



BEARS OF HOPE

A Volunteer Organization

Bears@bearsofhope.com

847-673-4098

bearsofhope.com

January - May, 2014

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, Volunteers and Supporters,

Spring is Here Summer is Near !



Despite the long cold winter days and strange weather spring days we kept busy making bears. So far this year, we delivered bears to:

- Armenia Relief Mission
- Chai Lifeline
- JCFS
- Midwest Hospice Care

- Rainbow Palliative & Hospice Care
- Skokie Fire Department
- Skokie Police Department
- Women's Shelter-Chicago westside

These agencies give bears to those under their care.

We've added two social service agencies to receive bears:

CDH (congenital diaphragmatic hernia)

Support services for families whose baby was born with this life-threatening birth defect.

Veterans Hospice Care

Care for terminally ill and dying veterans. This is a new VA benefit for veterans.

In February, I spoke about Bears of Hope to Skokie Chamber of Commerce's Sales Vantage Referral group. After the presentation, two people volunteered to join *Bears of Hope's* team. I'm always happy to speak to groups about what we do. If you belong to, or know a group looking for a speaker, please ask them to contact me: Carolyn@carolynreiner.com 847-673-4098

On March 1, volunteers came to Bears Camp to be honored for their time and energy they willingly spend making bears. Bears Camp was held at McCormick & Schmick's Westfield Old Orchard restaurant. We appreciated the restaurant's kindness in providing the room and lunch for this event. Restaurant General Manager, Aaron Torricelli said, *"It was our pleasure to have Bears Camp at our restaurant. We're pleased to do what we can for Bears of Hope. We thank them for caring for others."*

I can hardly believe we're celebrating our seventh year. It seems only yesterday I made the first *Bears of Hope* bears. Over 1500 bears are being loved and giving comfort to those in pain to feel better.



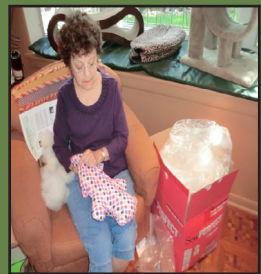
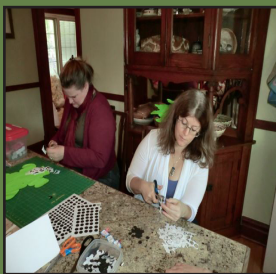
Bears of Hope Bears made January, 2007

Thank **YOU**, volunteers and financial supporters, for making it possible for us to continue making bears and making a difference in the lives of others in need - one bear at a time.

To Life,

Carolyn Reiner

Founder and Volunteer



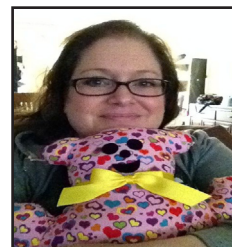
E-MAIL FROM A BEAR RECIPIENT

In April, we received our first e-mail from a woman who received one of our bears to give her comfort and hope while she fights cancer. Below is the e-mail she sent:

*"Thank you so much for the bear. When the pain is bad,
I hug my bear and he makes me feel better."*

She also attached a picture of herself with her bear.

It made us feel good to get an e-mail mail from a recipient. We usually receive letters and e-mails from social service agencies telling us how meaningful the bears are to those they serve.



Picture used with permission
Name held for privacy.

SOCIAL SERVICE AGENCIES RECEIVING BEARS

Armenia Relief Mission in Armenia

Provides free diagnostic services, patient care & pharmaceuticals to those needing medical aid.

CDH (congenital diaphragmatic hernia)

Support services for families whose baby was born with this life-threatening birth defect.

Chai Lifeline

Helps children with a life-threatening illness receive medical treatment.

Children's Advocacy Center North & Northwest Cook County (CAC)

Counsels abused children & holds offenders accountable for their actions.

Hospice & Palliative Care Centers: Midwest, Monarch & Rainbow

Promotes wellness, comfort & quality of life for the chronically & seriously ill, aging, & dying.

Jewish Children's and Family Services (JCFS)

Provides therapeutic, educational & preventative programs for children in need.

Skokie Fire Department

Provides citizens with emergency fire & EMS service.

Skokie Police Department

Protects life & property, individual rights, enforcement of ordinances & regulations, & the preservation of peace, order & safety.

VA Hospice: Rainbow Care Center

Provides compassionate palliative and hospice care for veterans who are terminally ill & dying.

