



**Bears of Hope**  
*Bringing hugs, & comfort  
to sick & needy children*

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## **Bears of Hope 2008 Year in Review**

Dear Friends,

On behalf of *Bears of Hope* volunteers and myself, we want to thank you for the support you gave us this year. We also want to share with you what we've been able to do for sick and needy children and elderly adults who are ill or lonely.

### **BEARS BRING COMFORT**

We've made and given a total of 220 bears to clergy and organizations to bring to children and elderly adults. This year, religious leaders from these churches and synagogues received bears:

Lubavitch Chabad-Skokie; Temple Judea Mizpah; Congregation  
Or Torah; Temple Chai; Elk Grove Presbyterian Church;  
Parkview Community Church; Wilmette Lutheran Church;  
and St. Timothy's Lutheran Church.

When more bears were needed, they called us and we brought them more bears. This will continue next year.

These organizations received bears:

Chai Lifeline; CJE Senior Life; Children's Home & Aid Society in  
Arlington Heights; Bethany Terrace Nursing Centre; Armenia Relief  
Mission in Armenia; Skokie Police Department; Women's Shelter;  
and Jewish Child and Family Services.

On a rotating basis, we continuously bring these organizations 6-8 bears.

### **COMMENTS**

*The bears are just so special. They will be cuddled and loved.*

Chai LifeLine

*The bears that you provided will allow these women to give their children special gifts, as they strive to build new lives free from violence....The women are very grateful for your gifts that are so important during what is such a painful and trying time in their lives.*

Women's Shelter

*The bears have been a real comfort to our residents and family members.*

Bethany Terrace Health Centre

## KIDS DOING SOMETHING GOOD

Westfield Old Orchard invited *Bears of Hope* to present a program for children who attend their monthly KIDOODLES Club. We prepared pieces of unprinted cotton fabric with a *Bears of Hope* bear tracing. The children painted designs on the fabric with fabric paint markers. Their fabric designs were made into bears by our volunteers and given to Skokie Police Officers to give to children suffering trauma from traffic accidents, domestic disturbances, or criminal activities. We've been invited to come back next year to present this program again.



Fabric designs by kids for *Bears of Hope*

A parent called and said her daughter, Leah, wanted her Bat Mitzvah celebration to do something good for others. Here's what we did. At the celebration, we shared the bears story and what we do for sick and needy children & elderly adults. Then we gave each guest a piece of unprinted cotton fabric with the bear tracing. The guests designed the fabric with fabric paint markers. We are now in the process of sewing the designed fabric pieces into bears. Leah selected Chai Lifeline, an agency dedicated to helping children suffering from a serious life-threatening illness to be the recipient of these bears.

Another boy, Danny, is designing fabric pieces as one of his community projects; he has to do three good deeds for others before his Bar Mitzvah. When he has the pieces designed, we'll sew them into bears and give them to an organization Danny chooses.

Having kids paint designs on unprinted cotton fabric pieces is a new program *Bears of Hope* offers children and children's groups. It's a way for children to do something good for others while having a creative, fun-filled experience. The organizations participating in the Bears of Hope program welcome the painted fabric bears as well as the printed fabric bears we usually make.

## SENIORS STUFF BEARS



Senior residents at Seasons at Glenview Place, an independent senior residence in Glenview-Northbrook, stuffed 60 *Bears of Hope* this past year. Several times a year, we hold a "Stuffing Party" at the Seasons. We bring bears and poly-fil stuffing and spend the afternoon stuffing bears with the residents. Bea Silver, a Seasons resident, said "*It feels good to be able to do something that will bring comfort to children.*"

## **VOLUNTEERS STEP UP**

*Bears of Hope* is truly blessed with dedicated volunteers who give their time and effort to make the bears. With twelve volunteers, we give sick and needy children and elderly adults bears to hug, feel comfort and spiritual hope. The help our volunteers give *Bears of Hope* is wholeheartedly appreciated.

This has been an exciting and busy year for *Bears of Hope*. We count on your support to continue our work. Next year our goal is 230 bears for children and elderly adults who need support.

Knowing how much joy the bears bring to others, gives *Bears of Hope* volunteers and me, a feeling of satisfaction we're doing something good for the community.

To Life,

Carolyn Reiner  
Founder & Volunteer



*The bears wish you a wonderful Holiday Season and a New Year filled with peace, happiness and good health.*

Visit our website: [www.bears of hope.com](http://www.bears of hope.com)

*Donations to the Bears of Hope are not deductible as charitable contributions for tax purposes; they support materials to make bears for children.*