

DONOR-SUPPORTED 

# Special boxes for safe babies

ONE GOOD THING can inspire another. The truth of that became apparent when the generous donation by Tsimshian artist Ken Decker led to another by Safe and Sound Innovations, LLC.

The story starts in early 2015, when Women's Health Clinic Manager Gail Jones first read about Finland's baby box program. Because these boxes give babies a safe place to sleep when they go home from the hospital, that country achieved one of the lowest infant mortality rates in the world. Gail spearheaded a plan to make them available to every infant born in Ketchikan.

Part of Gail's vision for the local boxes was to incorporate local Native designs, creating a box that is both functional and a beautiful keepsake. So she reached out to Ken Decker, owner of Crazy Wolf studios.

Ken saw the project as a way to honor the skill of Native artisans while giving back to the community. These cardboard baby boxes, printed with Ken's original stork designs, pay tribute to the innovative craftsmanship of the bentwood cedar chests created by Pacific Northwest Native artists.

When Gail shared her plans for a Native design with Safe



**Above:** A baby box with Native designs and an original stork design by Ken Decker printed on the sides.

**Left:** Ken Decker with his authentic bentwood cedar chest.

and Sound Innovations, the source for the boxes, excitement for this distinctive design spread. Ken donated the rights to his stork and box design to Safe and Sound Innovations so they could make the box design available to their growing list of clients across the nation.

In honor of Ken's generous gift, Safe and Sound Innovations commissioned him to create an authentic bentwood cedar chest featuring his designs. When it was completed, Safe and Sound Innovations presented the box to the PeaceHealth Ketchikan Medical Center Foundation at the December 2016 Winter Gala.

Plans are underway to display the chest in the PeaceHealth Medical Group office, where the community can appreciate the beauty of Ken's art and continue to be inspired to provide resources for the continuation of the local baby box project.

## This year's grants

Our Foundation Gift Shop volunteers meet yearly to consider requests from PeaceHealth Ketchikan Medical Center departments and distribute the proceeds from the shop. They voted for these and 13 other requests at their annual luncheon on Feb. 18.

Wheelchairs for LTC	\$3,900
Cups for the chairs	\$380
Nutrition education materials	\$250
Transport monitor—family medicine	\$3,915
Silk flowers—prayer room	\$200
Bibles	\$100
Chemo comfort baskets	\$1,800
Toys for childcare	\$1,800
Sleeper chairs—Birthing Center	\$6,150
Window blinds—Birthing Center	\$6,800
Bathtub for Occupational Therapy	\$240
Pediatric and adult PT equipment	\$900
Tests/workbooks—Speech Therapy	\$750
Noise-canceling headphones	\$2,200
Art supplies/games—social services	\$500
SUV for POW clinic	\$24,670
Landscaping/planting	\$17,000

# How our Gift Shop gives back

IT'S LOVELY WHEN there are tangible results of kindness.

The women who volunteer at the Gift Shop in the PeaceHealth Ketchikan Medical Center lobby make that very thing happen every year, when their generous donation of time morphs into things like baskets of self-care items for chemo patients; wheelchairs for long-term care residents; sleeper beds in the Birthing Center; and, this year, a used car for caregivers to travel from the Craig Clinic to other places on Prince of Wales.

Proceeds from the small shop usually yield about \$35,000 for grants. This year was different. The volunteers were able to award over \$70,000 to various PeaceHealth Ketchikan departments—some of the grants are listed in the sidebar at right.

“We went back through the finances from past years,” says Foundation Director Matt Eisenhower. “We had been starting fresh each year, but we found that not all past years' grants were distributed, plus we had generous donations to the Gift Shop this year.”



DONOR-SUPPORTED 

Since 2000, when they first began distributing the shop proceeds, volunteers have given over \$500,000 to PeaceHealth Ketchikan. We are so grateful for the hard work and dedication of these generous ladies, who give their time each week to run our Gift Shop. Thank you!



Find out how you can give. Visit [peacehealth.org/foundation/ketchikan](http://peacehealth.org/foundation/ketchikan) or call 907-228-8300, ext. 7037.

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HOME \ NEWS

# For Juneau babies, safe sleep comes in a box



Karen White, right, Director of Bartlett Regional Hospital Obstetrics Department gives instructions to students from Faith Community School before they ensemble baby boxes for new mothers Sept. 22, 2016, at Bartlett Regional Hospital in Juneau, Alaska. The box, covered in ... [more >](#)

By CLARA MILLER - Associated Press - Saturday, October 29, 2016

Print

JUNEAU, Alaska (AP) - On a sunny morning at Bartlett Beginnings Family Birth Center, new mom Kaity Conrad set down her 10-day-old daughter Amelia into what looked like a giant shoebox.

The box, covered in an intricate Alaska Native design, is one of the hundreds of baby boxes Bartlett Regional Hospital Foundation is supplying mothers who give birth at the

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hospital.

“She loves it,” Conrad said as she watched Amelia stretch and yawn while lying on the firm, white mattress inside the bassinet-functioning box. She said she uses it for her daughter frequently at home.

Karen White, director of Bartlett Beginnings, and [Maria Uchytel](#), executive director of Bartlett Regional Hospital Foundation, displayed the baby box contents on a nearby table: onesies, a blanket and first-aid kit, educational material and other useful items mothers need for the beginning of their child’s life.

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PRESIDENT TRUMP

THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

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Ooh Rah! United States  
Marine Corps weapons



Democrats' counteroffer  
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yet: 'We can get a little  
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MARIA UCHYTIL



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