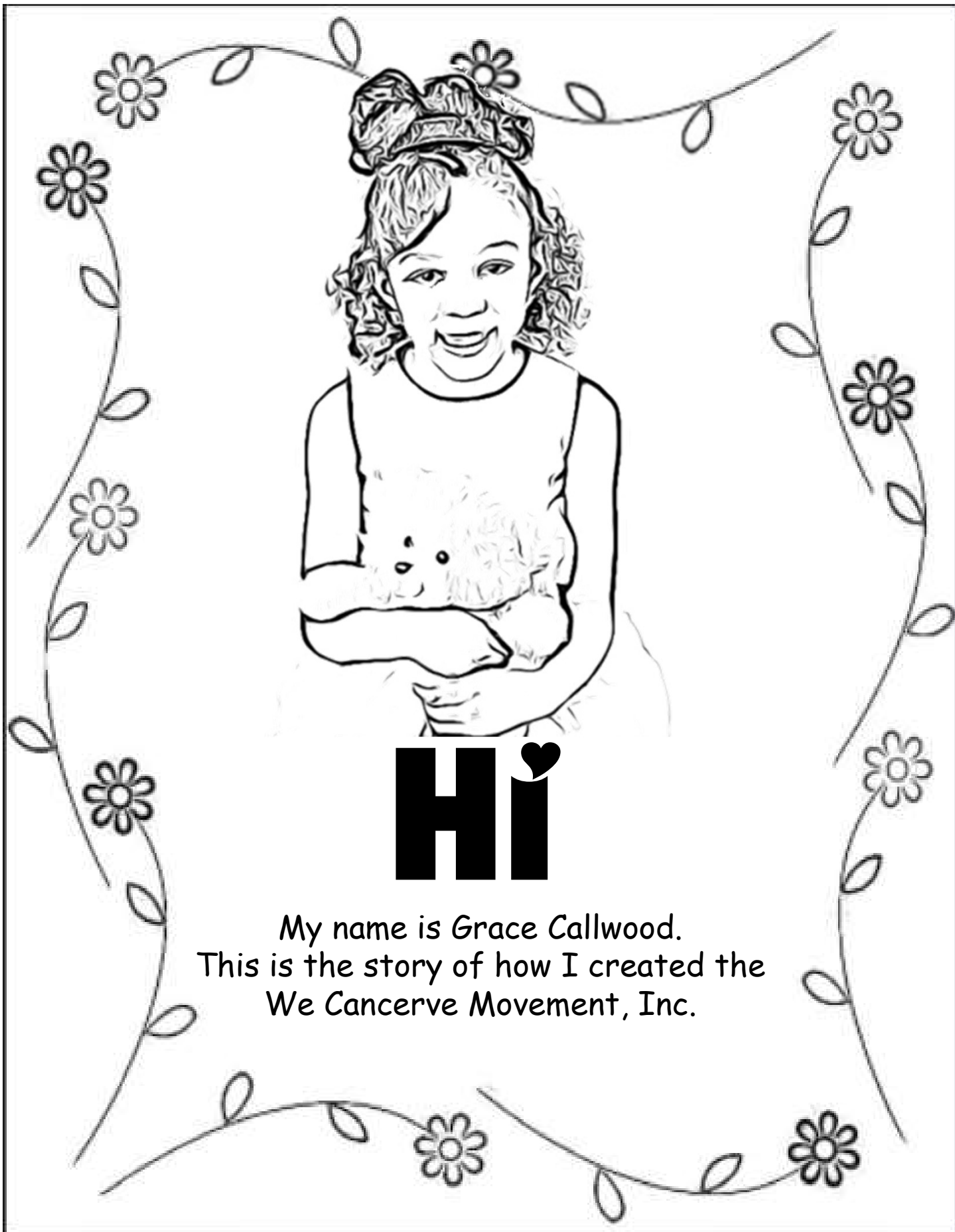


A coloring & Activity Booklet

about childhood cancer and how the We
Cancerve Movement, Inc. got started



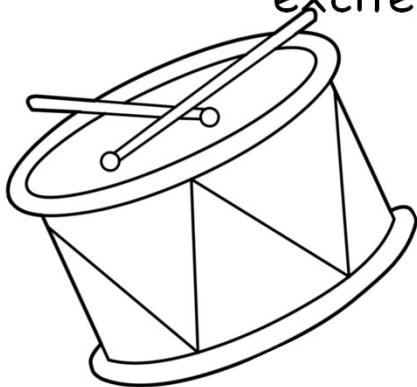


Hi

My name is Grace Callwood.
This is the story of how I created the
We Cancerve Movement, Inc.



The beginning of 2011 was perfect!
Just before summer, I completed kindergarten and was
excited to go to first grade in the fall.





