



# BEARS OF HOPE

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## January - July, 2012

### MISSION

We provide huggable bears to 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 to bring to someone they serve needing comfort and hope.

### Founder's Note

*Dear Friends,*

*Bears of Hope is celebrating its 5th year. Usually by this time, 100 bears have been delivered to sick and needy children and adults. This year is different. Only 30 bears were delivered by April. Further deliveries were put on hold when my Mother's health started to decline and I needed to be with her.*

*For three months, I was with my Mother which left no time for Bears of Hope. Sadly, my Mother died July 24th. She was 96 years old and had a wonderful long life.*

*My Mother helped me get Bears of Hope started five years ago and was a Bears volunteer. She enjoyed tracing the bear's pattern on fabric, stuffing bears and getting bears ready for delivery. She also attended Bears camp and came to stuffing parties at Seasons at 6 Place. We will miss her.*

*During the time I was with my Mother, Bears volunteers continued to sew, stuff and close bears. Lots of bears are now waiting to get ready for delivery so they can bring hugs, comfort and hope to those suffering a difficult time in their life. These bears will be delivered soon.*

*I sincerely appreciate everything Bears volunteers did so I was able to be with my Mother, during what was a stressful, painful time for me.*

*To Life,  
Carolyn*



Carolyn's Mother, Bea Silver, stuffing bears. It gave her pleasure that she was doing something to help others feel better.

### BEARS BRING COMFORT AND HOPE

During January-July, 30 bears were distributed amongst these agencies:

Children's Advocacy Center

Midwest Hospice & Palliative Care

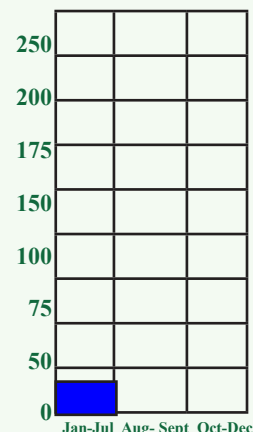
Women's Shelter-Chicago-Westside

Women's Shelter-Far North Suburbs

Social service agencies are given bears, without charge, to give to those they serve needing TLC.

The total number of bears made to date is **1050 bears** providing hugs, comfort and hope to children and adults having a try time.

### 2012 Goal Make 250 Bears of Hope



## LEFT OVER FABRIC

For each bear we make, there is always fabric left over. We have been saving fabric left overs since 2007 while trying to decide what we could make with it. We tried several options but none satisfied us until Carolyn came up with the idea to make baby bibs. She made a sample. We all loved the bibs. Now we're making bibs with the left overs. The baby bibs are included with our bears that go to Women's Shelters.

Last September, the first bibs included with bears were sent to Women's Shelters. E-mails and letters we received from the Shelters told us:

***"Keep the bibs coming with the bears!"***



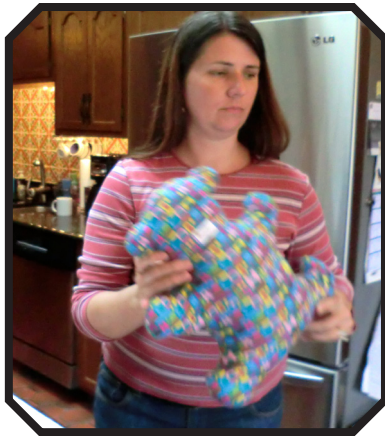
Baby bibs made from left over fabric

## VOLUNTEERS CORNER

We welcomed five new volunteers:

Marilyn Akey; Meagan Hermanowicz; Eleanor Plotnick; Iris Schwartz; and Megan Uithoven

In March, Bears volunteers got together to put on the finishing touches on the bears and packed them for delivery.



Mira ironed- on faces and label.



Nancy and Goldie cut out face features and labels and tied a bow around each bear's neck.



Bears waiting to be packed for delivery.

## THANK YOU SUPPORTERS

Bears of Hope sincerely appreciates the financial resources **YOU** provide.

