



June 21, 2018

RE: 2018 AAW Symposium

Dear Phil and Linda,

On behalf of the children and families we support, please extend my sincere gratitude to the AAW staff, the Board of Directors, and the membership for their continued support of Beads of Courage!

I am delighted that I was able to attend the 2018 symposium and thank the turning community in person for their donations of original art that will be given to a child coping with cancer or another serious illness. This year, AAW members donated 160 bowls!! Wow! We are so grateful for these donations so that we can give a child this amazing gift of art to encourage them along their treatment journey and provide a sacred vessel for them to keep their coveted Beads of Courage collection.

Of the 160 that were donated and displayed at the symposium, 90 were directly shipped to a child waiting to receive one. We coordinated this on our end prior to the symposium by releasing a newsletter to our member families and posting on social media an opportunity to receive a bowl from an AAW woodturner through our "Dream Bowl Portal." We received 90 requests! The remaining bowls were returned to our headquarters in Tucson where they will be packaged to be given to some upcoming new hospitals that will start Beads of Courage in the summer and fall of 2018. As a testament to the amazing AAW volunteers, I must give a shout-out to members Ken Rude and Donald Fugitt who volunteered to help me package each bowl ready to ship to our 90 very deserving children.

In addition to the 160 bowls we received, some amazing volunteers sewed and donated 180 bead bags while attending the symposium! These bead bags are critical to our program as they provide a way for children to carry their beads to and from the hospital or clinic during treatment. Thank you!

I attended the 2018 AAW symposium as a "first-time attendee," and return so inspired by the generosity of the woodturning community. I also return deeply moved by the beauty of creating art from trees. I appreciate all the woodturners that stopped by the Beads of Courage table to share with me their knowledge and passion for woodturning. I will never look at a tree blowing in the wind the same way for the rest of my life! It is really quite amazing how woodturners show the rest of us the beauty that resides within a tree.

Thank you so much for the opportunity to collaborate with a beautiful community of people. I am grateful for the healing that together we make happen through arts-in-medicine for children coping with cancer and other serious illnesses throughout the United States and the world.

With a grateful heart,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jean Gribbon".

Jean Gribbon, PhD, RN  
Executive Director and Founder  
Beads of Courage, Inc.



3230 North Dodge Blvd. Suite J | Tucson, AZ | 85716  
520.344.7668 (office) | 520.344.7824 (fax)  
[www.BeadsOfCourage.org](http://www.BeadsOfCourage.org)