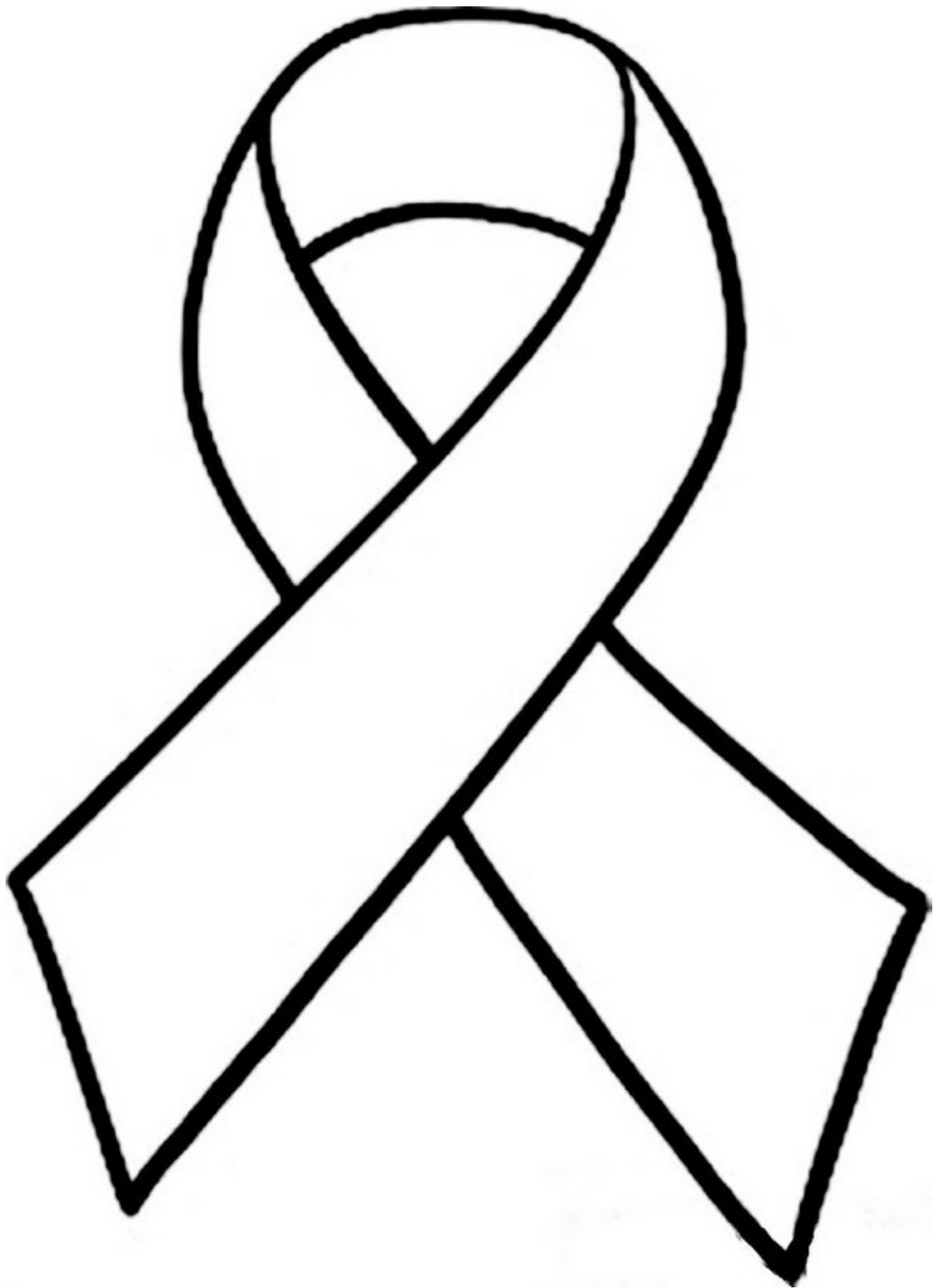
I played a lot that summer and enrolled in summer camp too.
As I do every summer, I picked apples with my grandma at a
farm in Bel Air, Md.



Everything changed right after my seventh birthday. I was diagnosed with cancer right after school started. I was very scared and very confused.

