



BEARS OF HOPE

Bears@bearsofhope.com

847-673-4098

www.bearsofhope.com

October - December, 2009

We hope you will be pleased with all we do 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

67 bears were given to these organizations:

Armenian Relief Mission in Armenia

Chai Lifeline

Rainbow Hospice

Skokie Police Department

Women's Shelter - Far North Suburbs

Bethany Terrace Nursing Centre

Jewish Child & Family Services

Skokie Fire Department

Women's Shelter - Chicago Northwest

Women's Shelter - Northern Suburbs

Since 2007, we have made 560 bears that are now bringing hugs, comfort, and TLC to those needing support.



Bears ready to give hugs to sick and needy children

SPECIAL EVENTS

Children's Craft Program

First American Bank, Skokie branch, sponsored our children's craft program as a community event for kids to design a bear on fabric.

We are now making bears from the designs created. The **Skokie Fire Department** will receive the bears to give to children suffering trauma from a fire disaster.



Children designing bears

Bears of Hope Volunteers Attended Bears Camp

Volunteers came to Bears Camp at **McCormick & Schmick's**, Westfield Old Orchard, Skokie, IL. Work stations were set up to assemble bears from stuffing, sewing, ironing-on face features to tying on bows around bears necks. Volunteers chose what they wanted to do.

At lunch, volunteers were honored and given appreciation certificates. McCormick & Schmick's gave the volunteers dining certificates to thank them for their volunteerism. We appreciate what **McCormick & Schmick's** did for *Bears of Hope*: dining certificates, room for Bears Camp; and lunch. In addition, the restaurant helped *Bears of Hope* raise funds to purchase materials to make more bears.



Volunteer, Elaine, hand-sewing bear openings closed

Senior Citizens Help the Bears

Bears volunteer, Joanne Purvin, coordinates the stuffing program at the **Wheeling Senior Center**. "The crafters love stuffing the bears and are excited whenever I bring bears for them to stuff", exclaimed Joanne. She brings bears to stuff bi-monthly.



Wheeling Senior Crafters stuffing bears

SPECIAL EVENTS (continued)

Senior residents at Seasons at Glenview Place, an independent senior residence in Glenview-Northbrook, stuff bears for us. Sarah Rieger, Director of Lifestyle Programs at the Seasons, said, "*The seniors really enjoy this program. They are always asking, when are the bears coming?*" We bring bears to the Seasons several times a year.



Residents stuffing bears

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Volunteers

It takes many hands to make *Bears of Hope*. We have **26 volunteers** who choose what they want to do such as: machine sew bears; stuff bears; hand-sew opening closed, etc..

Bears Webmaster Revised Website

Thanks to our webmaster, Eric Reiner, the Bears website is 'live' on the Internet. It has been completely revised and has lots of information and news about the bears. A new feature under "How to Help" lists *Bears of Hope* supporters with a link to their respective website.

BEARS SUPPORTERS

Thank You Supporters

We appreciate the resources **YOU** provide so *Bears of Hope* can continue to make and give huggable, handcrafted bears to children and adults needing hugs, comfort and hope.

Duxler Complete Auto Care
Phat Quarter's
Littelfuse, Inc.
Patched Works
Rothschild Insurance Group
SkokieNet.org
Street Level Newspaper
Westfield Old Orchard

Fairfield Processing Inc.
Haben Funeral Home
Loose Threads
Paul Plotnick, Attorney
Sew 'n Save of Racine
Skokie Public Library
Tea & Textiles Quilt Shop

First American Bank
Hi-Tech Auto Body of Skokie
McCormick & Schmick's
Remodeling by the Tinman
Skokie Music Theatre
Spark of the Heart
Triblocal.com
Anonymous Individuals

WORD FROM OUR FOUNDER

*I'm so excited January, 2010 begins our 4th year. The journey has been incredible and satisfying, **Thanks to YOU, volunteers and supporters.** I appreciate what each of you have done and continue to do for Bears of Hope. The many letters we receive from organizations tells us how much comfort and joy the bears bring to those needing TLC as they face a difficult time in their life. With your continued support, we make a difference in the lives of others.*



*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*

Donations to Bears of Hope are not deductible as charitable contributions for tax purposes; they support materials to make bears to comfort sick and needy children and adults.