

Spinoza's Friends Speak



"Hello!", from Spinoza's new home in the "Great North Woods"



"Recently, our Lions club had the privilege of sponsoring a 4 year old boy (quad spastic cerebral palsy). When Daniel heard Spinoza sing and talk to him, his delightful smile could not be described in words. When our time with Daniel came to an end, it was us who were thankful; for getting to know a special child who has the gift of making people smile."

*Barbara Fleischer,
Lions of Greater Kenosha*



"Lilee is nearly four years old and has Spinal Muscular Distrophy. We are so happy to have this darling bear in our home. Lilee adores him. I so admire this concept, and the way in which wonderful messages and great comforts are provided through a soft, huggable companion."

Mom Annie, Moses Lake, WA

Lilee, sponsored by Lioness Club of Moses Lake, WA

"I have you for my friend, and you my friend have me.
Good friends, they are good friends forever"
Spinoza



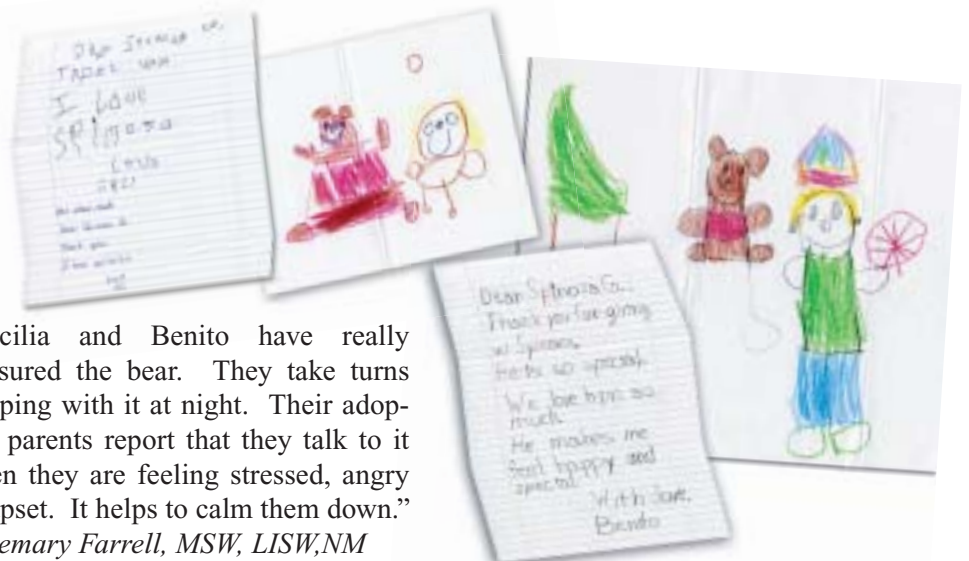
Griffin, sponsored by VFW Post 2126 of Menasha, WI

"Thank you so much! Griffin has already become friends with his bear and has been 'talking' to him all day. I love that Griffin will have company when I am busy around the house. Thank you so much...it has touched my heart very deeply!" *Connie*

"Cecilia and Benito have really treasured the bear. They take turns sleeping with it at night. Their adoptive parents report that they talk to it when they are feeling stressed, angry or upset. It helps to calm them down."

Rosemary Farrell, MSW, LISW,NM

Celia & Benito, sponsored by Truth or Consequences WOTM Chapter 1646



Thank you so much for your generous support and loving efforts. These children are suffering the impact of domestic violence in their lives. You have brought much joy, hope, healing and comfort to the children. In a life where nothing is predictable and they usually have to leave with just a few necessary things, it means so much to them that they have a (Spinoza) bear of their own. You are helping in the healing process of these children. Thank You! *Rosemary Farrell, El Refugio, NM*



Hans Taulien, avid White Sox fan and active member of the WHBCD Kiwanis Foundation in Darien, IL., recently donated his 100th Spinoza Bear.

In The News ...

Sandra Stahl is a supervisor with Children's Services of Niagara County Social Services. Here is an excerpt of her article which appeared in the Tonawanda News...