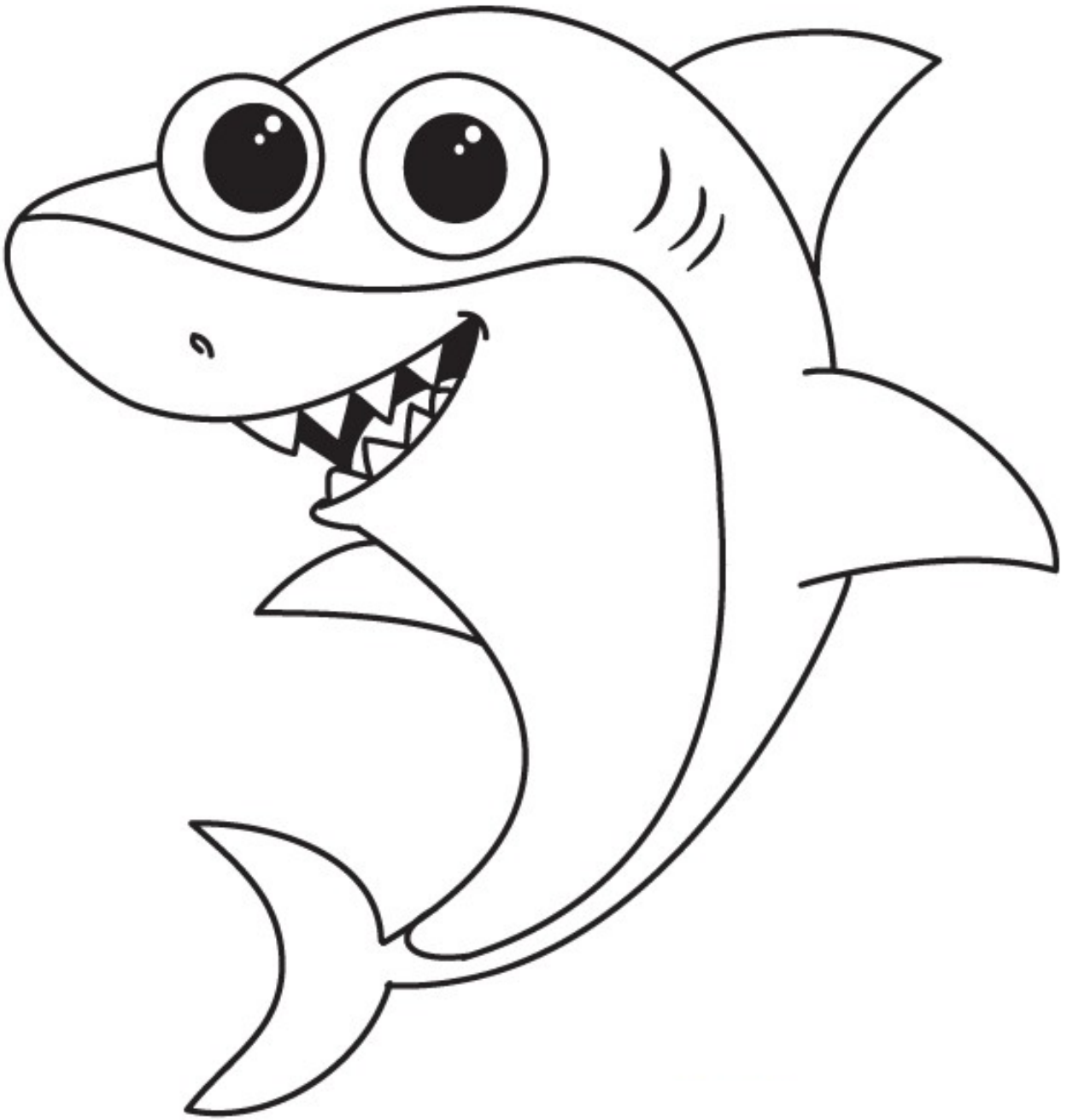


Suddenly, I had to go to the hospital every week for the first nine months of chemotherapy. Most of the time, I sat for hours while doctors and nurses gave me lots of medicine. Every week, I also received spinal taps. The medicine that was getting cancer out of my body was also hurting my back, legs and stomach. I had to start getting homeschooled and I couldn't have sleepovers or playdates for almost a year. I had to drop out of dance class too.





On the days I received spinal tap, I was excited to see what my anesthesiologist would wear on his head. Sometimes, he would bring huge shark hats for us to wear before my procedure.





I really liked staying overnight in the hospital, though! The children's hospital was so much fun even though I was very sick. I made friends who were also fighting cancer. We had a lot of in common including losing our hair a lot! We played video games all of the time or rode our IV poles down the hallway!



I also liked receiving visitors at my house. My God-Grandparents Joyce & Ed Kearney always brought me smiles and lots of hugs!



By surprise, my Uncle Ed and his wife Aunt Alice came to visit me from Cincinnati. He's one of my grandma's big brothers. My aunt and uncle prepared a barbecue feast for us. It was delicious!





I loved playing games, watching movies and snuggling with my mom. She and my grandma created a lot of activities to make me happy, even when I didn't feel well.