Women's Shelters: Chicago-west side & suburbs: far north, north, & northwest

Provides safe, secure living environments, through transitional housing & emergency shelter for abused women & their children.

BEARS HELP RELIEF SOCIETY OF THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS



Bears founder, Carolyn Reiner (middle) with Relief Society members Fran Ripley (left) and Christine Smuntley

We received a call from The Relief Society of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints asking for help to organize a bear-making project for their Church's Service Day being held in September. Bears volunteer, Sue Ann, offered to show them how the bears are made and will help them organize materials for the service project. The bears will be given to social service agencies in McHenry County, IL.

Bears of Hope was pleased to assist the Relief Society in their project to 'Make a Difference' in the lives of those in need of hope and comfort.

RANDOM ACT OF KINDNESS

In May, Carolyn went on vacation with her daughter, Jamie (also a Bears volunteer) to Dallas, Texas. As they toured the Dallas/Fort Worth area a Joanne Fabrics store was spotted - **a must stop!**

Carolyn, with Jamie's help, selected ten patriotic fabrics. At the cutting table, while other shoppers were waiting for their fabric to be cut, asked Carolyn, "*What are you making?*" She told them, "*My organization, Bears of Hope, will make fabric bears for veterans to thank them for their service.*" This prompted questions about the Bears which Carolyn and Jamie answered. When the clerk gave Carolyn her sales slip, the woman alongside her said, "*I'll take care of that. I admire what you're doing.*" Carolyn thanked the lady for her thoughtfulness in purchasing fabric for the Bears.



Carolyn with the patriotic fabric

VOLUNTEERS CORNER

New Volunteers

During January - May, four people joined our team:

Michael Herrmann will deliver bears **Amy Zagroba** will help with public relations

Two nine year old girls volunteered to stuff bears. They wanted to do something for others in need. We are pleased to have **Kayla F.** and **Lily W.** part of *Bears of Hope's* team.

Get involved. There's always room for one more! We'll meet with you, explain what's needed and discuss ways YOU can help. Contact us today.

Bears@Bears of Hope.com or 847-673-4098

Bears Camp

Bears Camp, held yearly, is a time we honor and thank our volunteers. This year, Bears Camp was held on March 1st. It was a wonderful fun-filled day. Volunteers enjoyed socializing, working on bears and having lunch together. Carolyn told the volunteers, "*You're the key to our success! YOU give your time, energy and care enough to do something good for others. I feel blessed you've chosen to be on Bears of Hope's team and appreciate all you do for us.*" Volunteer's were given a special 'Volunteer Appreciation Award' in recognition of all they do for *Bears of Hope*.

The centerpieces adorning the luncheon tables were made by volunteer, Sue Ann. When Bears Camp ended, the volunteers chose a mini-bear to call their own.



Volunteers working on bears



Mini- bears table centerpieces



Volunteers at lunch

***Bears of Hope* appreciates everything the volunteers do.
They make it possible to have bears ready to bring hope, lift spirits, and give comfort
to children and adults in pain.**

BEARS SUPPORTERS

THANK YOU

*YOU make it possible for Bears of Hope
to have the materials needed to make bears
We appreciate YOUR continuous support
and spreading the word of what we do*

AxcessAdvisors, CPA
A-Plus Pest Control
Dr. David Kanarek, DDS, MAGD
Duxler Complete Auto Care
Edward Jones Investments
Fairfield Processing Inc.
Finest Courier Logistics
First Bank & Trust
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, Artist
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
Individual Contributors
(wish to remain anonymous)

WAYS TO HELP

• VOLUNTEER

Become part of **Bears of Hope's** team. There's lots of things that need to be done to get bears ready for delivery. To volunteer contact us:

Bears@bearsofhope.com or 847-673-4098.

• DONATE*

Financial gifts* from caring, community-minded businesses and individuals provide the means to make bears. **100% of funds*are only used** to purchase materials for bears. We have no paid staff; we're all volunteers. Any amount helps. Send donations* to:

Bears of Hope 8331 Kostner Skokie, IL 60076

• SPREAD THE WORD

Tell your friends and business associates about Bears of Hope. Get them on-board to support *Bears of Hope* by volunteering or a monetary gift*.



Thank you for Supporting
Bears of Hope

Proud Member Skokie Chamber of Commerce & Industry

Visit our website www.bearsofhope.com

Like us on Facebook

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