



BEARS OF HOPE

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News Update January - May, 2009

We hope you will be pleased with all we've done to comfort sick and needy children and adults.

MISSION

Provide children & adults recovering from an illness; suffering trauma; feeling depressed; or mourning the loss of a loved one, a special bear to give them hugs, comfort, and hope. We do this by making fabric bears we give to clergy and social service organizations to bring to those coping with a difficult life situation.

BEARS BRING COMFORT

90 bears were given to the following organizations between January - May

Congregation B'nai Torah	Chai Lifeline
Skokie Police Department	Jewish Children & Family Services
Armenian Relief Mission	Children's Home & Aid Society
Bethany Terrace Nursing Centre	Women's Shelter-Northern Suburbs
WINGS Women's Shelter -Chicago Northwest	

These groups gave bears to children & adults facing a difficult time in their life.



Bears of Hope ready to give TLC to children and adults in need of support

SPECIAL EVENTS

Bears of Hope Craft Program

KidOOdle bears designed by children ages 3-16 at Westfield Old Orchard's children's program last fall were made into bears and given to the Skokie Police Department. Officers will give the bears to children suffering trauma from auto accidents, domestic disturbance, or criminal situations.

Lisa's bears designed by guests ages 12-14 at her Bat Mitzvah celebration were made into bears and given to Chai Lifeline to give to children with serious life-threatening diseases.

Yael's bears designed by guests ages 6-10 at her birthday party are now being made into bears. When completed they will be given to the Women's Shelter-Northern Suburbs.



Bears of Hope Founder, Carolyn Reiner, giving Skokie Police Officers KidOOdle Bears



Lisa's Bat Mitzvah Celebration



Yael's Birthday Celebration

SPECIAL EVENTS (continued)

usaservice.org

Bears of Hope posted a request for volunteers at this website.

- Five people volunteered and are making bears.
- A group of employees from **Littelfuse, Inc.** volunteered and made 50 bears.
- **PACE** (Professional Assistant Center for Education) is a special program at National Louis University for adults 18-30 yrs old with multiple learning disabilities. They invited *Bears of Hope* to participant in its “Community Day Project” on Saturday, February 7. Three *Bears of Hope* volunteers helped students stuff bears.



Littelfuse Employees Stuffing Bears

Bears Camp

Eight *Bears of Hope* volunteers came to “Bears Camp” held in January. They worked on getting bears ready to give clergy and social service organizations to bring to sick and needy children and adults.

Veteran’s Project

In November, the **Skokie Music Theatre** will hold a special program for veteran’s from Heinz VA hospital. During the performance, *Bears of Hope* will give patriotic bears to veterans to thank them for their service. Bears volunteers are making the bears. Keeping with our philosophy, no two bears are alike - each bear will be unique. **Westfield Old Orchard** will supply gift bags to wrap the bears.

BEARS RECEIVE GIFTS

Bears of Hope appreciates these gifts:

- **Skokie Public Library** for boxes we use to deliver the bears.
- **Westfield Old Orchard** for shopping bags to keep bears clean when in Skokie Police Officers’ cars.
- **Street Level Newspaper** for articles about the bears special events.

Fabric donations:

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| -Elmwood Fabric Gallery, Racine, WI | -Loose Threads, Milton, WI |
| -Patched Works, Elm Grove, WI | -Tea and Textiles Quilt Shop, Jefferson, WI |
| -Littelfuse, Inc, DesPlaines, IL | -Barbara Isaccson |
| -Judy Litman | -Bea Silver |

Thank You Supporters

You provide the resources so *Bears of Hope* is able to make and give bears to children and adults needing hugs, comfort and hope.