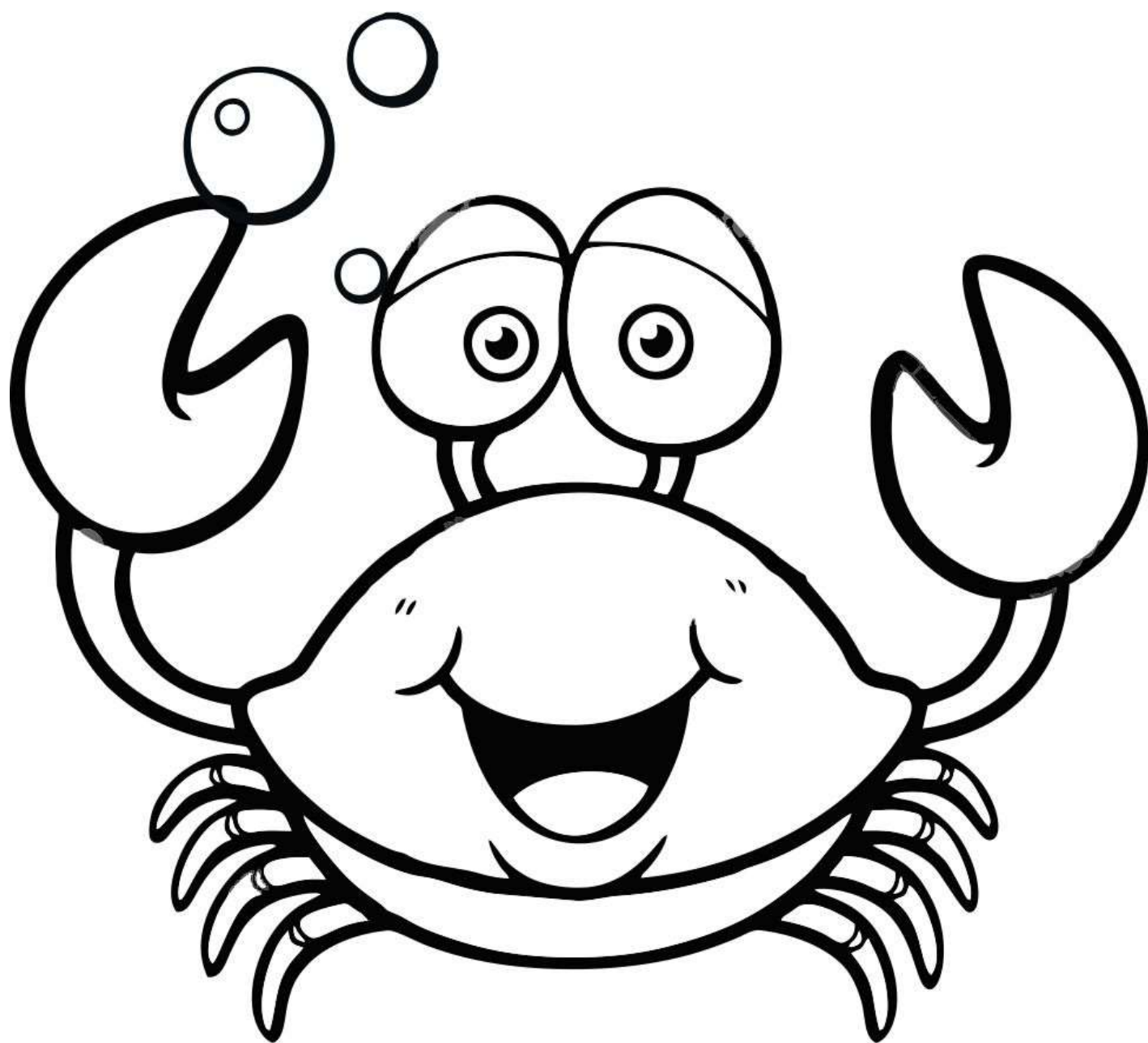
In the winter, I'd ask my mom to wrap my head with her favorite turbans and wraps. The brisk weather was very uncomfortable on my bald head.

