



## End of Year, 2017

### MISSION

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

### FOUNDER'S MESSAGE



*It's been an exciting year celebrating our 10th year anniversary and soon our 11th year will begin. I hope you had a chance to see the video our webmaster, Eric Reiner, created and liked everything we've done. If you haven't seen the video, here's the link:*

<https://youtu.be/5thzzaeFs6s>

#### ***A BIG thank you Eric***

*All of our social service agencies received their last 2017 supply of bears before the end of the year. We'll continue sending them bears in 2018. The agencies tell us how meaningful the bears are to the children and adults receiving them. The bears give them emotional support they need to feel better.*

*Two new volunteers were welcomed to our team between September-December. There's always room for more volunteers. (page 3)*

*The last 3 months found us doing outreach events in the community.*

#### **October**

*We participated in Niles West High School's "Volunteer Fair" We talked to students about Volunteer opportunities at Bears of Hope. Several students were interested in volunteering. (page 2)*

#### **November**

*For the 7th year, we joined Skokie's McCormick & Schmick's Seafood & Steak Restaurant's "Veterans Appreciation Day." (page 2)*

*Teacher Kate Mazukelli from Park View School, Morton Grove, wanted her students to learn the meaning of the word empathy. She asked Bears Of Hope for help. (page 3)*

*One of our teen-age volunteer's Mom called us. Her relatives were coming for Thanksgiving and staying the weekend. They wanted to do something for a charity and chose Bears of Hope (Page 3)*

#### **December**



*Fairfield Processing Inc. makes the poly-fil we use to stuff our bears. The company was making a video for its "We Make For Good" program and wanted to include Bears of Hope.*

*This program is about how people and groups use poly-fil to make something for others in need. Carolyn was interviewed and Bears volunteers were taped making bears. The video will soon be on [www.FairfieldWorld.com](http://www.FairfieldWorld.com).*

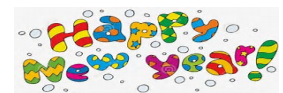
*There's so much history about the good things Bears of Hope has done these past 10 years. Volunteers and supporters, **YOU** made this happen. Thank you for your unwavering dedication to Bears of Hope.*

*Wishing you and your family a New Year filled with happiness, good health and much success.*

*With much gratitude,*

*Carolyn*

*[Carolyn@carolynreiner.com](mailto:Carolyn@carolynreiner.com)*



## WE CARE ABOUT VETERANS

Bears of Hope has been making patriotic-themed bears for veterans since 2008. Our first patriotic bears were given to veterans attending a special performance “Honoring Veterans” at the Skokie Music Theater. Veterans from Hines VA Hospital and Silver Star veterans received bears.

Since 2009, we have joined Skokie’s McCormick & Schmick’s Seafood & Steak Restaurant for its annual “**Veterans Appreciation Day**”. This year the event was held on Sunday, November 5, 2017. The restaurant gave veterans a complimentary lunch or dinner entree. We gave them a special patriotic bear. Bears Founder, Carolyn, said, *“Making patriotic bears for veterans is our way of thanking them for their service to our nation and showing them how much we care.”*

Veterans representing all branches of service came to the restaurant. They had served in World War II, Korean War, Vietnam, Iraq and Afghanistan. Bears volunteers, Sheila & Jamie felt humbled to meet three World War II veterans. They said, *“The veterans told us how appreciative they were about what we do.”*

Patriotic bears are also given to Rainbow Hospice and Palliative Care, a receiving VA Hospice, for terminally ill and dying veterans. Karen Huber, Rainbow’s Coordinator of Volunteer Services, commented, *“The bears bring smiles to the veterans faces, give them comfort and lets them know people care about them and what they did for our country.”*

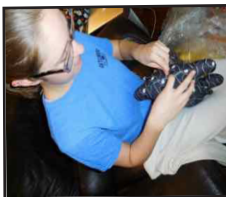
Restaurant General Manager, Aaron Torricelli, commented, *“This is McCormick & Schmick’s 20th year paying tribute to our veterans. They did so much to keep our country safe and free from tyrants. Having Bears of Hope at our location was an added bonus.”*



## VOLUNTEER FAIR AT NILES WEST

For the second year, Bears of Hope participated in Niles West High School’s, “**Volunteer Fair**” held on October 27, 2017. Katie Odell, Director of Student Activities for Niles West High School, said, *“The goal for the Fair is to expose our students to many different organizations in the area and get them involved.”*

Students get credit points for volunteering. Those who achieve 100 volunteer points at the end of their senior year, are honored at the graduation ceremony with an honor cord. One hundred Niles West 2017 Senior Graduation Class students were awarded with a special honor cord for their volunteer accomplishment. Founder, Carolyn Reiner, remarked, *“We’re proud of Bears volunteer, Claire. She was one of the seniors honored for her volunteer services.”*



Claire closing a bear

Besides Bears of Hope, eight other organizations had booths at the Fair. During lunch periods, students came to the booths to find out about volunteer opportunities. Bears volunteers, Carolyn & Sandy spoke to many students and demonstrated what needed to be done such as: sewing, stuffing and closing bears.

