



BEARS OF HOPE

A Volunteer Organization

Bears@bearsofhope.com

847-673-4098

bearsofhope.com

End of Year, 2013

MISSION

To provide children and adults going through difficult times, a handmade fabric bear to give them comfort and hope.

Founder's Note



Dear Friends,

This has been a bittersweet year for *Bears of Hope*. At the start of the year, I was still grieving for my Mother and had a difficult time 'moving on'. I'm grateful to our volunteers for making bears,

packing them and getting them delivered until I was feeling better and was able to manage the organization and help make bears.

THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS

I know, first-hand how meaningful our bears are to someone going through a trying time. My own *Bears of Hope* bear was there for me while I was grieving. Whenever I felt sad, I cuddled my bear. It made me feel better. My bear reminds me everyday 'get on with life'.

Bears of Hope brought so much hope and comfort to so many children and adults.

- ♦ 200 bears were given to children and adults with difficult life crises.
- ♦ Bears went with a "Mission to Cuba" group and given to a Cuban high-risk pregnancy clinic for women who loose their babies. The bears comfort the women at this painful time.
- ♦ Bears designed by children were sent to a woman's shelter. Children who came to the shelter with their mother were given a bear. The bears bring them comfort and made them feel safe.
- ♦ Veterans were given our patriotic bears. The bears put smiles on their faces.

January 1, 2014, begins our 7th year. Our plans include:

- * Make 250 bears for children and adults
- * Make 50 patriotic bears for veterans
- * Participate in 3 special events
 - North Shore Community Bank's Children's Craft Day
 - Make a Difference Day
 - McCormick & Schmick's, Veterans Appreciation Day

Our work never stops.

The number of children and adults facing serious life crises increases yearly. Our bears give them the emotional support they badly need to feel better.

Volunteers and Supporters

**Together, we are
'Making a Difference'
one bear at a time**

Thank you for all YOU do for *Bears of Hope*.

Carolyn

Carolyn Reiner



Wishing you happiness and joy

as you celebrate the holidays.

**May the New Year be filled with
good health, prosperity and peace for all.**



*Joey
loves
the
bears*

Bears of Hope End of Year, 2013

BEARS GET LETTERS OF THANKS

It is so evident, so much love is put into these special stuffed bears. Know that they are so appreciated by our children who have serious illnesses and their families. Thank you.

Chai Lifeline

On behalf of the patients and families we are privileged to serve, please accept my sincere appreciation. Thank you for your willingness to share your time and talent with others and all you do to support those we serve.

Rainbow Hospice and Palliative Care



Sometimes when you are ill, sad, hurt, or lonely all you need is a great big bear hug to feel better.

BEARS REACH OUT

Bears of Hope Celebrates 'Make a Difference Day'

On Saturday, October 26th, we joined other organizations throughout the USA to celebrate, '*Make A Difference Day*'. USA WEEKEND and Points of Life sponsor this annual event. Each organization decides on its project.

Bears of Hope's project:

- Finish patriotic bears
- Work on bears for children and adults

Friends and Oakton Community College students joined us at Bears volunteer, Jamie's home. Various work stations were set up, so we could choose what we wanted to do. Everyone had a great time getting to know each other, working together, and doing something good for others in need. We met our project's goals.



BEARS REACH OUT (Continued)

Veterans Shown Appreciation

We were part of McCormick and Schmick's Seafood & Steak Restaurant's annual *Veterans Appreciation Day* at its Skokie location, Sunday, November 10th. The restaurant gave veterans a complimentary entrée and we gave them a patriotic bear and thanked them for their service to our country.

Veterans representing all military branches came to the restaurant. Many had served in World War II; Korean War; Vietnam; Iraq or Afghanistan. Veterans told us war stories and how much they appreciated what we were doing for veterans. Bears volunteer, Danon said, *"I absolutely loved being part of this event. It was extremely rewarding to thank veterans for their service, especially the WWII vets"*.

The restaurant's General Manager, Aaron Torricelli, remarked, *"McCormick & Schmick's is honored to pay tribute to our veterans. Having Bears of Hope at our location, was an added bonus and a huge part of the event that meant so much to the veterans."*

"You don't know how much this bear means to me. When we came home, nobody cared or wanted to do anything for us. I'm glad things have changed. Whenever I look at this bear, it will remind me, there are people who care about us. Thank you so much. You made my day!"

Vietnam Veteran



(Pictured left to right) Restaurant GM, Aaron Torricelli, WWII veteran, Robert Gordon, & Bears of Hope founder, Carolyn Reiner. Gordon was with the U.S. Seventh Army Division when they liberated the Dauchau Concentration Camp April 29, 1945.



VOLUNTEERS CORNER

Bears Drop-In

This past summer, we started a weekly Bears Volunteers Drop-In. Sheila said, *"Coming to the Drop-In allows me to meet and work with other volunteers. We do several things that need to be done such as : addressing envelopes, folding brochures, stuffing bears or cutting out labels. Every week we do different things. The time goes by so fast AND we get a lot done!"*

Bears of Hope appreciates everything the volunteers do.

They make it possible to have bears ready for children and adults needing comfort and hope.



BEARS SUPPORTERS**THANK YOU**

*YOU make it possible for Bears of Hope
to have the materials needed to make bears
for those in need of emotional support to feel better.*

*We appreciate YOUR continuous support
and spreading the word of what we do*

AxcessAdvisors, CPA

A-Plus Pest Control

Duxler Complete Auto Care

Edward Jones Investments

Fairfield Processing Inc.

Gimbel, Abrams & Singer, CPA

Grace Printing

Haben Funeral Home & Crematory

Handyman Gene

Hi-Tech Auto Body of Skokie

Irmo Insurance Company

McCormick & Schmick's Restaurant

Mickey Mayla, Sculpturer

North Shore Community Bank

Our Village Newspaper

Paul Plotnick, Attorney at Law

Remodeling by J. R. Graves

Remodeling by the Tinman

Rothschild Insurance Group

Skokie Chamber of Commerce

SkokieNet.org

Skokie Public Library

Triblocal.com

Village of Skokie

Holly J. Waxman, Interior Designer

Westfield Old Orchard

Anonymous Contributors

Get Involved

We rely on the generosity of caring people, like **YOU**, to continue our work. **100%** of your financial gift* **will only be used** to purchase materials for bears. We have no paid staff; we're all volunteers. **Every \$10** makes a bear.

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

Thank you for supporting *Bears of Hope* and being part of what we do for others.



Proud Member Skokie Chamber of Commerce

Visit our website www.bears of hope.com

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