



BEARS OF HOPE

847-673-4098

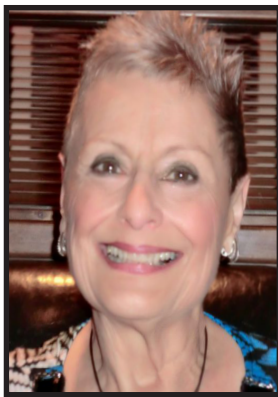
Bears@bearsofhope.com
www.bearsofhope.com

January - April, 2015

MISSION

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

Founder's Note



Dear Friends,

I am truly grateful for the continued support of our volunteers and financial supporters. You are an important part of Bears of Hope. Our bears are so meaningful to those who receive them. I hope you will like what we've been doing.

Seven new volunteers joined our team.

I found it interesting to learn how these volunteers heard about Bears

of Hope: Neighbors told neighbors, hairstylist told her client, one saw our volunteer opportunity on AARP's 'Create The Good' website and several while surfing the net came across the Bears website. (page 3)

60 bears were made and divided amongst the following social service agencies:

<i>Armenian Relief Mission</i>	<i>CAC</i>
<i>CDH</i>	<i>Chai Lifeline</i>
<i>JCFS</i>	<i>Rainbow Hospice & Palliative Care</i>
<i>Skokie Fire Department</i>	<i>Skokie Police Department</i>
<i>Veteran's Program</i>	<i>2 Women's Shelters</i>

On January 20th, I spoke before the Skokie Chamber of Commerce's Sales Vantage Referral Group. I covered the business strategies used to organize the Bears foundation: mission, core values, business plan & budget. Every year

we analyze what worked, what didn't and why.

Then we develop our next year's business plan and estimated budget. This keeps us on the right track.

On March 7, volunteers came to Bears Camp to be honored for all they do for us. 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. (page 2)

Last Fall North Shore Community Bank sponsored our Children's Craft Program. The bears children designed are completed and will on exhibit at the bank before being given to the Skokie Fire Department. (Page 3)

SPECIAL EVENT: On April 19th, we'll participate in Temple Judea Mizpah's "Mitzvah (Good Deeds) Day". The Temple is located at 5555 Niles Center Rd, Skokie. This year's theme, "Health. Fitness and Wellness." We'll be there from 9am until noon stuffing bears. Stop by, say hello and help stuff a bear.

We started our Drop-Ins during March. Volunteers and I work on bears, socialize with one another and have a good time. The Drop-Ins are scheduled twice a month.

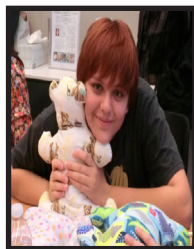
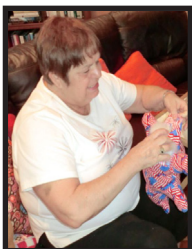
The need for our bears keeps increasing. With our volunteers and financial supporters commitment to our cause, more bears will be there to bring comfort and hope to those suffering a life crisis.

Thank you for being part of Bears of Hope and 'Making a Difference' one bear at a time.

Gratefully yours,

Carolyn

Carolyn Reiner, Founder



BEARS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

In February, Rainbow Hospice and Palliative care center received two boxes of our bears. After receiving them, the Volunteer & In-kind Gifts Coordinator sent us this e-mail:

Our patients just love the bears. I have to tell you a cute story.

One of our hospice patients has been clinging to her bear since she received it. Let's put it this way, it is very hard to get the bear away from her, even for bathing.

Our nurse was visiting with her, when a new patient was admitted. The patient was very tearful and kept asking for her baby. The nurse's patient said, "I feel so sorry for her. Please give my bear to her." The nurse reminded her that if she gave the new patient the bear she wouldn't get it back. She replied, "She needs it more than me. I will be fine." How sweet of this elderly woman to do this.