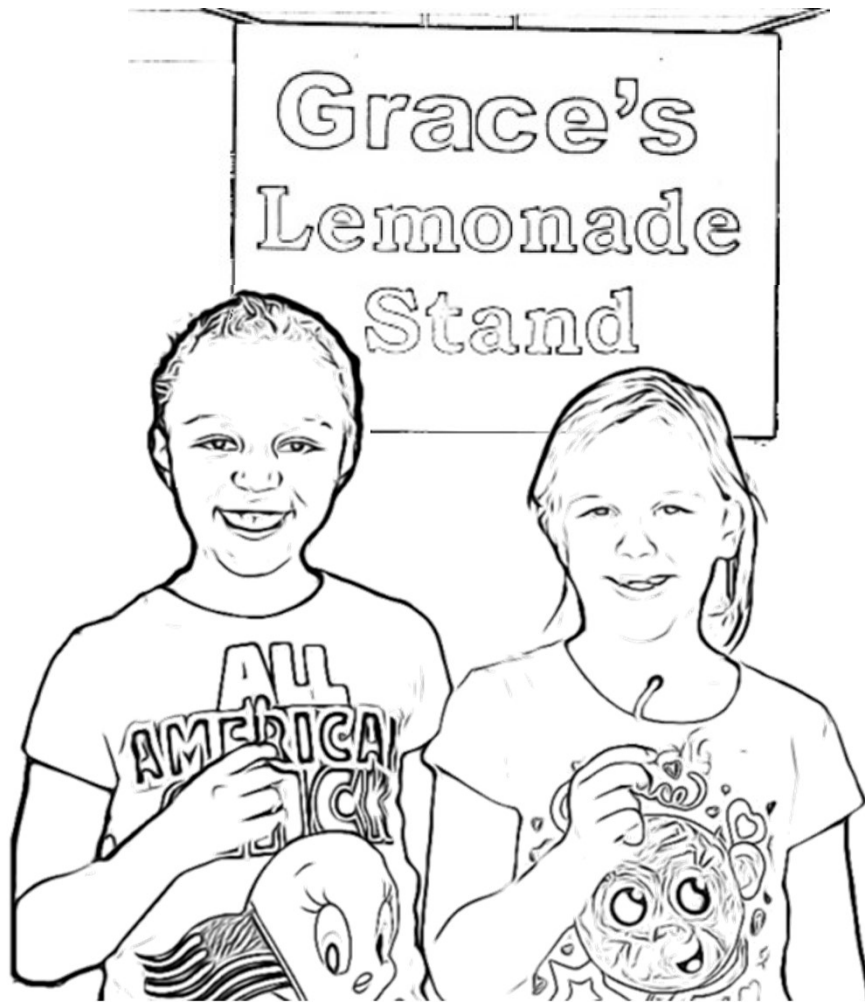


Sometimes, I wore hats to match my outfits. I wore my favorite outfit the day my grandma surprised me with private lessons from my hip hop dance teacher Ms. Melissa at the Rage Box Contemporary Dance Center in Forest Hill, Md.

