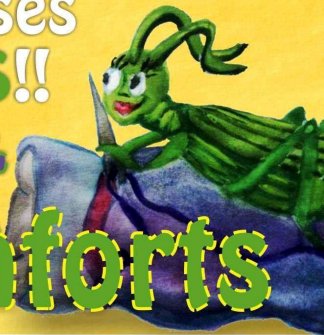


Altrusa Portland

Partnering with Cricket Comforts to Benefit Maine Medical Center Barbara Bush Children's Hospital

SEW many pillowcases
= SO many SMILES!!

Cricket
Comforts



Altrusa Portland

Sew Many Pillowcases, So Many Smiles

- Founded in 2010, Cricket Comforts is a volunteer community service organization creating pillowcases for children receiving medical care.
- Founder Heid Farrin: “...while my son was a patient at The Barbara Bush Children's Hospital at Maine Medical Center, a nurse complimented his pillowcase that his sister and I had made for him. This conversation was the beginning of Cricket Comforts.”
- They now deliver 125 pillowcases per month to BBCH. Most months, delivery will include a holiday theme like Valentine’s Day or Halloween, or appropriate seasonal theme like Spring, Summer Fun or Fall.
- Altrusa was first contacted about providing books in early 2020, prior to the annual Care for Kids Radiothon fundraiser for BBCH in which Cricket Comforts participates each March. Their idea was to create a special delivery for the children that month.

Altrusa Portland

Our First Collaboration - 2020

- Books-A-Million holds 2 book drives each year for Altrusa Portland, which stocks our warehouse with books for students of many age-levels.
- Altrusa Portland provided books from our warehouse to Cricket Comforts and added \$292 worth of additional books ordered through BAM.
- Some Altrusans went to a Cricket Comfort's work meeting on March 7, 2020 to bring the books and help match books to pillowcases.
- Each pillowcase is placed into a plastic zip bag, then placed in a larger zip bag along with a book. Bags are labeled with reading age range, then sorted & packed into bags that list age range and book title for easier selection. As books are delivered to a child, the title is crossed off the list.