By volunteering with Bears of Hope, students are doing something worthwhile for others while having a fun-time doing it.



## FAMILY DOES A GOOD DEED

Lorrie Hansen, mother of Bears of Hope volunteer, Jessica, was expecting her relatives coming to Skokie, IL for the Thanksgiving Holiday weekend. She called us and said, *"My relatives and I are looking for an opportunity to help a local charity while everyone is in town. Is there something we could do for Bears of Hope?"* Indeed, there were bears waiting to be sewn, stuffed and finished. Materials were put together for Lorrie and her relatives.



On Saturday, November 25, 2017, all the aunts, young and old cousins, and Grandparents held a Bear Workshop. Aunt Lorrie's daughter, Jessica, took the lead in charge of sewing and bears production while her sister, Amanda, was in charge of ironing-on facial features and labels (and hugging bears!). Grandparents were persistent bear-stuffers. Grandpa Jake replied, *"This was a terrific idea!"* The aunts and older cousins helped the youngest cousins tie bows on bears. Lorrie said, *"We had a bear-y good time!"*



Bears Founder, Carolyn, commented, *"Bears of Hope is grateful for what this family did for us. They certainly exhibit a true spirit of caring for others in need."*



## 8th GRADE STUDENTS LEARN EMPATHY

Parkview School teacher, Kath Mazukelli, wanted her 8th grade students to learn what the word empathy meant. She called us and said, *"Bears of Hope would be an amazing way to help my students learn empathy. Is there something my students could do for Bears of Hope?"* Of course there was.

Kate showed them our video, "Bears of Hope 10 Year Celebration" the day before we arrived. After seeing the video, the students wrote letters to go with the bears they would finish the next day. Their letters showed concern, caring and wishes to get better. Carolyn and Sandy came to the Morton Grove School on Tuesday, November 21, 2017. Three projects were setup in the library. Before work started, Carolyn told the students about the children who would receive the Bears.

The students were put into four groups. Whenever a group finished a bag of bears, students exchanged places with others working on bear-making processes. Every student had a chance to work on all three projects. Their teacher told us: *"I was so glad to see my students enjoying themselves and working together on something to make someone sick feel better. This hands-on experience was perfect for them to learn the word empathy."*





## VOLUNTEERS CORNER

We added 2 volunteers to our team between September - December, 2017

**Edy Perisan**

**Sew & Close bears**

**Libby deKlerk (Niles West Student)**

**Stuff bears**

**Thank you to the following volunteers who helped at Drop-ins:**

**October 28 Drop-in: Carol P, Eileen, Sandy S, Sheila & Sandy T**

**November 5 Drop-in: Eileene, Marge, Jamie, Rosemarie, Sandy S & Sheila**

**December 9 Drop-in: Carol P, Marge, Jamie & Sandy T**

**A special thank you to volunteers who picked up materials to make bears.**

## BEARS OF HOPE SUPPORTERS

### A BIG THANK YOU Supporters

**YOU make it possible we can make bears**

Albany Bank & Trust Company  
A Safe Home Cleaning Service  
Axeccess Advisors, CPA  
BDO, CPAs  
Coldwell Banker  
Comfort Keepers  
Edward Jones Investments  
Fairfield Processing Inc.  
Gimbel, Abrams & Singer, CPAs  
Haben Funeral Home & Crematory

Heart Complete Auto Care (AKA Duxler)  
Hi-Tech Auto Body of Skokie  
Holly J. Waxman, Interior Designer  
McCormick & Schmick's Restaurants  
MSC Credit Card Services  
Munamie, Artist  
North Shore Community Bank  
Old Orchard Periodontics & Implants  
Our Village Newspaper

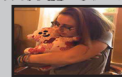
Paul Plotnick, Attorney at Law  
Remodeling by J.R.Graves  
Remodeling by the Tinman  
Rothschild Insurance Group  
Skokie Chamber of  
Commerce & Industry  
Skokie Paint & Wallpaper  
Skokie Public Library  
Tash Fitness  
Topline HVAC

## BECOME PART OF BEARS OF HOPE

**Volunteer: e-mail: [Bears@bearsofhope.com](mailto:Bears@bearsofhope.com) or call 847-673-4098**

**Support: Send YOUR check\* Bears of Hope 8331 Kostner Skokie, IL 60076**

Be the reason  
someone  
smiles today



*\*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](http://Bearsofhope.com)**