



# BEARS OF HOPE

847-673-4098

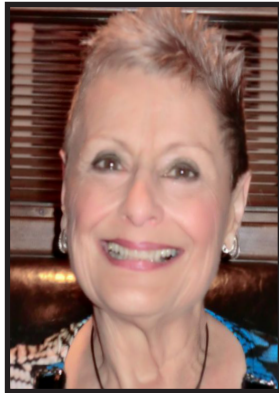
Bears@bearsofhope.com  
www.bearsofhope.com

## End of Year 2014

### MISSION

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

### Founder's Note



Dear Friends,

*Thank you for your unwavering support to our cause for children and adults in crises. Your contribution this year, whether financial or by volunteering your time, allowed us to:*

- \* Make & deliver **200 bears** for children and adults*
- \* Make & distribute **50 bears** to veterans*

*We've had a very busy fall making and delivering bears and holding special events.*

*Once again, we participated in **Make a Difference Day**. It's the nation's largest day of service sponsored by USA WEEKEND. We joined other organizations across the United States to work on projects big and small. (page 2)*

*As we have done for the last 5 years, we joined McCormick & Schmick's for its **Veterans Appreciation Day** to give veterans our patriotic bears. (page 2)*

*North Shore Community Bank, located in Skokie, sponsored our **Children's Craft Program**. Children came to the bank to design our bear pattern which had been traced on unprinted fabric. (page 3)*

*Girl Scout Troop 41716, located in Skokie, wanted to do something for others in need. They contacted us. I came to their meeting with materials for the girls to work on. It was so great to see how much they enjoyed themselves. (page 3)*

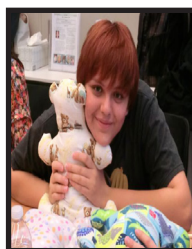
*Four days before members of Am Yisroel Synagogue were leaving for a family retreat they discovered there was no children's project planned. Member, Julie Creinin contacted us to see if we had a program for children. I told her about our **Children's Craft Program** and the materials needed. Julie loved the idea. I gave her as many materials as we had. The Synagogue would purchase the rest. Julie would get everything prepared. Days after the retreat, Julie dropped off the bears children designed. She said, "The children had a lot of fun designing the bears".*

*January, 2015 begins our 8th year. With your continued support more bears will be made to bring hugs, comfort and hope to children and adults in crises.*

*Thank you for being part of Bears of Hope.*

Carolyn

Carolyn Reiner  
Founder



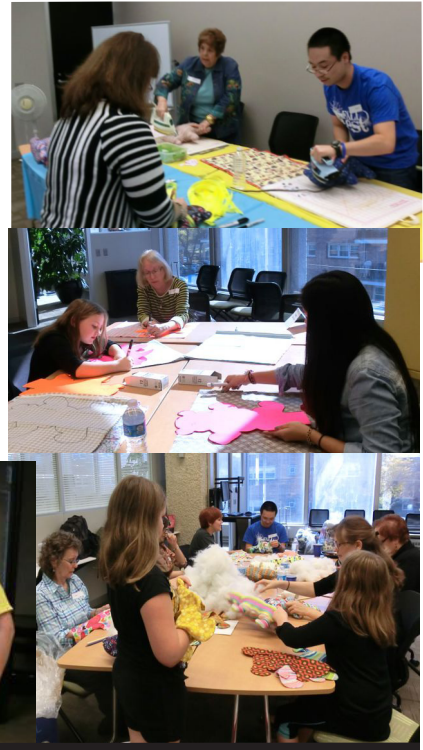
*Wishing you happiness and joy  
as you celebrate the holidays.  
May the New Year  
be filled with good health,  
prosperity and peace for all.*

## BEARS REACH OUT

### Bears Make a Difference

On Saturday, October 25th, we participated in *Make A Difference Day*. USA WEEKEND sponsors this annual event. Remember to give back is the spirit behind the event. Each organization participating decides on its project. Our project was to get the patriotic bears ready for distribution to veterans. We also worked on bears for children and adults in crises.

Friends, Oakton Community College students and Niles West students joined our volunteers at Skokie Public Library's Business Center. Various work stations were set up so everyone could choose what they wanted to do. Everyone had a great time getting to know each other, working together, and making a difference in the lives of others in need. We met our project's goals.



### We Care About Veterans

McCormick and Schmick's Seafood & Steak Restaurants held their annual *Veterans Appreciation Day* on Sunday, November 9th. The restaurants gave veterans a complimentary entrée for lunch or dinner. We joined the Westfield Old Orchard restaurant to give veterans our patriotic bears and thank them for their service to our country. This was the fifth year we participated in the event.