The nurse came into my office and asked if she could have another bear for her patient. Of course, I gave her another one. The patient was elated when she received her new bear. What a beautiful moment for our patient to come alive for that one minute to notice someone else needed comfort. The bear would do just that.

A big "thank you" to you and all your volunteers for bringing a ray of sunshine to so many faces.



BEARS CAMP



Bears of Hope volunteers gathered together for our annual Bears Camp on March 7th at McCormick & Schmick's Restaurant in Westfield Old Orchard, Skokie, Illinois

After working on various bear tasks, volunteers enjoyed lunch and then founder, Carolyn Reiner, thanked each volunteer and gave them a 'Volunteer Appreciation Award.' She told the volunteers, *"You're a very special person! You care about others and willingly give your time to do something good for them. Thank you for being part of Bears of Hope."* Carolyn also thanked the restaurant's General Manager, Aaron Torricelli for providing the room and lunch for bears Camp. He told the volunteers, *"What you do for others is amazing! McCormick and Schmick's is proud to do what it can for Bears of Hope."*

CHILDREN'S BEARS

Last fall, North Shore Community Bank sponsored our Children's Craft Program. Children designed our bears traced on unprinted cotton fabric. Bear volunteers sewed two designs together to make 12 bears.

In April, the bears will be on exhibit at North Shore Community Bank, 7800 Lincoln, Skokie, Illinois. Ross Mathee, President said, "*The finished bears look incredible. This is the scnd time we've had the craft program at the bank and it won't be the last. The children have a good time designing their bear. We're proud to do what we can for Bears of Hope.*" The bears will be given to the Skokie Fire Department for their EMT's to give to children hurt in an accident, fire, criminal activity or abuse.

The Children's Craft Program is a special program for businesses to sponsor as a community event.

Contact us for more information:

Bears@bearsofhope.com



Front of Bears designed by children



Back of Bears designed by children

VOLUNTEERS CORNER

New Volunteers

We've added 11 volunteers to our team:

Barbara Creinen
Karen Fronczak
Joan Shermach

Howard Creinen
Sophia Keay
Sandy Taylor

Marge Davis
Carol Poindexter
Jessi Zook

Eileene Dobbelaere
Carroll Preece

Join us! There's always room for one more. We'll meet with you, explain what we do and ways you can help. Contact us: Bears@bearsofhope.com 847-673-4098

The following volunteers got things ready for Bears Camp and packed bears for delivery:

February 20 & 21 Sue Ann

Our first Drop-In was held on March 28th.
The following volunteers dropped-in to work on bears:

Eileene Karen Jamie
Joan Marge Sandy
Sue Ann



Bears of Hope appreciates everything the volunteers do to bring comfort and hope to children and adults having a difficult time in their lives

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. For example: \$10 makes one bear. 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 making and giving bears to sick children & adults they can hug whenever they feel sad, hurt, sick or lonely

We appreciate our SUPPORTERS

AxeccessAdvisors, CPA

A-Plus Pest Control

Dr. David Kanarek, DDS, MAGD

Duxler Complete Auto Care

Edward Jones Investments

Fairfield Processing Inc.

First Bank & Trust

Gimbel, Abrams & Singer, CPA

Haben Funeral Home & Crematory

Hi-Tech Auto Body of Skokie

Irmo Insurance Company

Kiwanis Club of Skokie Valley

McCormick & Schmick's Restaurant

Mickey Mayla, Artist

North Shore Community Bank

Old Orchard Periodontics & Implants

Our Village Newspaper

Platimun Adventures

Paul Plotnick, Attorney at Law

Remodeling by J. R. Graves

Remodeling by the Tinman

Rothschild Insurance Group

SAS Shoes

Skokie Chamber of Commerce

SkokieNet.org

Skokie Public Library

Triblocal.com

Holly J. Waxman, Interior Designer

Westfield Old Orchard

Anonymous Contributors



Visit our website 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.