



**Bear Givers**

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## **Bear Givers Programs**

### **About Our Programs**

Bear Givers is dedicated to bringing joy to the lives of children in need with a variety of programs. Through hospital visits and school programs, this innovative non-profit touches the lives of children and their families across the country and around the world with a personal visit and the gift of a soft, cuddly teddy bear. Bear Givers also offers programs that enable these children to become givers and experience the thrill and pride of bringing happiness to others.

### **EmpowerArt Program**

Enabling Young People to Give Back through Art

The Bear Givers EmpowerART Program enables children with special needs or in hospitals to experience joy and pride in creating art, seeing it showcased and sold at a special exhibit, and making a meaningful contribution since all art sale proceeds are donated to their school, hospital or organization.

The magic starts when children create their works of art in preparation for the exhibit. Bear Givers then works with their school or hospital to mount a special exhibit showing all the children's art pieces. The children, families, friends, members of the community and special guests are invited to the exhibit and reception. The children are the stars of the opening reception. Their pride and excitement at seeing their artwork professionally framed, displayed, admired, and sold is overwhelming.

Finally, knowing that their work is enriching their school or facility provides them with a one of a kind sense of accomplishment and confidence.

### **Empowerment Program**

Enabling Kids with Special Needs to Enrich the Lives of Others

The Empowerment Program enables children with special needs to experience the joy and pride of giving to others. Bear Givers donates teddy bears to a school or organization so that each child receives a bear to keep and another give away. The children decide as a group where to donate the bears. The teddy bears are personally delivered by the children or shipped depending on the destination. Some groups make personal visits to give the bears to senior citizens at residences or to children in hospitals. Other groups send bears

along with handwritten cards and pictures to orphanages, cancer care centers, military personnel overseas and charitable foundations.

Because children with special needs are often in the position of receiving, the Bear Givers Empowerment Program is designed so that these youngsters can become benefactors and experience the joy and pride of giving to others. It enables them to make a meaningful contribution to the community. They know the excitement and happiness they feel at receiving a cuddly teddy bear is being shared by someone else thanks to their own efforts.

### **Hospital Visits**

#### Spreading Cheer with a Teddy Bear

Bear Givers facilitates programs and events in which children in hospitals are given teddy bears by Bear Givers representatives. These uplifting visits benefit both the givers and the recipients of the teddy bears in a heartwarming, positive experience. The sick children and their parents, who may be coping with the potential loneliness, isolation and anxiety caused by illness, are cheered and comforted and provided with a needed respite and welcome distraction. Bear Givers visits hospitals and pediatric facilities worldwide and often invites celebrities and special guests to interact with the young patients, and help with the distribution of the bears.

### **Teddy Bear Clinics**

#### Easing Fears of Hospital Procedures

Many hospitals and Student Nurse Associations use the Teddy Bears at a special clinic where children are encouraged to perform mock hospital procedures on their furry friends, using medical equipment and supplies. This enables them to become more familiar with the sometimes scary and overwhelming happenings in a hospital. As a result they are less fearful and more relaxed as they undergo similar procedures. Depending on the facility, the Teddy Bear Clinics can be an annual educational event for the local community, or a weekly event for their inpatients.

### **Milestone Celebrations**

#### Bear Givers Programs for Bar/Bat Mitzvah, Confirmation, and Sweet Sixteen Celebrations

It is important to provide a sense of sharing and recognition to those not as fortunate, and Bear Givers is proud to offer special programs that enable young people to perform charitable acts and give back as part of coming-of-age celebrations such as Bar and Bat

Mitzvahs, Confirmations, and Sweet Sixteen parties.

With the Bear Givers Milestone Celebration Program, the young guest of honor will donate teddy bears to an organization of his or her choosing. This might be a hospital, a school, a senior citizen residence, families of military personnel, or any organization of the young person's choice in the U.S. or abroad. The family of the young person will make a donation to Bear Givers and receive enough teddy bears to be donated to the selected organization and given as party favors to the participating young guests.

The teddy bears wear the t-shirts that can be customized to feature the guest of honor's logo, or name and celebration date. The t-shirts, along with personalized notecards, can be decorated by the guest of honor and friends during the special event.

After the big day, the guest of honor can personally deliver the teddy bears and personalized notes or ship them to the designated organization. Either way, it is made clear to each and every participant that they will be providing joy and comfort to someone in need who will benefit greatly from a welcome and unexpected gift.

To learn more contact Diane Lempert, President of Bear Givers, at [diane@beargivers.org](mailto:diane@beargivers.org)