



BEARS OF HOPE

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www.bearsofhope.com

End of Year, 2011

MISSION

We provide huggable bears for children and adults who are sick; suffering trauma; feeling depressed; or mourning the loss of a loved one. We do this by making handcrafted fabric bears we give to social service agencies and clergy to bring to someone they serve needing comfort and hope.

Founder's Note

Dear Friends,

What an incredible year it has been for Bears of Hope. We made our 1000th bear and did it in 4 1/2 years since our organization began!

Our 2011 goal was to make a minimum of 250 bears. We exceeded that number. 300 bears were made and delivered:

- * 233 went to social service agencies & clergy to give to someone they serve needing TLC*
- * 17 bears were sent to Israel for critically ill patients at Israeli hospitals*
- * 50 bears were given to veterans to thank them for their service to our nation*



Carolyn with 1000th bear

So many bears bringing hugs, comfort and hope to sick and needy children and adults. None of this would have been possible without YOU.

SUPPORTERS: *Without YOU, we wouldn't have the resources to make bears.*

VOLUNTEERS: *Without YOU, we wouldn't be able to make bears to comfort children and adults.*

YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE

in the lives of children and adults

receiving Bears of Hope !

January, 2012 begins our fifth year. With your support, we will be able to continue bringing hugs, comfort and hope to sick and needy children and adults.

I appreciate everything you do for Bears of Hope and wish you and your family a joyous holiday season and a new year filled with much happiness.

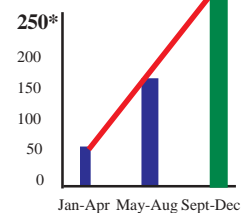
To Life, Carolyn Reiner

BEARS BRING COMFORT AND HOPE TO INDIVIDUALS

92 bears were distributed amongst these agencies September - December

Armenia Relief Mission in Armenia	Monarch Hospice & Palliative Care
Bears for Veterans	Skokie Fire Department
Chai Lifeline	Women's Shelter-Chicago Westside
Jewish Child & Family Services	Women's Shelter-North Suburbs

2011 Goal Make 250 Bears of Hope



SPECIAL EVENTS

Stuffing Party with Seniors

On September 9, we held a ‘Stuffing Party’ with senior residents at **Seasons at Glenview Place**. Bears volunteers, Barbara Isaacson, Goldie Leon and Carolyn Reiner socialized with and assisted seniors stuffing patriotic bears for veterans. The seniors stuffed 50 bears. Each bear is unique, just like the veteran who will receive one of these special bears. Seasons, Director of Lifestyle Programs, Amy Cardoza, said “The residents appreciated being part of the project for veterans. They are grateful for everything veterans and active military personnel do to protect our nation.”

Seniors stuffing patriotic bears for veterans



Veterans Thanked for their Service

Bears of Hope joined McCormick & Schmick’s Seafood Restaurant, Skokie, for its annual “Veterans Appreciation Event” on Sunday, November 13. Veterans who served in the Army, Navy, & Air Force came to the restaurant. Many served during World War II; Korean War; Vietnam; Iraq; or Afghanistan. Story after story was told to Bears volunteers, Rosemarie Gunchick, Carolyn Reiner, Jamie Reiner, & Dani Spanjer as they passed out the patriotic bears and thanked the veterans. The restaurant gave the veterans a complimentary meal. Restaurant, General Manager, Jackie Healy said, “Having *Bears of Hope* at our location was a bonus and a huge part of the event that meant so much to the veterans.” (Continued page 3)



Bears volunteers holding patriotic fabric bears to give to veterans

BEARS GET LETTERS OF THANKS

The Children’s Advocacy Center - A Healing Place for Abused Children

The children enjoy being able to take a bear home after their first visit to our Center.

JCFS

Your unique and wonderful bears truly bring a smile to our children’s faces during trying times. Thank you for all you do.

E-Mail from a veteran

I was a recipient of one of your bears at McCormick and Schmicks in Old Orchard. I liked how you distributed the bears. Your bear now sits proudly in a place of honor in my home.

SPECIAL EVENTS (Continued from page 2)

Bears Camp

Bears of Hope's annual "Bears Camp for Volunteers" was held on November 19 at McCormick & Schmick's Seafood Restaurant, Skokie. At Bears Camp, volunteers were very busy making bears. Volunteer, Sandy Shuster, said, "It makes me feel good knowing that each bear I work on will go to comfort a child or adult facing a difficult time in their life." Lunch was provided by McCormick & Schmick's. After lunch, Founder, Carolyn Reiner, presented volunteers with appreciation certificates to thank them for everything they do for *Bears of Hope*.



Volunteers cut out bears iron-on facial features



Volunteers stuff bears

VOLUNTEERS CORNER

In October, we added another volunteer, Mira Mathee. Mira will be part of our stuffing team and assist at Special Events.

At the end of October, Bears volunteers got together to finish the patriotic bears by ironing-on facial features, tying on bows, and packing them in boxes.

On December 14, Bears volunteers started hibernating for much needed R&R. We'll start making bears, fully energized, beginning January 16, 2012.



Barbara Isaccson irons-on facial features.



Mira Mathee gets ribbon ready for the bears bows

BEARS IN THE NEWS

During November, articles about *Bears of Hope* giving patriotic bears to veterans; our 1000th bear; and Bears Camp appeared either in these publications and/or in there online website:

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------------|
| Chicago Tribune | Our Village Newspaper |
| SkokieNet.org | Triblocal.com |

We appreciate the publicity these resources give the Bears. Publicity makes the public aware of the good things we do for the community.

THANK YOU SUPPORTERS

Bears of Hope appreciates the financial resources* **YOU** provide.
A GREAT BIG BEAR HUG THANK YOU
for supporting the work we do

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| A-Plus Pest Control | McCormick & Schmick's | Remodeling by the Tinman |
| Duxler Complete Auto Care | Mickey Mayla, Artist | Robert Kesel, Photography |
| Edward Jones Investments | North Shore Community Bank | Ron Axe, CPA |
| Fairfield Processing Inc. | Our Village Newspaper | Rothschild Insurance Group |
| First Data-Independent Sales | Paul Plotnick, Attorney | SkokieNet.org |
| Haben Funeral Home & Crematory | President's Resource Organization | Skokie Public Library |
| Hi-Tech Auto Body of Skokie | Remodeling by J.R. Graves | Triblocal.com |
| Irmo Insurance Company | | |

***Bears of Hope* Needs YOUR help ***

We rely on monetary donations* to do our work. All funds are used to purchase materials to make bears. We have no paid staff. **Please help us with your donation.*** Any amount helps.

- For example: \$ 20 purchases fabric for 4 bears.
- \$ 50 purchases poly-fiber to stuff 40 bears.
- \$100 purchases **everything needed** for 10 bears.

Send YOUR check* to: Bears of Hope 8331 Kostner Skokie, IL 60076



Visit our website www.bearsofhope.com

Proud Member Skokie Chamber of Commerce

**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.*