



Village of Skokie

July 21, 2010

For Immediate Release **Public Information Division**

Skokie Fire Department Receives a Gift From Bears of Hope

The Village of Skokie Fire Department recently received twenty-two bears to console children suffering emergency induced trauma. These bears were designed last fall by children who attended a community event at the Skokie branch of First American Bank. The bank sponsored a *Bears of Hope* children's craft program, where children ages 5 to 15 were given unprinted cotton fabric to design with special fabric paint markers. *Bears of Hope* sewed the children's designs into bears, stuffed them and got them ready to give to the Skokie Fire Department.

The bears were brought to the Skokie Fire Department and were presented to Fire Chief Ralph Czerwinski, Captain Kenneth Borre and members of the department's emergency medical services. "These bears are amazing and so colorful. Fire Department personnel will carry them in our ambulances and the bears will certainly bring a smile and comfort children involved in an emergency situation," said Chief Czerwinski. Captain Borre said "The fire department appreciates the dedication and hard work *Bears of Hope* does for others. We are proud to be one of many social service organizations receiving their bears."

Bears of Hope, a Skokie-based volunteer organization, makes huggable handmade fabric printed bears for sick and needy children and adults. The organization has no paid staff, but relies on volunteers who give their time and effort to make the bears. Civic and social service organizations and clergy receive bears to give to children and adults they serve.

For more information contact *Bears of Hope* 847-673-4098 or visit www.bearsofhope.com

Released by the
Public Information Division
Janelle Silva
847/933-8257

Village Hall

5127 Oakton Street
Skokie, Illinois 60077

Phone (847) 673-0500
Fax (847) 673-0525

www.skokie.org
SkokieVision Municipal Cable
1660 AM Skokie

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Awards and Distinctions

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(APWA) Accreditation

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Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA)

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Fitch IBCA AAA Financial
Bond Rating

Gold Level Clean Air Counts
Community

Governor's Hometown Award

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Achievement for Excellence in
Financial Reporting

Insurance Services Office (ISO)
Class One Fire Department

State of Illinois Certified Health
Department

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