



# BEARS OF HOPE

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## News Update June - September, 2009

*We hope you will be pleased with all we've been doing 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

**134 bears were given** to the following organizations to bring to individuals facing a trying time:

Armenian Relief Mission  
Chai Lifeline  
Jewish Children & Family Services  
Skokie Police Department  
Women's Shelter - Northern Suburbs

Bethany Terrace Nursing Centre  
Children's Home & Aid Society  
Rainbow Hospice  
Women's Shelter - Chicago Northwest  
Women's Shelter - Far North Suburbs

#### **27 Patriotic Bears Made for Veterans**

Seven were given to veterans from Hines VA Hospital; two were given to veterans receiving the American Patriot Award and two were given to veterans receiving the Silver Star Award.

The presentation to veterans was part of a program at the **Skokie Music Theatre** held on September 9th to honor veterans and thank them for their service. In November, the Skokie Music Theatre will hold another program to honor veterans. The veterans attending the program will be given Patriotic Bears.



*"Patriotic" Bears of Hope*

Since the beginning of the year **235 bears have brought TLC** to those in need of support.

From our beginning in 2007 to September 30, 2009, a total of **444 bears have been given to sick and needy children and adults.**

### SPECIAL EVENTS

#### Mitzvah Day Focuses on Good Deeds

*Bears of Hope* was one of many social service organizations invited to participate in **Temple Judea Mizpah's** Mitzvah Day event on August 23rd. The event gave us an opportunity to let the public know what *Bears of Hope* does to bring comfort to individuals struggling with a difficult time in their life. Bears volunteers, Carolyn, Elaine, Jamie, Joanne, Lynn & Mary helped at our booth. To attract people, we stuffed bears and sewed bears closed. The Rabbi of Temple Judea Mizpah receives our bears and brings them to sick and needy individuals she visits.



*Bears Volunteers at Our Booth*

## SPECIAL EVENTS (continued)

### Bears of Hope Craft Program

**Yael's bears** designed at her birthday party in February are on their way to comfort children at the **Women's Shelter-Northern Suburbs**.



Yael's Bears

**Carli chose *Bears of Hope* for her Mitzvah project.** Carli and her friends designed the bears. Bears volunteers are making bears from their designs. When completed Carli's Bears will be given to the **Jewish Children & Family Services (JCFS)**.



Carli's Mitzvah Project

**First American Bank, 4611 Golf Rd, Skokie, is sponsoring *Bears of Hope's* Craft program** on November 7th from 10:30am until 12pm. Children ages 6-15 are invited to come to the bank and design a bear on fabric with special fabric paint markers. Bears volunteers will make bears from the designs. These bears will be given to the **Skokie Fire Department** to give to children suffering trauma from a fire disaster.

## BREAKING NEWS

### Bears of Hope Revised Website

Thanks to Eric Reiner, the Bears new website is 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 websites.

### Students Doing A Good Deed

Students at **Orchard Academy** have volunteered to make *Bears of Hope*. The students ages 17-22 have cognitive, emotional and/or learning disabilities. The program at Orchard Academy is designed for the students to earn their high school diploma and be ready to transition into adult living. By working with *Bears of Hope*, the students will learn to develop work and life skills.

### Bears Camp Scheduled November 21st at McCormick & Schmick's, Skokie

*Bears of Hope* volunteers will be honored for their service making bears to comfort sick and needy children and adults during Bears Camp. New volunteers to our organization will learn more about the bears and how we make them. Lunch will be provided by **McCormick & Schmick's**.

## BEARS SUPPORTERS

Duxler Complete Auto Care  
Haben Funeral Home  
McCormick & Schmick's  
Rothschild Insurance Group  
Skokie Public Library  
Triblocal.com

Fairfield Processing Inc.  
Hi-Tech Auto Body of Skokie  
Paul Plotnick, Attorney  
Skokie Music Theatre  
Spark of the Heart

First American Bank  
Littelfuse, Inc.  
Remodeling by the Tinman  
SkokieNet.org  
Street Level Newspaper  
Westfield Old Orchard

### **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.