A **big BEAR HUG** thank you for supporting the work we do  
to bring smiles, comfort and hope to sick and needy children and adults.

|                            |                                |                            |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Access Consultants         | Grace Printing                 | Remodeling by the Tinman   |
| A-Plus Pest Control        | Haben Funeral Home & Crematory | Robert Kesel Photography   |
| Duxler Complete Auto Care  | Hi-Tech Auto Body of Skokie    | Rothschild Insurance Group |
| Edda Cossini, Hair Stylist | Irmo Insurance Company         | SkokieNet.org              |
| Edward Jones Investments   | McCormick & Schmick's          | Skokie Public Library      |
| Fairfield Processing Inc.  | North Shore Community Bank     | Westfield Old Orchard      |
| First MCS                  | <i>Our Village Newspaper</i>   | Triblocal.com              |
| Gimbel, Abrams & Singer    | Paul Plotnick, Attorney        | Westfield Old Orchard      |
| Glick & Trostin, LLC       | Remodeling by J. Graves        |                            |

A **huge BEAR HUG** of THANKS to **INDIVIDUALS** who sent  
a special donation in memory of our founder's mother, Bea Silver.  
We appreciate your kind expression of sympathy.

## 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 gift.** Any amount helps.

For example:     \$ 30 makes 3 bears  
                       \$ 60 makes 6 bears  
                       \$100 makes 10 bears

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



Visit our website [www.bearsofhope.com](http://www.bearsofhope.com)

Proud Member Skokie Chamber of Commerce

\*Donations to the 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.

## *In Memory of Bea Silver*

June 15, 1916 - July 24, 2012

### **My Mother by Carolyn Reiner**



Mother lived a full and enjoyable 96 years. At times she could be feisty or argumentative, but mostly she was a sweetheart. She had loving parents and a sister, of blessed memory, and relatives; good friends she enjoyed being with; and my father, of blessed memory, and my brother's family and mine who loved her so much.

I was blessed to have 72 years with Mother, the first 5 years I surely don't remember well, but after that I have wonderful memories of times we shared together. Sure there were good times and bad times but we were always able to work things out between us. The love we had for each other never waned. We were always there for each other.

Mother's family always came first. Throughout our lives, Mother was a guiding light encouraging my brother, David, and me to do our best and would tell us how proud she was of our accomplishments. We could always depend on Mother's helping hand whenever we needed help whether or not we asked for her help. This was also true of giving us advice. If we chose not to follow her advice and it didn't work out, Mother was quick to tell us we should have followed her advice.

Mother enjoyed cooking and especially liked making cakes and cookies. When David and I were young, the cookies never lasted long. Thankfully she wrote down her recipes. These will be cherished as a lasting gift from her.

Mother enjoyed sewing, knitting and quilting. To memorialize our father, Mother made quilts for all of us made with his ties. The quilt she made for me hangs in our home. I see it everyday and remember Dad. For Rick and my 50th birthdays, with the help of our children, Eric and Jamie, Mother made a special quilt with fabric photos of us from our birth to 1990. This quilt hangs in a prominent spot in our home. It's all the little things Mother did for my brother's family and mine we will hold dear.

We were fortunate to have Mother with us to celebrate family Simchas: the birth of my brother's and my children; their graduation and marriage ceremonies; and last year the birth of her first great grandchild.

Besides her family, Mother enjoyed good times with her friends. She had friends of all ages, some much younger than her and some her own age. Her friends told me how much they liked her easy-going, friendly manner. They always enjoyed being with her.

Mother had a big heart. She was active in many organizations throughout her life. She cared about people and volunteered her time to help young and old individuals. Mother was never interested in accolades for the work she did; that didn't matter to her. She derived pleasure from knowing she did something to make the life of others better. The examples set by Mother in helping others is a significant part of my life.

Life was good for Mother. AND then, seven years ago, I was diagnosed with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. Mother was devastated! This couldn't be happening to her little girl. When I was recovering from a stem cell transplant, Mother would call me everyday to make sure I was OK. She encouraged me to get up, get dressed, put on make-up and earrings and start the day. After one year in remission, I told Mother I wanted to do something for sick and needy children and adults. She wasn't surprised.

Five years ago with her help, I started an all-volunteer organization called *Bears of Hope*. We make handmade fabric bears for sick and needy individuals needing hugs, comfort and hope. Of course, Mother became a volunteer. She enjoyed tracing the bear pattern on fabric, stuffing bears, and helping to get bears ready for delivery. Mother was so proud of what I was able to accomplish after going through so much to get well. Mother's spirit will live on with the *Bears of Hope*.

We were truly blessed Mother was granted so many years of life to be with us. She will be missed, but not forgotten. The wonderful memories and the love she had for us will live in our hearts forever.

The last thing I said to Mother before she died was this...

*Mother, on your life journey, you walked many miles,  
you saw wonderful things, and you enjoyed a loving family.*

*Now, rest in my arms and be comforted by my touch.*

*Mother, it's time to travel the road home.*

*I love you dear Mother.*