



BEARS OF HOPE

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January - May, 2010

*We hope you will be pleased with all we've done so far this year
to comfort sick and needy children and adults.*

MISSION

Provide children & adults recovering from an illness; suffering trauma; feeling depressed; or mourning the loss of a loved one, a special bear to give them hugs, comfort, and hope.

We do this by making fabric bears we give to clergy and social service organizations to bring to those coping with a difficult life situation.

BEARS BRING COMFORT to CHILDREN & ADULTS

Bears of Hope is off to a good start. Already we've made 116 bears which were given to these organizations:

Armenian Relief Mission in Armenia
Chai Lifeline
Midwest Care Center
Skokie Fire Department
Women's Shelter - Chicago Westside

Bethany Terrace Nursing Centre
Jewish Child & Family Services
Rainbow Hospice
Skokie Police Department
Women's Shelter - Far North Suburbs
Women's Shelter - Northern Suburbs

2010 Goal:
Make 240 Bears of Hope



Two new social service organizations are receiving our bears

Midwest Care Center Women's Shelter - Chicago Westside

Since our beginning in 2007, 650 bears are now bringing hugs, comfort, and TLC to sick and needy children and adults.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Children's Craft Program

Skokie Fire Department was given 22 bears that were designed last fall by children who attended a community event at First American Bank, Skokie. The bank sponsored *Bears of Hope's* children's craft program. Doug Blakeley, Vice President/Senior Branch Manager, and *Bears of Hope* founder, Carolyn Reiner, presented the bears to Fire Chief Czerwinski and Captain Borre on April 21st. Czerwinski said, "*The bears will be carried on our ambulances and will certainly bring a smile to children involved in an emergency situation.*"



Bears of Hope Designed by Children for Skokie Fire Department



Bears of Hope being presented to Skokie Fire Department.

SPECIAL EVENTS (continued)

Bears of Hope for Children Cancer Survivors

An American Cancer Society's Relay for Life committee member contacted us and asked if we could make some bears for children cancer survivors. Since the color purple represents all types of cancer, we made each bear in a different purple print fabric. To make these bears extra-special, students from National Louis University stuffed the bears during their "Community Day" on May 1st. These students attend the PACE (Professional Assistant Center for Education) program for individuals with multiple learning disabilities. The bears will be given to children cancer survivors at the American Cancer Society's "Relay for Life" event on June 16th.



PACE students stuffing bears. Bears volunteer, Danon, stands ready to give assistance to the students.



Bears of Hope ready to give hugs and comfort to children cancer survivors.

Skokie Teen Job Fair

Bears of Hope participated in Skokie Public Library's Teen Job Fair on March 30th. At the event, Bears volunteers, Carolyn, Danon and Mary talked to the teenagers about what we do to comfort sick and needy children and adults and the volunteer opportunities available to help us make the bears. Ten teen-agers volunteered to help this summer. Four teen-agers are already stuffing bears for us. Bears founder, Carolyn Reiner, said, *It's great to see teen-agers wanting to do something good for others. We are glad to have them helping Bears of Hope.*



Bears of Hope volunteer, Mary, talking to teen-agers at the Teen Job Fair.

BEARS SUPPORTERS

Thank You Supporters

We appreciate the resources **YOU** provide so *Bears of Hope* can continue to make huggable, handcrafted bears for children and adults needing hugs, comfort and hope.

Duxler Complete Auto Care
Phat Quarter's
Littelfuse, Inc.
Patched Works
Rothschild Insurance Group
SkokieNet.org
Street Level Newspaper
Westfield Old Orchard

Fairfield Processing Inc.
Haben Funeral Home
Loose Threads
Paul Plotnick, Attorney
Sew 'n Save of Racine
Skokie Public Library
Tea & Textiles Quilt Shop

First American Bank
Hi-Tech Auto Body of Skokie
McCormick & Schmick's
Remodeling by the Tinman
Skokie Music Theatre
Spark of the Heart
Triblocal.com
Anonymous

Donations to Bears of Hope are not deductible as charitable contributions for tax purposes; they support materials to make bears to comfort sick and needy children and adults.