Altrusa Portland

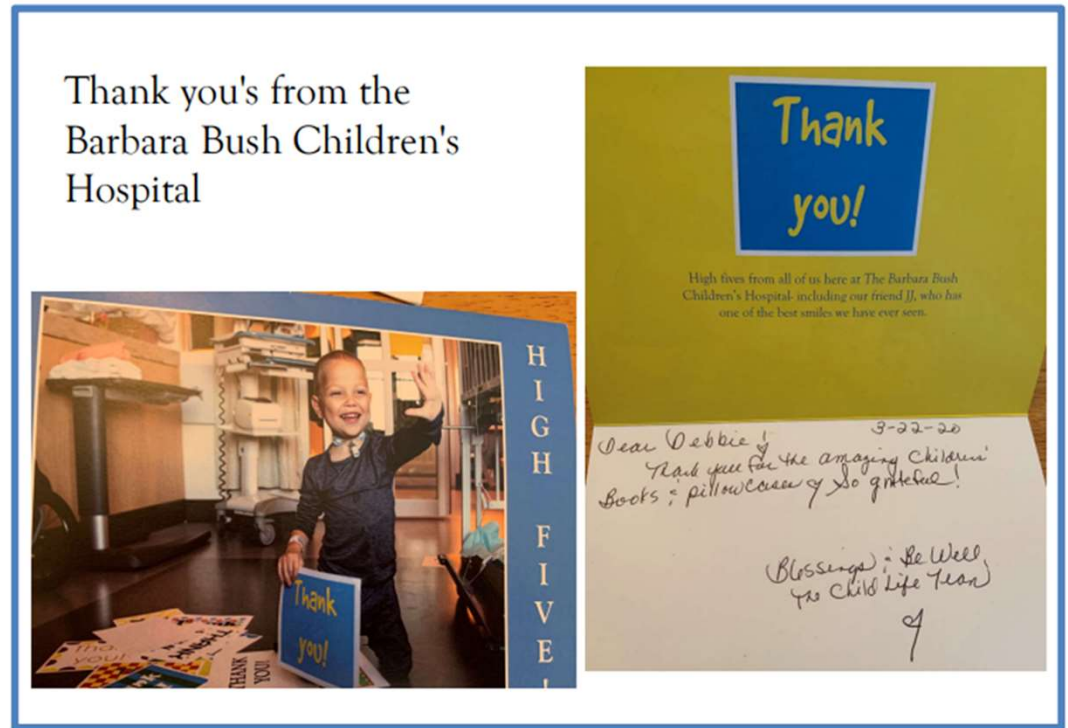
Our First Collaboration - 2020



Altrusa Portland

A Note of Thanks from 2020

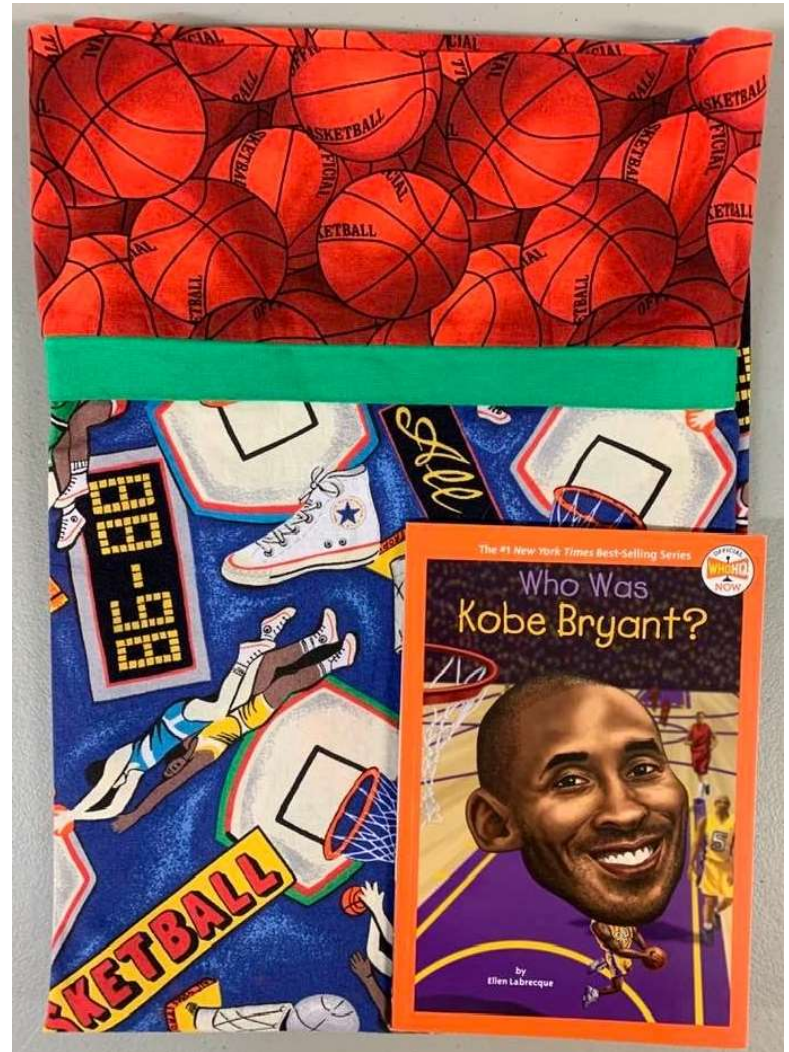
- These special bundles were delivered to BBCH on Tuesday, March 17, 2020, just one day before the pandemic halted all donation deliveries!
- The Child Life program at BBCH is very happy to receive these sets and tell us that the children love them. Nurses also have access to an area where the pillowcases & pillowcases book sets are stored so they are easily accessible to BBCH staff for distribution.