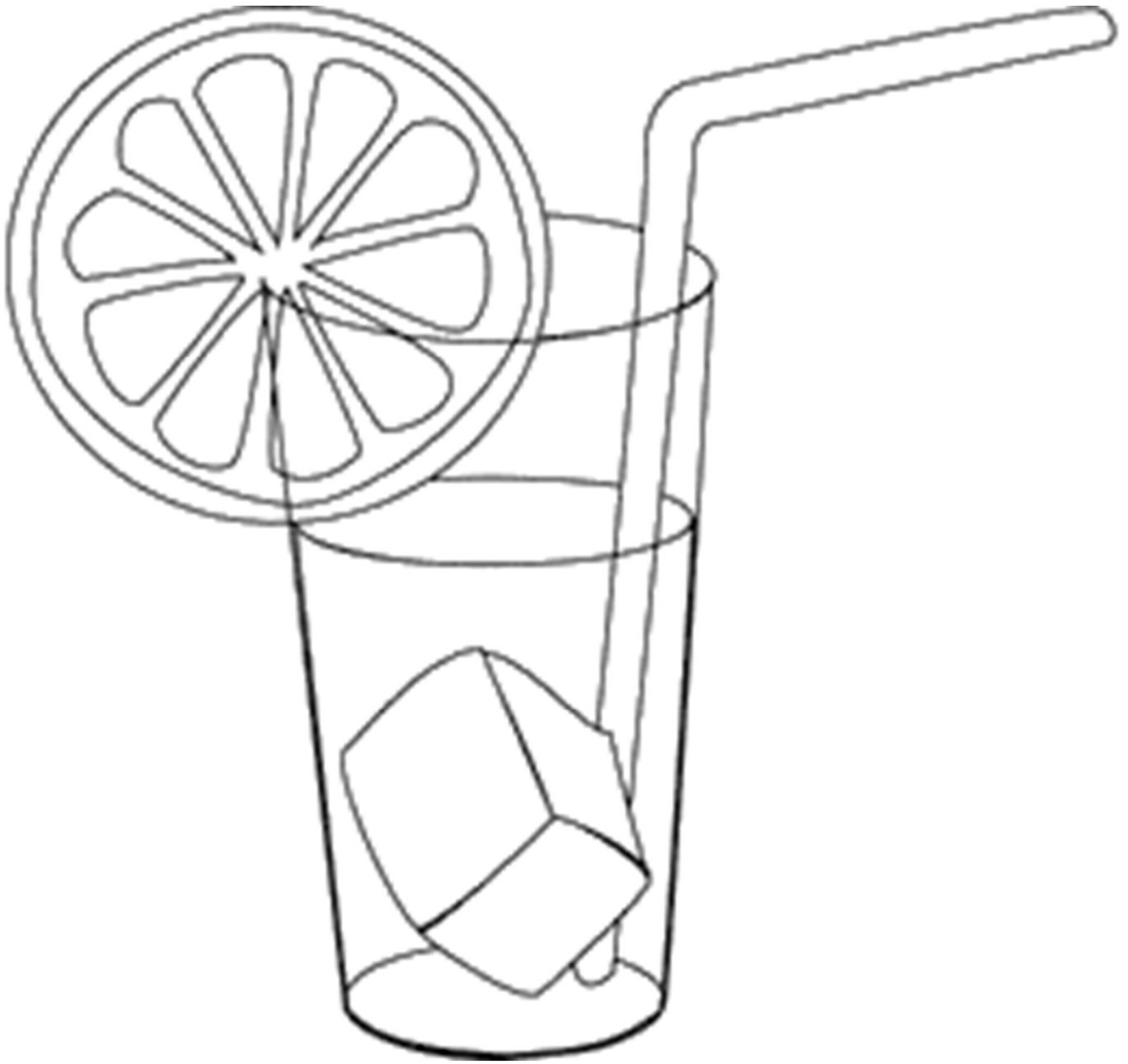


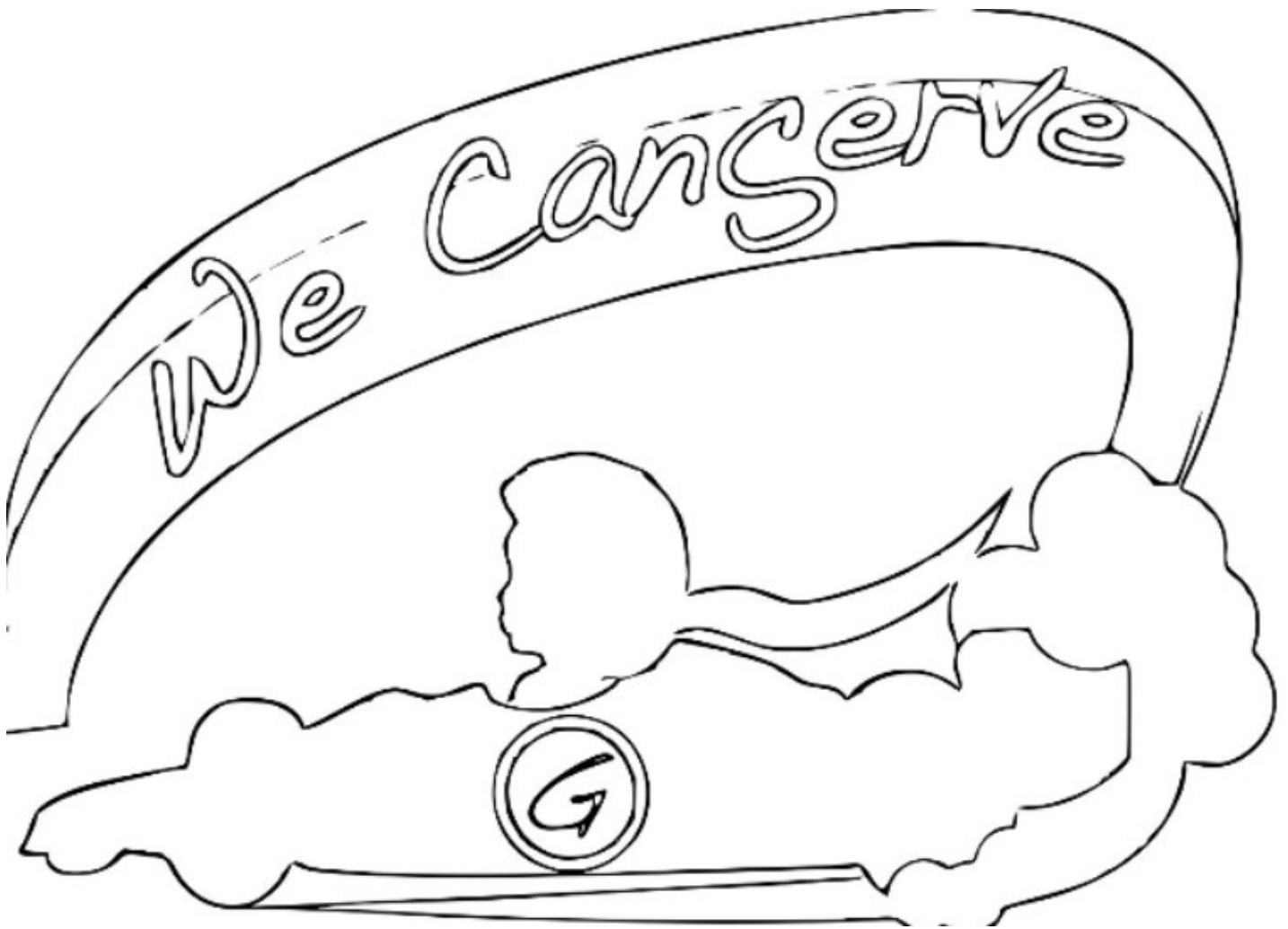
When I reached a huge medical milestone, my grandma treated me to a crab dinner. I was crowned “Princess Crab.” My grandma was named “Queen Crab.” It was awesome.





Eleven months after diagnosis, I finally was able to host a lemonade sale in my driveway. My friend Lexi came over to help me organize it and we had so much fun. We raised more than \$600 in four hours! We decided to donate the money to my Sinai Hospital's Pediatric Hematology and Oncology clinic and to Casey Cares Foundation.





The lemonade sale is the project that convinced my mom to let me do something I had been asking for months to do: start an organization to bring happiness to sick, homeless and foster children. Just like me, they're all children in sad situations that are not their fault. I started the We Cancerve Movement, Inc.



