood? City? Region?
- Ask yourself if you want to support a large or small charitable organization, a new emerging or an established one.

Do your research

- Review charitable organization websites.
- Look for clear descriptions of a charity's mission, programs, goals, and outcomes.
- If you compare charities, be sure you compare apples to apples. Compare charities that do the same kind of work, especially if you're looking at their finances. The type of programs and focus of a charity may dramatically affect operating costs.

- Avoid charities that won't share information or pressure you. Reputable non-profits will be happy to discuss and provide access to information about their programs and finances.

Financial review

- Review or verify the non-profits 990
- Ask if your gift is tax deductible
- Consider the percentage of administrative costs versus services provided
- Clarify where your donation will be applied
- Ask if your donation can be targeted to a particular program or service

Request a donation of in-kind goods from your attendees

Advertise and communicate requests for donations such as a turned product, services, volunteer hours, or a combination. Reach out to your members and event registrants through email, website, Facebook, phone calls, registration materials, and in person at meetings.

- Provide the attendee information clearly stating the event details including the dates, time, and location.
- State your mission goals, what type of donations are requested and what the attendee will get in return.
- The message should be short and specific.
- Invite questions and feedback.

RETURN TO THE COMMUNITY PROJECT – Empty Bowls

Getting Organized: The Project Committee

Committee Mission: To receive, store, place in the Instant Gallery, and sell pieces donated turned bowls for the selected charity.

Number of Committee Members: (2-3) or (6 – 8) depending on size of event. Volunteers are not required to register for the Symposium to be committee members. Spouses/friends are to be encouraged to help with this function.

Staffing & Direction: A Committee Chair is recruited by the Symposium Liaison.

Committee Chair Responsibilities:

The success of the Symposium depends upon the work of not only local volunteers and but from volunteers from all over the country. The Chair must organize the workload knowing staffing for the committees requires a large number of local volunteers, since much of the help needed must be done prior to the arrival of attendees from other locations.

Procedures, Guidelines, and Tips:

1. Volunteers will receive turned items shipped from individuals unable to attend and bring them to the symposium.
2. Assist attendees who wish to make their donation while attending the symposium.
3. Aid in setting up the display near or within the Instant Gallery.
4. Coordinate sale of donated items during the symposium.

Other Information:

If the in-kind items are turned bowls unsold items that have been donated will be given to the selected charity to use at their discretion for future charity events.

Beads of Courage Community Charity Program

What is the Beads of Courage Program?

The Program is a resilience-based intervention designed to support and strengthen children and families coping with serious illness. Through the program children tell their story using colorful beads as meaningful symbols of courage that commemorate milestones they have achieved along their unique treatment path. Every bead tells a story of strength, honor and hope. The charity is based in Tucson, Arizona but has worldwide outreach. The Beads of Courage Program, is currently implemented in over 150 children’s hospitals throughout the United States, Canada, New Zealand, Japan and the United Kingdom. They support over 30,000 children with new hospitals joining the BOC group daily. You can find more at their website <http://beadsofcourage.org/pages/about.htm>

How it works

Upon enrollment each child is given the Beads of Courage bead color guide with a detachable membership card. Their Beads of Courage journey begins when each child is first given a length of string and beads that spell out their first name. Then, colorful beads, each representing a different treatment milestone are given to the child by their professional health care provider to add to their Beads of Courage collection throughout their treatment as determined by the Beads of Courage Bead Guide (available from Beads of Courage, Inc.)

Beads of Courage, Inc. believes strongly in collaborating with local non-profits, local businesses and private donors to provide the Beads of Courage Program at their community hospital.

Contact

If interested in the Beads of Courage Program please fill out their contact form at <http://www.beadsofcourage.org/contact.htm>

For specific contacts in your area

Christy Puetz
Arts-in-Medicine Program Director
Artist in Residence
cpuetz@beadsofcourage.org
Beads of Courage, Inc. HQ 520.344.7668
www.beadsofcourage.org



Woodturners make lidded bowls or boxes, which are receptacles for the beads children acquire as they go through stages of treatment. The vessels that symposium attendees donate are displayed in the Instant Gallery, and are then delivered to local hospitals.

In order to sufficiently hold beads, turned boxes need to be no smaller than 6" (15cm) in diameter. Larger is okay.

- If possible, engrave or burn Beads of Courage on the lid. • Make sure lids are easily removable.
- Finials or knobs should be easy for a small child to grasp and not too elaborate or pointed.
- Sign your name or write American Association of Woodturners on the bottom.
- If you would like to use an official Beads of Courage ceramic logo bead in your design, visit beadsofcourage.org/catalog.htm?item=231 to place an order. For more information, contact info@beadsofcourage.org.

RETURN TO THE COMMUNITY PROJECT – Beads of Courage

Committee Mission: To receive, store, place in the Instant Gallery, and sell turned lidded bowls and boxes donated for the Beads of Courage charity.

Number of Committee Members: (2-3) or (6 – 8) depending on size of event. Volunteers are not required to register for the Symposium for this committee. Spouses/friends are to be encouraged to help with this function.

Staffing & Direction: A Committee Chair is recruited by the Symposium Leader.

Committee Chair Responsibilities:

The success of the Symposium depends upon the work of not only local volunteers and but from volunteers from all over the country. The Chair must organize the workload knowing staffing for the committees requires a large number of local volunteers, since much of the help needed must be done prior to the arrival of attendees from other locations.

Procedures, Guidelines, and Tips:

1. Volunteers will receive turned items shipped from individuals unable to attend and bring them to the symposium.
2. Assist attendees who wish to make their donation while attending the symposium.
3. Assist in setting up the display near or within the Instant Gallery.
4. Aid in packing materials at the end of the symposium for final distribution