



# BEARS OF HOPE

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www.bearsofhope.com

## May - August, 2016

### MISSION

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

### FOUNDER'S MESSAGE



*Bears of Hope* does so much to comfort children and adults in pain. Social service agencies getting bears are grateful to have them for those under their care. They tell us: *"The bears bring smiles to our clients/patients faces, comfort them with hugs and aid in their healing."*

With our volunteers and supporters unwavering commitment to our cause, bears will be there for children and adults facing life crises.

During the past 3 months, **62 bears** were divided among the following social service agencies:

- Congenital Diaphragmatic Hernia Birth Defect
- Children's Advocacy Center N & NW Cook County
- Jewish Children's and Family Services
- Midwest Hospice & Palliative Care
- Rainbow Hospice & Palliative Care
- Rainbow Veterans Hospice Care
- Skokie Fire Department
- Skokie Police Department
- Women's Shelters:

Chicago-west side; suburbs:north & northwest

Zacharias Center



**Rabbi Y. Posner, Skokie Lubavitch Chabad**, also received bears for sick children and adults he visits. Bears are given to clergy as they request them.

**Skokie Public Library's, Director, Carolyn Anthony**, retired in July. We gave her a bear to show our appreciation for the support she has given to the bears. Anthony made it possible for us to have boxes from the books they received and no longer needed. (Page 2)

We were delighted to welcome two teen-agers from Niles West High school to the *Bears* team. There's always room for teen-agers and adults to volunteer. (page 3)

Our annual fund-raising campaign begins in September. All funds received are only used for what's needed for bears. We depend on YOU, our supporters, for your continued commitment to *Bears of Hope* to carry on our work. (page 4)

### COMING EVENTS

September 9th "Stuffing Party" at Brookdale Senior Living Northbrook

November 6th "Veteran Appreciation Day" McCormick & Schmick's Westfield Old Orchard

Thank you volunteers and supporters, **TOGETHER**, we *"Make a Difference"* comforting sick children and adults with bears to hug.

Gratefully,

**Carolyn**

Carolyn Reiner, Founder  
carolyn@carolynreiner.com



## BEARS SHOW APPRECIATION

Our founder, Carolyn Reiner, presented Skokie Public Library's Director, **Carolyn Anthony**, a special bear to show our appreciation for her support of *Bears of Hope*. Anthony was retiring after 31 years as the library's Director.

When presented the bear, Anthony said,

*"This is so special. Oh, look! Books are printed on the fabric."*

Carolyn wished Anthony lots of happiness and good health as she begins her new journey in life.

Anthony made it possible for us to have the boxes sent from book publishers. She said, *"The library is glad to recycle them to Bears of Hope."* We pack our bears in the boxes. The boxes have a waterproof wrapping inside which keeps our bears safe from inclement weather conditions during delivery to social service agencies.



Library Director, Carolyn Anthony (left) with Bears founder, Carolyn Reiner

## FRIENDS



Hongyue Wang sewing fabric into bears.

Hongyue Wang lives in China and came to the U.S. in March to visit her son, Kun. While he was at work, Wang spent time working on bears and socializing with Carolyn. Wang told Carolyn, "You, me friends." Even though there was a language difference, they both connected through the Bear-making process. Kun said, *"My mother had a great time assisting the Bears. A side benefit was her English improved by being with Carolyn."* In June, Wang's visit with her son was over and she went back to China. Carolyn told Kun, *"I enjoyed my time with your Mother and thank her for all she did for the Bears. I will miss her, but hope she will return to visit you soon so we can be together again."*

## AGENCIES GIVEN BEARS

### **CDH (congenital diaphragmatic hernia)**

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

### **Chai Lifeline**

Helps find funds for medical treatment to children with a life-threatening illness.

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

Counsels abused children & holds offenders accountable for their actions.

### **Hospice & Palliative Care Centers: Midwest, & 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 services.

### **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 & hospice care for veterans who are terminally ill & dying.

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

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

### **Zacharias Sexual Abuse Center**

Counsels abused children, adults & families.

## VOLUNTEERS CORNER

Between May-August, we welcomed 2 teen-agers to *Bears of Hope* :

<b>Safiyah Rizvi</b>	<b>stuffing bears</b>
<b>Claire Stephan</b>	<b>hand sewing bears opening closed</b>

Both girls are students at Niles West High School. **Lisa Edelson**, Education To Careers Coordinator commented, “ *I’m glad these students volunteered for Bears of Hope, whether sewing or stuffing bears. The organization does amazing things for those in need. Niles Township High School District 219 encourages its students to volunteer as an individual, team or club for one or more of the numerous service opportunities available in and around the Skokie community. No matter the cause or need, we encourage students to get involved and take action to benefit others.*”

Volunteers are always busy making bears. They drop off and pick up materials at Carolyn’s home and work on bears at their home, as time permits, without deadlines.

***Bears of Hope appreciates everything our volunteers do.***

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

**Contact us: [Bears@bearsofhope.com](mailto:Bears@bearsofhope.com) 847-673-4098**



## BEARS SUPPORTERS

### A GREAT Big THANK YOU BEAR HUG

Your 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.  
 Annie’s Pancake House  
 A-Plus Pest Control  
 A Safe Home Cleaning Service  
 Aaccess Advisors, CPA  
 BDO Skokie, CPAs  
 Duxler Complete Auto Care  
 Edward Jones Investments  
 Fairfield Processing Inc.  
 First Bank & Trust  
 Gimbel, Abrams & Singer, CPAs  
 Haben Funeral Home & Crematory

Hi-Tech Auto Body of Skokie  
 Irmo Insurance Company  
 Just Call Molly  
 McCormick & Schmick’s Restaurants  
 Michael Silver & Company, CPAs  
 Munamie, Artist  
 North Shore Community Bank  
 Old Orchard Periodontics & Implants  
 Our Village Newspaper  
 Paul Plotnick, Attorney at Law  
 Print X-Press

Remodeling by J.R.Graves  
 Remodeling by the Tinman  
 Rothschild Insurance Group  
 SAS Shoes  
 Skokie Chamber of Commerce  
 Skokie Paint & Wallpaper  
 Skokie Public Library  
 Tash Fitness  
 Triblocal.com  
 Holly J. Waxman, Interior Designer

## BEARS OF HOPE'S ANNUAL FUND-RAISING CAMPAIGN

**Not a Supporter?**

**Join us!**

TOGETHER, we'll touch the lives of children and adults facing difficult life crises with bears they can hug to give them comfort. The bears give them emotional support whenever they feel sick, in pain, sad, or lonely.

We depend on financial gifts\* to continue our work. All funds **are only used** for what's needed for bears. We have **no paid staff**. **We're all volunteers.**

**Any amounts helps.** The material cost to make one bear is \$10.

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**