We Cancerve is managed by an all-youth board of advisors who help plan and execute all of our initiatives. They also work closely with staff at recipient organizations. Our advisors are leaders in the classroom and community! Nearly 30 youth have served on our management team since 2012.



Our parents are also part of the We Canceve team. In addition to being our biggest champions, they transport us to service projects. My dad is We Canceve's director of logistics.



We Canceve provides a new book and a stuffed animal that matches the main character of the book to hospitalized children. We call this project "Books & Buddies." We routinely donate these sets to four hospitals and two nonprofits that help critically-ill children. We've donated 476 to date.



Homeless shelters and foster care group homes love receiving our dental care kits. We've also made them available to local Title I community schools, and we've placed some kits in little free libraries and food pantries in low-income communities. To date, we've given out 491 kits.

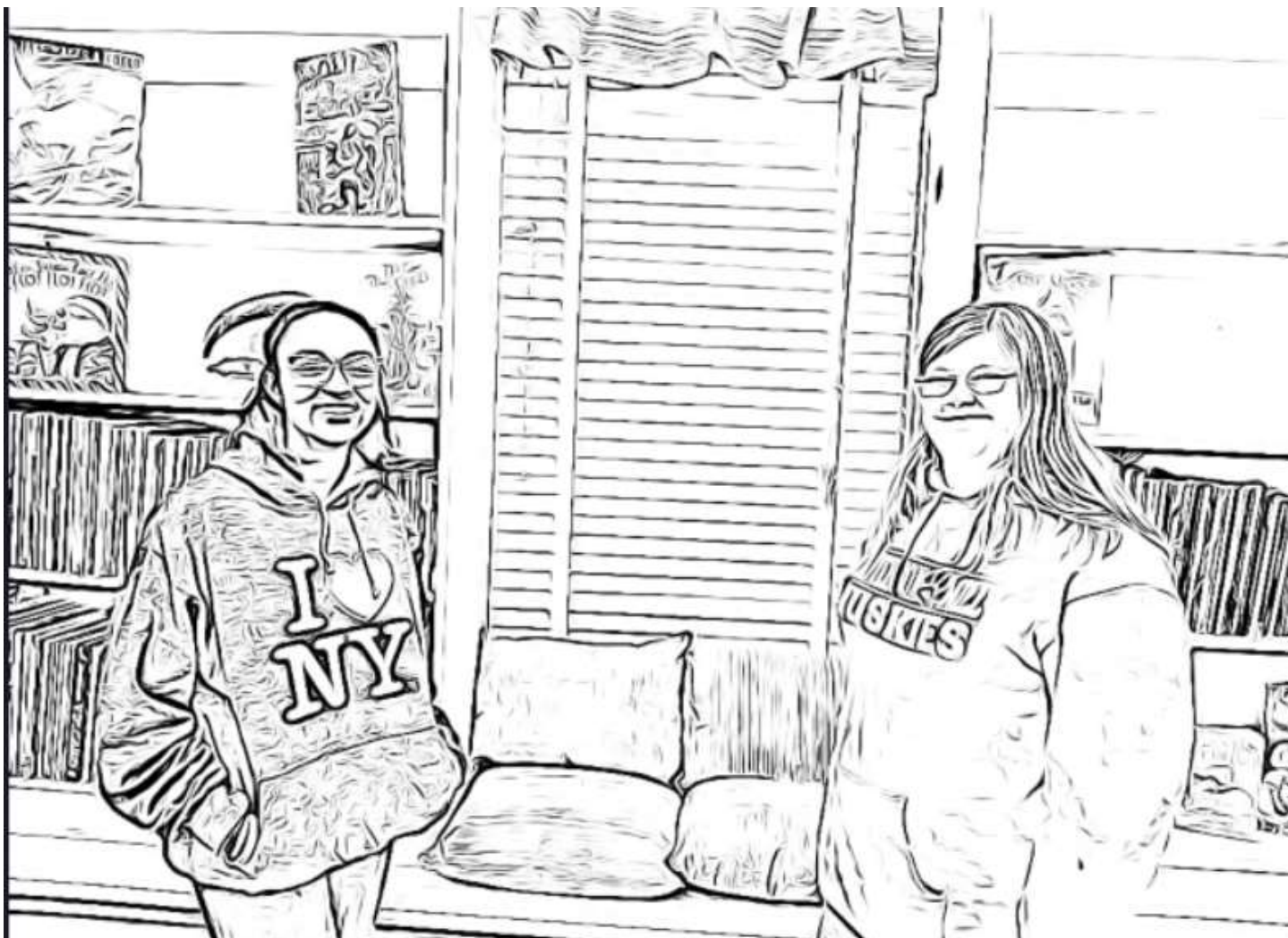


“Hook up a Home” is one of our favorite projects. We recruit friends and family to clean transitional housing units for families experiencing homelessness, and we clean temporary living quarters for youth and young adults in active treatment at nearby hospital.