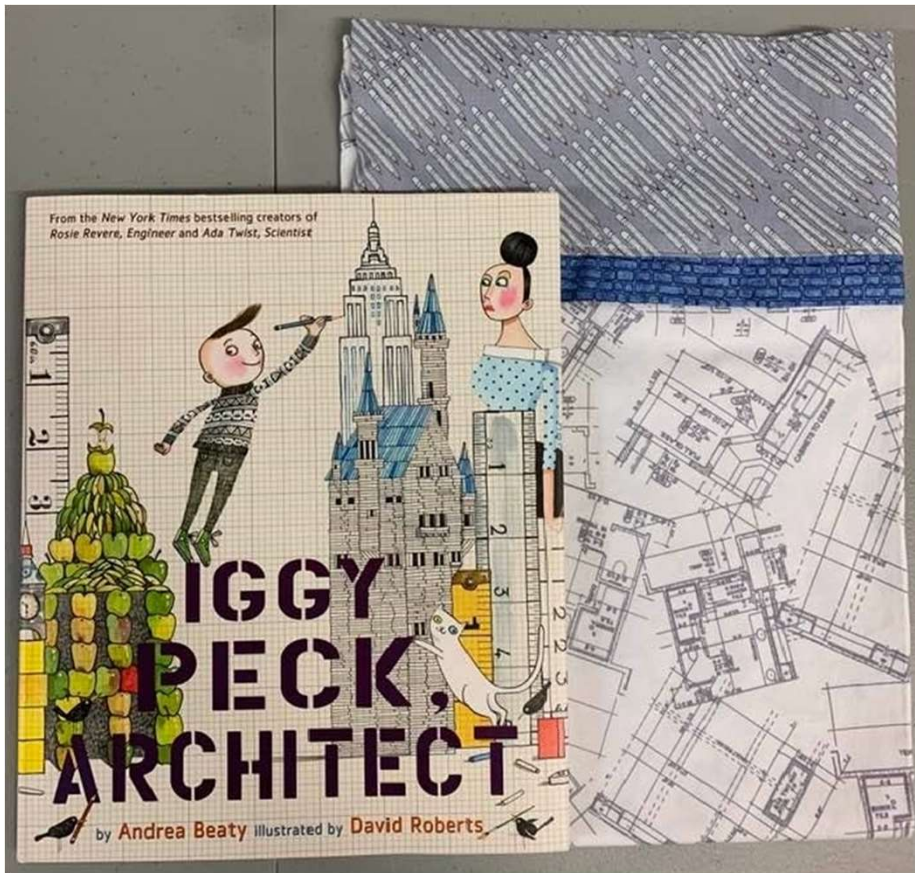


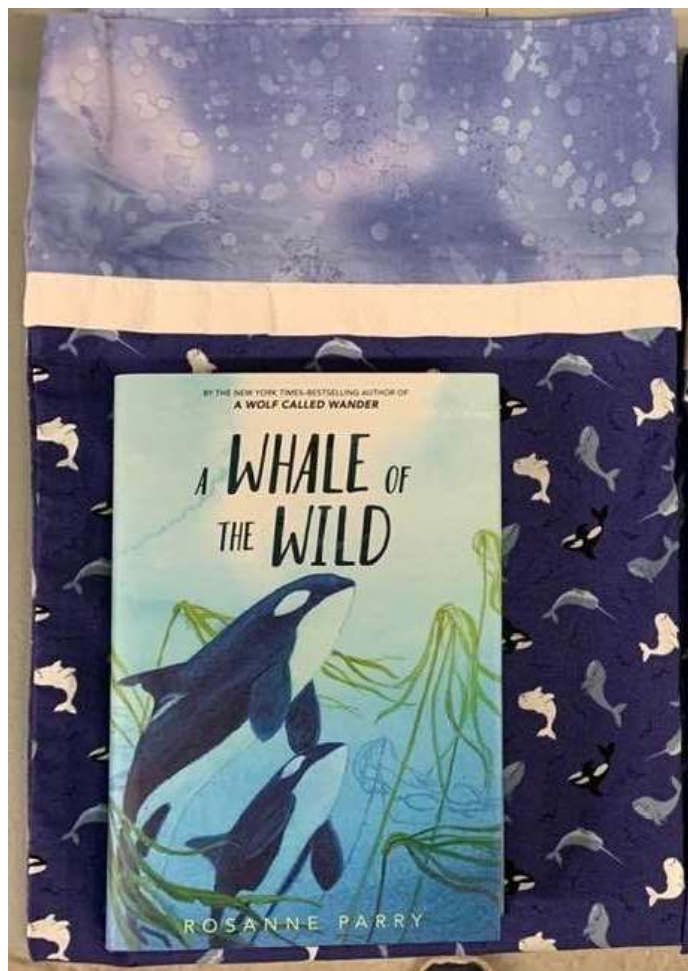
Altrusa Portland

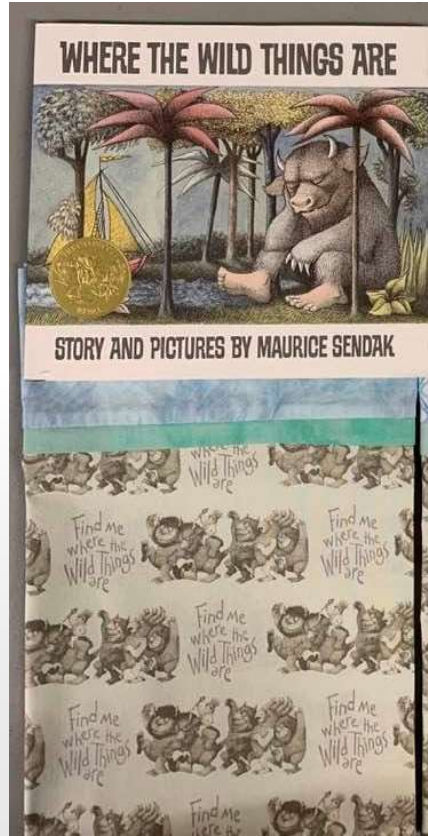
2021-2022 & Beyond

- After that first year, we agreed to donate books from our warehouse stock of Books-A-Million Book Drive donations.
- Unfortunately, due to pandemic cautions, Cricket Comfort volunteer sewers have largely been working from their homes, so we have not been able to join them for another work meeting.
- Books are selected from our warehouse by Altrusa volunteers and delivered to a Cricket Comforts representative - then they set to work selecting or finding fabric and making pillowcases to coordinate.
- We look forward to continuing this annual collaboration as BAM Book Drive donations allow.











Any time women come together with a collective intention, it's a powerful thing. Whether it's sitting down making a quilt, in a kitchen preparing a meal, in a club reading the same book, or around the table playing cards, or planning a birthday party, when women come together with a collective intention, magic happens.

Phylcia Rashad

Altrusa Portland

- CricketComforts@yahoo.com
- <https://www.facebook.com/CricketComforts>