Veterans representing all branches of service came to the restaurant. They had served in World War II; Korean War; Vietnam; Iraq; and Afghanistan. We felt humbled to meet eight World War II veterans. They told us how appreciative they were about what we are doing for veterans. Vietnam veterans were especially emotional when we gave them their bear and thanked them. One veteran said, *"When we came home no one cared. It's good to see things have changed."*

Two veterans (pictured right) Carolyn spoke with were part of the Military Order of the Purple Heart. They visit veteran families whose loved ones were killed in action. They said our patriotic bears would be a source of comfort to these grieving families. They asked if we could send them bears for the veteran families they visit. We will honor their request.



The restaurant's General Manager, Aaron Torricelli, remarked, *"It's an honor to pay tribute to our veterans. They did so much for our country. Having Bears of Hope at our location was an added bonus."* Torricelli invited *Bears of Hope* to come back next year.





## A Good Deed

Girl Scout leader, Cyndy Novak, contacted **Bears of Hope** to see if we could use help from Girl Scout Troop 41716. Carolyn Reiner, our founder, was a Girl Scout herself, Troop 582. She knew the value of scouting and was very happy to have the girls help. Carolyn came to their meeting on October 21st. Three work stations were set up so the girls could choose what they wanted to do.

Both Cyndy and Carolyn enjoyed seeing how excited the girls were tracing and stuffing bears and cutting material tags. Cyndy said, *"Helping Bears of Hope was a great experience for the girls."*

*"They were able to see how rewarding it is to do a good deed for others in need."* Carolyn said, *"I appreciated what the girls did for Bears of Hope. Their bears will provide emotional support to children and adults suffering a difficult time in their lives."*



## Children Designing Bears

North Shore Community Bank, located in Skokie, sponsored our **Children's Craft Program** as a community event on November 15th. Children ages 6-13 and the bank's Junior Savers were invited to come to the bank and design Bears of Hope bears. Children were excited and had a lot of fun designing the bears with fabric paint markers. Bears volunteers will complete the bears.



## VOLUNTEERS CORNER

**A special Thank You to our volunteers. They make it possible to have bears for children and adults in crises.**

**The following volunteers helped at special events:**

**Make a Difference Day: Amy, Eleanor, Karen, Jamie, Sue Ann, & Rosemarie**

**Veteran's Appreciation Day: Karen, Jamie, Judy, Rosemarie, Sandy & Sheila**

**Children's Craft Program: Jamie**

**The following students volunteered to help us:**

**Make a Difference Day & Children's Craft Program:**

**Kevin and Angie from Oakton Community College**

**Make a Difference Day:**

**Janessan and George from Niles West High School**

**We appreciate everything  
our volunteers do for *Bears of Hope***

## GET INVOLVED WITH BEARS OF HOPE

We are funded by individuals and businesses' financial gifts\*. **YOUR** gift will 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 your check to:

**Bears of Hope 8331 Kostner Skokie, IL 60076**

## BEARS SUPPORTERS

### A GREAT BIG BEAR HUG THANK YOU

Individuals and Businesses' support makes it possible for *Bears of Hope* to continue giving bears to children & adults that they can hug whenever they feel sad, hurt, sick or lonely

### We appreciate our SUPPORTERS

AxcessAdvisors, CPA	Hi-Tech Auto Body of Skokie	Remodeling by the Tinman
A-Plus Pest Control	Irmo Insurance Company	Rothschild Insurance Group
Dr. David Kanarek, DDS, MAGD	Kiwanis Club of Skokie Valley	Skokie Chamber of Commerce
Duxler Complete Auto Care	McCormick & Schmick's Restaurant	SkokieNet.org
Edward Jones Investments	Mickey Mayla, Artist	Skokie Public Library
Fairfield Processing Inc.	North Shore Community Bank	Triblocal.com
First Bank & Trust	Old Orchard Periodontics & Implants	Holly J. Waxman, Interior Designer
Gimbel, Abrams & Singer, CPA	Our Village Newspaper	Westfield Old Orchard
Haben Funeral Home & Crematory	Paul Plotnick, Attorney at Law	Anonymous Contributors
	Remodeling by J. R. Graves	



Visit our website [www.bearsofhope.com](http://www.bearsofhope.com) Like us on [facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com/bearsofhope)

Proud Member Skokie Chamber of Commerce & Industry

\*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.