In 2015, I created “Camp Happy,” a free summer enrichment day camp for children living at area homeless shelters and at foster care group homes. More than 100 children have participated in our program.



We also created three indoor We Canceve Children's Libraries and three outdoor We Canceve Little Libraries throughout Harford and Baltimore counties, and Baltimore City!



People from around the world have heard about the good work we're doing for sick, homeless and foster children. I even met Whoopie Goldberg in 2015. She said she was very proud of the work we're doing.



I'm happy to report that in 2019, after five years off of chemotherapy and no relapse, I was declared cured. I'm still running We Cancerve and recruiting other youth volunteers to help me. I'm active in high school clubs and I make time to do things I enjoy most like reading, watching movies, playing my instruments and being active.

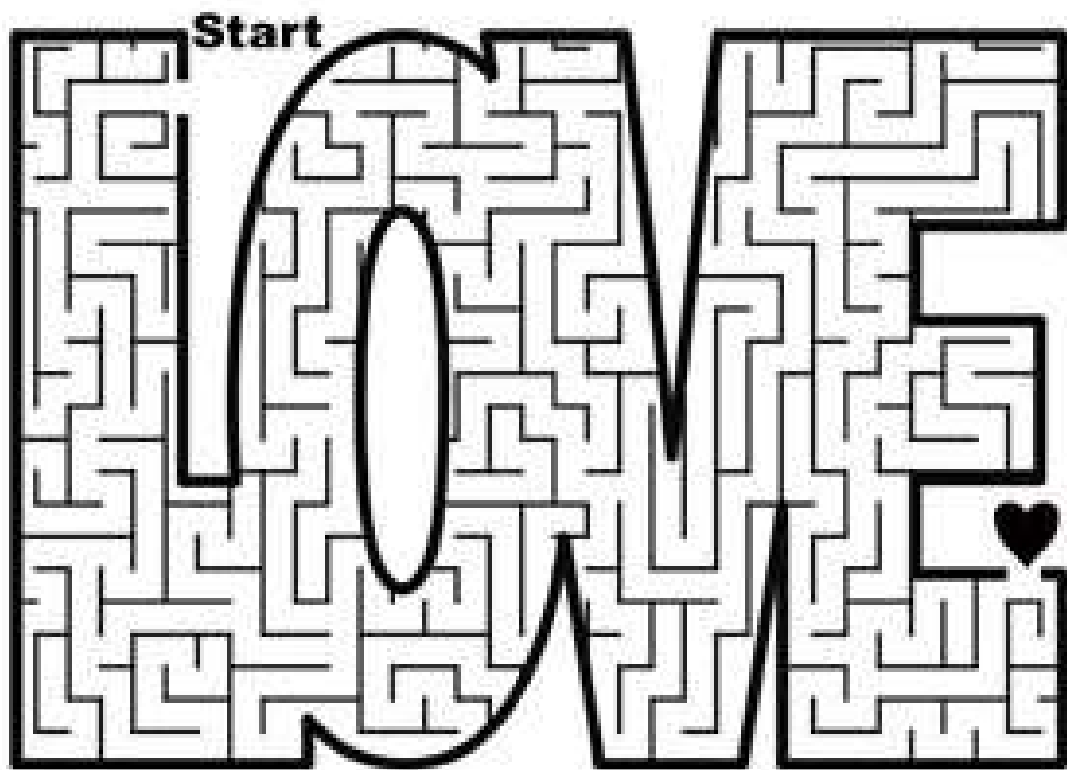
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We Cancerve was started in 2011 to help homeless, sick and foster children. These kids, like our founder Grace, find themselves in sad situations that they can't control. So Grace and her all-youth board of advisors give children school clothes, after-school snacks, toiletries like soaps and shampoos, and all kinds of gifts to help them be happy.

Our founder had Non-Hodgkins Lymphoma; it's a kind of cancer. She was treated at Sinai Hospital in Baltimore. Her doctor is awesome. He likes people to call him Yoram, his first name, but I like to call him Dr. Unguru. During her cancer treatment, Grace had lots of support from family and friends. The principal, teachers, staff and classmates at William S. James elementary school and people from the community sent her well wishes. Throughout her cancer journey, Grace wanted to play and have fun. Sometimes, she would have fun in the hospital. She liked to ride on her IV pole. Sometimes, she decorated her IV pole with a pillow case and decorate the pillow case with stickers, feathers and markers. She now shares that fun with other hospitalized children in a project she calls TransFUNers. She also received lots of toys during cancer journey; most of the toys she received came from the wish fairy at the Give Kids the World resort who left surprises for her every day while she was in Florida at Disney World. She shared most of those toys with homeless children. She also shared toys she received from the gift fairy at Believe in Tomorrow; it's a great organization that gives sick children free getaways to places like Ocean City or the mountains in West Virginia. Another great organization is Casey Cares; Grace got to attend her first Orioles game thanks to tickets they shared with Grace's family.

Giving to others is very rewarding. We hope you join a community service project and help others in need.



Tic Tac Toe

