



Dear Sisters and Brothers,

I am beyond thrilled at the amount of excitement you are showing for Bears By Your Side! At Grand Chapter we handed out 50 kits (that's 250 bears) in under a half hour! Now we just need to get them sewn and back to the office. To help make that happen, I want to share some information with you.

1. Each kit holds 5 bears and all the supplies (except scissors) that you need.
2. A kit takes about 15 minutes to put together and costs \$12.50.
3. The completed bears are put through a sterilizer and packaged with care.
4. There is a waiting list for hospitals, fire departments and police stations for the completed bears.
5. Mailing a kit costs a minimum of \$6.00 and returning kits by mail costs the same.

To help minimize issues, I have the following suggestions:

1. Hand sewn only. NO MACHINE SEWING.
2. When you create a heart and attach it to the bear, you are sending your love to a child in crisis. So do not worry about a "perfect" heart shape.
3. Do not overstuff your bear. Soft and cuddly is the goal.
4. Put on a happy face. Make your bear smile with love.

To help with costs:

1. If you have floss, thread, etc. and only need bears and hearts, let us know.
2. Do not mail the bears. Grand Adah, Lisa Blum and Grand Esther, Suzanne Huez have generously agreed to be our transport team. They will bring kits with them as they travel and will pick up your completed bears. You may also give them to any Grand Officer who will get them to Lisa or Suzanne.
3. Do not give your bears to a local facility. Bears By Your Side have a commitment to those who have applied for bears.
4. Do not keep a bear. If you want one, please send Bears By Your Side the recommended donation of \$25.00.

Please order your bears through me and let me know when they are ready. This will help us keep track of all your hard work and it will keep us from overwhelming Bears By Your Side. They do not have staff. Cruz's mother, Rebecca Giles works in the office on Fridays and Saturdays. Cruz works as much as he can. They also have Cruz's aunt and best friend that help. Those few people depend on volunteers.

The office has access to a workroom, and we will schedule work parties to put together kits. I will let you know of the dates of the work parties. You can also let me know you are interested so I can reach out to individuals that wish to help with kits.

Since the kits take time and they don't have a large crew, please be patient. Request your kits with a two week lead if you are planning an event.

Thank you for your love, support and enthusiasm.

Judy Parker, Chairman

Bears By Your Side State Project

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