



BEARS OF HOPE

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

End of Year, 2016

MISSION

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

FOUNDER'S MESSAGE



*We did it! The 2000th Bears of Hope bear was finished at our November Drop-in. This wouldn't have happened **without YOU**, volunteers and financial supporters. Your unwavering commitment to Bears of Hope means so much to me.*

*Since our beginning in 2007, over **2,050 bears** are being loved by sick children and adults.*

During September - December, 96 bears were divided and delivered to our social service agencies for the sick children and adults under their care. This was their last delivery of bears until next year.

We also did many outreach events to involve the community in doing something for others in need and to make them more aware of what we do for sick children and adults.

September

*We had a "**Stuffing Party**" with residents at Brookdale Senior Living, Northbrook. Twenty residents came to stuff bears. (page 2)*

October

*Found us participating in Niles West High School's "**Volunteer Fair**". We talked to students about volunteer opportunities at Bears of Hope. (page 2)*

November

For the 7th year, we joined Skokie's McCormick & Schmick's Seafood & Steak Restaurant 's "Veterans Appreciation Day" (page 3)

Four volunteers were welcomed to our team between November-December. There's always room for more volunteers. (page 3)

BEARS BIG NEWS

JANUARY, 2017 BEGINS TENTH YEAR

The journey has been incredible and satisfying. There's so much history about the good things Bears of Hope has done these past 10 years. Together, volunteers and supporters, we reached this milestone. Thank you for what YOU have done and continue to do for Bears of Hope.

Wishing you and your family a New Year filled with happiness, good health and peace.

Carolyn

Carolyn Reiner, Founder

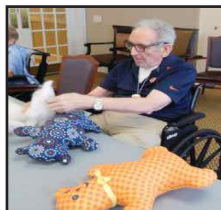
Carolyn@carolynreiner.com

2000th bear



SENIORS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Senior residents from Brookdale Senior Living Residence came to *Bears of Hope's* “Stuffing Party” on September 9th. The seniors stuffed 42 bears for veterans and 12 bears for sick children and adults. One resident said, “*I felt so good doing something for the veterans. They did so much for us so we could live in freedom.*” Bear volunteers **Sheila Mozin, Carolyn Reiner, Sandy Shuster, Yvonne Sloan & Sandy Taylor** assisted the seniors, as needed, and socialized with them.



VETERANS HONORED



Bears of Hope joined Skokie’s McCormick and Schmick’s Seafood & Steak Restaurant for its annual “**Veterans Appreciation Day**” November 6, 2016. The restaurant gave veterans a complimentary lunch or dinner entrée and we gave them patriotic-themed fabric bears.

Bear volunteers **Tanya Andressen, Marge Davis, Judy Litman, Sheila Mozin, Joanne Purvin & Carolyn Reiner** personally thanked the veterans for their service to our nation and gave them our patriotic bears. Sheila replied, “*I enjoyed meeting the veterans and listening to their service stories. They are so grateful for the bears.*”

Marge met a **World War II veteran** who just returned from an **Honor Flight** and Tanya was excited to meet a veteran couple who met while in military service. She was an Army nurse and he was an Air Force pilot. After the service, they got married and raised 3 girls. Two of their girls are in the Air Force. One daughter flies Blackhawk helicopters and was named **2016 Pilot of the Year**. Their Dad said, “*I’m proud of what my daughters are doing for our country, but worry everyday about their safety.*”

Restaurant General Manager, Aaron Torricelli, added, “*This was McCormick & Schmick’s 19th annual ‘Veterans Appreciation Day’. We are honored to pay tribute to our veterans. Bears of Hope was an added bonus and a huge part of the event that meant so much to the veterans.*”

BEARS PARTICIPATE IN STUDENT VOLUNTEER FAIR

Bears of Hope had a booth at Skokie's Niles West High School "Volunteer Fair" Friday, October 21st. During the lunch periods, students came to our booth to find out about volunteer opportunities with us. **Bear volunteers Carolyn Reiner & Sandy Taylor** spoke to many students and twenty filled out our volunteer application. Kathie Odell, Director of Student Activities, at Niles West High School wrote:



Thank you so much for taking the time to attend our "Volunteer Fair". By providing volunteer opportunities for our students, Bears of Hope is helping promote our Mission of Community Service.

VOLUNTEERS CORNER

We added 4 more volunteers to our team between November-December.

Jessica Hansen	sew bears
Emma Singer	stuff bears
Marcia Thill	stuff and close bears
Alex White	stuff bears

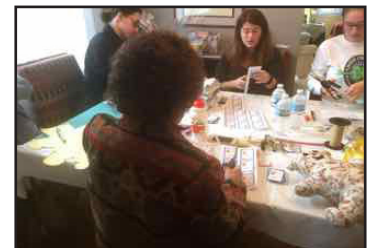
Thank you to the following volunteers who attended Drop-ins to get bears ready for delivery to local social service agencies for sick children & adults under their care

September	Carol P, Claire, Joanne, Sandy S, Sandy T, Sheila, & Sue Ann
October	Joan, Joanne, Kevin, & Sandy T
November	Joan, Marge, Sandy T, Sue Ann & Yvonne
December	Claire, Jamie, Jessica, Mary, Mira, Sandra S, Sandy T, Sheila & Sue Ann



Pictures of Drop-ins

We also thank volunteers who sew, stuff and close bears to get them ready for finishing touches at Drop-ins.



Bears of Hope appreciates everything our volunteers do for us.

BEARS SUPPORTERS

A GREAT BIG THANK YOU FINANCIAL SUPPORTERS

YOUR GIFTS make it possible for *Bears of Hope*
to make bears to comfort sick children and adults.

We appreciate what YOU do for us.

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

BECOME PART OF *BEARS OF HOPE'S* CAUSE: COMFORTING SICK CHILDREN & ADULTS WITH BEARS

To continue our work, we rely on volunteers to make bears and individuals and businesses financial gifts* to provide the means for what's needed for bears.

We give bears to local social service agencies for the sick children and adults under their care. The agencies tell us:

*"We're grateful to have the bears.
They bring our patients/clients comfort, hope and aid in their healing."*

To Volunteer: contact us:

e-mail: Bears@bearsofhope.com or call 847-673-4098

To make a financial gift*: 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.*

**Visit our website
Bearsofhope.com**