



BEARS OF HOPE

January - March, 2018

MISSION

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

FOUNDER'S MESSAGE



January began Bears of Hope's 11th year making bears to give comfort and hope to sick children and adults,

**Volunteers & Supporters
YOU MAKE
THIS HAPPEN !**

In January, I had another surgery, this time to remove arthritis from my right thumb. While this prevented me from working directly on bears, Bear volunteers continued to sew, stuff & close bears as well as prepared bears for delivery. I am so fortunate to have dedicated volunteers who are ready to do what's needed to keep Bears of Hope going forward.

Volunteers, YOU are very special to me

During the past 3 months, **54 bears** were divided among the social service agencies receiving bears

- Chai Lifeline
- Children's Advocacy Center
(N & NWCook County)
- Journey Care Hospice
- Skokie Fire Department
- Skokie Police Department
- Women's Shelters:
North & Far northern suburbs
- Zacharias Sexual Abuse Center

Did you know....we even use left over fabrics from the bears to make baby bibs! Women's Shelters receive bibs along with their bear delivery.



*Women come to our shelter with their children. The bibs come in handy for the infants and babies. Thank you very much.
Chicago Shelter*

During the first quarter, we helped the College of American Pathologists (CAP) do a good deed. Bears volunteer and CAP employee, Dani Spanjer, recommended Bears of Hope for her CAP group as its charitable work. Carrie Glas, who leads this group, called us to arrange the event. In March, we came to CAP headquarters with materials for employees to complete. (page 2)

Bears of Hope is always busy. Our work never ends. **Together, volunteers and supporters, we "Make 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

CAP EMPLOYEES WORK ON BEARS

On March 14th, Bears volunteers, Carolyn and Sandy, brought handfuls of things for CAP (College of American Pathologists) employees to do so they could experience the bear-making process. The employees were able to choose what to do: iron-on facial features, tie ribbon around bears necks with a bow, cut out material tags & labels; cut ribbon; trace the bear pattern on fabric; or put Bears of Hope stickers on gummy bears. Sandy was amazed how much was accomplished. Carolyn thanked the employees and told them their efforts today will finish more bears quickly. Employee Susan Williams said, *“We had a great time finishing everything with time to spare! Our sincere thanks*



to Carolyn and Sandy for coming to CAPS and sharing Bears of Hope’s program with us.” CAP gives its employees time to do charitable work and listed Bears of Hope on its recommended organizations for volunteer opportunities.

Bears of Hopes likes doing community outreach events. These events, like the one for CAPs, show the community what we do to ‘Make a Difference’ in the lives of sick children and adults.



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 needed by children with a life-threatening illness when parents are unable to pay for it.

Children’s Advocacy Center North & Northwest Cook County (CAC)

Counsels abused children & holds offenders accountable for their actions.

Hospice & Palliative Care Centers:

Journey Care & Rainbow

Promotes wellness, comfort & quality of life for the chronically & seriously ill, aging, & dying.

Skokie Fire Department

Provides citizens with emergency fire & EMT services.

Skokie Police Department

Protects life & property, individual rights, enforcement of ordinances & regulations, & the preservation of peace, order & safety.

VA Hospice at 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.

BEARS GET E-MAILS

We received the bears this morning and can't thank you enough. We recently did a public education program at a church, where we gave out over ten bears. The kids were thrilled. You have given us a great way to open our kids up even more. We are able to not only reach those ill or injured, but also those in an educational setting. Thank you.

Skokie Fire Department



Thank you so much for sharing information about our students. It is so awesome they are volunteering so the cute bears from Bears of Hope can be distributed to children and adults who could use a sweet BEAR HUG!

Kudos to you all for making this happen each and every year! You put smiles on the faces of those who are the recipients!

Niles Township High School Dst. 219

VOLUNTEERS CORNER

Bears of Hope is fortunate to have dedicated volunteers. They pick up materials to sew, stuff or close bears and drop-off completed bears; come to Drop-ins; and help at community outreach events.

BIG thank you to **Joan and Sandy T** who each took time in January to organize bears for pick-up and delivery. It was a great help to me when I was recovering from surgery.

Thank you to the following volunteers who came to the March 24th Drop-in. They finished bears and got them ready to be delivered.

Carol P; Eileene; Eleanor & Sandy T

A special thank you to Volunteers who picked up & dropped off bears.



Eleanor tying bows on bears



Sandy T (right) ironing on bears facial features & Carol P journalizing & numbering 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
 Axxcess Advisors, CPA
 BDO, CPAs
 Coldwell Banker
 Comfort Keepers
 Edward Jones Investments
 Fairfield Processing Inc.
 Gimbel, Abrams & Singer, CPAs
 Haben Funeral Home & Crematory

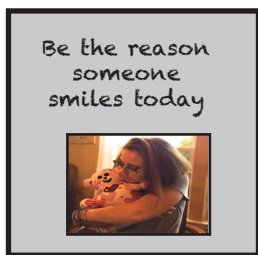
Heart Complete Auto Care
 Hi-Tech Auto Body of Skokie
 Holly J. Waxman, Interior Designer
 McCormick & Schmick's Restaurants
 MSC Credit Card Services
 Munamie, Artist
 North Shore Community Bank
 Old Orchard Periodontics & Implants
 Our Village Newspaper

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

We bring hugs to comfort sick children & adults



BECOME PART OF BEARS OF HOPE



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

Support: Send YOUR check* **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