



BEARS OF HOPE

847-673-4098

Bears@bearsofhope.com

www.bearsofhope.com

January - April, 2016

MISSION

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

FOUNDER'S MESSAGE



January began *Bears of Hope's* ninth year. I'm so blessed to have dedicated volunteers and supporters. Without them, there wouldn't be bears. I truly appreciate their dedication to the Bears.

While working on Bears of Hope's brochure, we created a new tagline:

"Comforting sick children and adults with bears to hug".

We feel it communicates what we do and hope you agree.

This year we added **Zacharias Sexual Abuse Center** (ZCenter) to our list of agencies receiving bears. The agency provides free counseling, support groups and advocacy services to survivors of sexual violence and non-offending loved ones.

During the past 4 months, 62 bears were divided among the following social service agencies for those they serve.

*Congenital Diaphragmatic Hernia Help
Children's Advocacy Center N & NW Cook County
Jewish Children's and Family Services
Midwest Hospice & Palliative Care
Rainbow Hospice & Palliative Care
Skokie Fire Department
Skokie Police Department
Women's Shelters
Zacharias Center*

It was an honor and surprise when Bears Of Hope was awarded Rainbow Hospice & Palliative Care's **2016 Above & Beyond Award** for excellence in volunteer services. (page 2)

Leap Year Day, February 29th, found us at Michael Silver & Company, CPAs. The employees took time out from the busy tax season to do something for others in need. (page 2)

Bears Camp and Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon was held on April 2 at McCormick & Schmick's restaurant in Westfield Old Orchard. The restaurant gave us the room and provided lunch for the volunteers. (page 3)

In January, we received a call from Niles North teacher, Julie Lear who heads the **Fashion Club**. She wanted to know if the Club could do something for the Bears. The members will machine sew the bear pattern and hand sew bears openings closed. Lear said, *"Helping the bears improves the students sewing skills while doing something good for others in need."*

Bears of Hope is always busy. Our work never ends. **Together, volunteers and supporters, we're making a difference** in the lives of children and adults one bear at a time.

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

Gratefully,

Carolyn

Carolyn Reiner, Founder
carolyn@carolynreiner.com



Bears Receive Award

Rainbow's Hospice & Palliative Care awarded *Bears of Hope* its **2016 Above and Beyond Award** for excellence in volunteer services. Along with the award came a note from Karen Huber, Rainbow's coordinator of volunteer services. She wrote:

Thank you so much for always thinking of us and donating your beautiful huggable bears. You and your volunteers are so deserving of this 'Above and Beyond' award. Bears of Hope is one remarkable organization.

Carolyn Reiner said, *"I feel humbled Bears of Hope was given this award. We are grateful our bears have been putting smiles on the patients faces at Rainbow."*



Rainbow Hospice & Palliative Care has been receiving bears since 2008.

In 2014, Rainbow became part of the VA's Hospice Care for terminally ill and dying veterans. Rainbow now receives both patriotic-themed bears for the veterans as well as bears for their patients.

CPAs Help the Bears

Marketing Director, Paula Gooch, contacted *Bears of Hope* to see if we could use help from Michael Silver & Company's, CPAs. The CPAs wanted to do something good for others in need. CPA Beryl Reid, Partner of Michael Silver & Company, said, *"Our firm places a significant emphasis on charitable contribution programs. We try to design programs and events that provide simple ways for our employees to donate their time and/or make monetary contributions. Having an on-site workshop helped to achieve this goal along with providing an opportunity to do something 'extra' on Leap Day, the extra day of the 2016 year."*

Carolyn Reiner and two Bears volunteers, Sandy Taylor and Carol Poindexter came to Michael Silver & Company's office with bear-making materials. The employees traced our bear pattern on fabric and stuffed bears. Gooch said, *"It was great to see their enthusiasm as they worked on the bears."* One CPA expressed, *"The bears are adorable. It made me feel good to be part of this event."* Carolyn was pleased with everything they accomplished and thanked them for helping *Bears of Hope*.



Bears of Hope Appreciates Volunteers

Bears volunteers gathered together for our annual Bears Camp & Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon on April 2nd. Work stations were set-up with bear-making tasks. Volunteers chose the task to do. While working on bears, volunteers enjoyed socializing with one another. At the end of Bears Camp, there were lots of bears ready to complete. Many volunteers took bears to work on at home.

Before lunch, there was a special program on “*Staying Fit*”. Founder, Carolyn Reiner, introduced fitness expert, Sharan Tash, She spoke about the importance of keeping fit and put the volunteers through a series of stretching and relaxing exercises. Bears volunteer, Eileen Dobbelaere, declared, “*I loved the exercises. They made me feel good.*” Sharan is the owner of Tash Fitness (tashfitness.com), a women only fitness facility offering private, semi-private and group training and lots more.

After lunch, Carolyn thanked the volunteers for being part of *Bears of Hope* and gave each one a “Volunteer Appreciation Award.” Bears volunteer, Yvonne Sloan, replied, “*I love what I do for Bears of Hope. I’m grateful I’m doing something to make a difference to comfort those in pain.*”

McCormick & Schmick’s General Manager, Aaron Torricelli, was also thanked for providing the room and lunch. Torricelli said, “*McCormick & Schmick’s is proud to do what it can for Bears of Hope. What they do is amazing!*”



Stuffing bears



Getting bears ready to be stuffed

VOLUNTEERS CORNER

Between Jan-April, we welcomed 5 people to *Bears of Hope’s* Team:

Nicole Almiro	stuff bears
Sue Fishbain	sew bears
Sarah John	stuff bears
Mary Lou Kohl	sew bears
Hongyue Wang	close bears

Join us! There’s always room for one more. We’ll meet with you and explain ways you can help.

Contact us: Bears@bearsofhope.com 847-673-4098

Bears of Hope appreciates everything our volunteers do.

BEARS SUPPORTERS

A Big Thank YOU BEAR HUG

Your unwavering commitment to *Bears of Hope* provides the means to make bears to comfort children and adults struggling with painful crises.

We appreciate what YOU do for us.

Albany Bank & Trust Company, N.A.	Hi-Tech Auto Body of Skokie	Remodeling by J.R.Graves
Annie's Pancake House	Irmo Insurance Company	Remodeling by the Tinman
A-Plus Pest Control	Just Call Molly	Rothschild Insurance Group
Axcess Advisors, CPA	McCormick & Schmick's Restaurants	SAS Shoes
BDO Skokie, CPAs	Michael Silver & Company, CPAs	Skokie Chamber of Commerce
Duxler Complete Auto Care	Munamie, Artist	Skokie Paint & Wallpaper
Edward Jones Investments	North Shore Community Bank	Skokie Public Library
Fairfield Processing Inc.	Old Orchard Periodontics & Implants	Tash Fitness
First Bank & Trust	Our Village Newspaper	Triblocal.com
Gimbel, Abrams & Singer, CPAs	Paul Plotnick, Attorney at Law	Holly J. Waxman, Interior Designer
Haben Funeral Home & Crematory	Print X-Press	Anonymous Individual Contributors

BECOME A SUPPORTER

Will YOU support *Bears of Hope*?

YOUR monetary gift* will touch the lives of children and adults facing difficult life crises. *Bears of Hope* bears bring them comfort, hope and aid in their healing.

All funds are only used for what's needed for bears.

We have no paid staff. We're all volunteers.

Any amount helps. Donations* 'in memory of' or 'in honor of' can also be made.

Send YOUR check* to:

Bears of Hope 8331 Kostner Skokie, IL 60076



**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.*

Proud Member - Skokie Chamber of Commerce & Industry