"We recently had a little girl placed in our custody. She's a little over two years old and she came from a pretty physically abusive situation. She has a lot of trouble sleeping, and we hadn't heard her say a word since she's been placed with us – not even simple things like 'no' or 'mine'. (the local Lions club then gave her a Spinoza Bear) She adored her bear from the moment she saw him. He was almost as big as her. Once she was sure he was hers to keep, she took him everywhere, including to bed. She began to sleep a little better and she had tea with Spinoza everyday. One day the foster Mom called and was very excited because she overheard this little girl saying a few words to Spinoza, the first words she had spoken since she came to us. She still doesn't say much, but when you call the foster Mom you can hear her jabbering in the background. It's so good to hear her talking. It shows what a marvelous job our foster parents have done, with some help from Spinoza Bear.

Spinoza is a therapeutic bear. He is big and cuddly and just plain lovable. He comes with nine tapes that talk about things being sad, needing a friend, having someone you love die, being scared or lonely, and lullabies to help them go to sleep. He is their friend when they don't have anyone. Some of our therapists use the bear in session. One of our little boys was having a tough time, and of course, the foster Mom was keeping the therapist updated on what was happening, so one day the therapist said to him, 'You look kind of sad today. Do you want to talk about it?' The little boy said, 'No, Spinoza and I talked it over, and it's OK to feel sad sometimes'. These bears are wonderful, but we need so many more. I'm asking fraternal organizations, churches, individuals, etc., or anyone who loves children and wants to help them, to consider sponsoring a bear for a child in Niagara County." ***Since publication last June, many people have responded to Sandy's call and sponsored Spinoza bears for the children she serves.***

In the Spirit of Giving ...

Many of you have asked us if you can present your donation of Spinoza Bear directly to the child. The answer is YES, absolutely, when you find your own child. We ship Spinoza to the street address that you provide and include a note letting the child/family know who donated their Spinoza. If you already have a Spinoza Bear on hand, please donate him to a child, church, hospital, clinic, Head Start, nursing service, long term care facility or social service agency of your choice in your community. By arranging your own personal delivery in your community, you are able to do any "In the News" or PR opportunities for your club or organization.

Due to HIPAA, and regulations concerning patient privacy, most of the facilities that refer children no longer allow any personal deliveries. In some cases, we can arrange for you to present the child's Spinoza Bear to the child life specialist, social worker or receptionist who will receive it on the child's behalf. We value the excellent reputation we have earned and the contacts that have been made at our facilities over the years. We all understand and respect the busy and critical work day of the social worker or health care professional. The timeliest method for sponsoring a hurting child is to allow us to send it directly to our contact at the facility who referred this child. Your sponsor information will be included in the box with Spinoza and we encourage the family to send a personal thank you to the organization that donated Spinoza. Hospital staff, social workers and health care professionals have been known to send a thank you to the organization as well. 'Bear' with the families if a 'thank you' from a family is not immediate. We have heard from clubs that have received their 'thank you' years after the fact. After all, as many of you well know, Spinoza is the gift that keeps on giving!

Sponsor ID (if known) _____

Sponsor Information

Organization _____

Name/Title _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Day Phone _____

Email _____

Ship To If different from left

Organization _____

Name/Title _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Day Phone _____

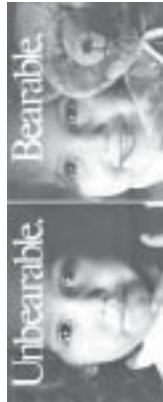
Night Phone _____

Spinoza Packages (prices include shipping/handling)

	Donation	Quantity	Total
<input type="checkbox"/> Spinoza Bear, 9 tapes	\$153.00	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Spinoza Bear, 9 tapes, "Legend of Spinoza" story book	\$169.50	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> For Children of Active Duty Service Members: Spinoza Bear, 9 tapes, "Help For Kids" workbook, or <input type="checkbox"/> "Daddy, You're My Hero" story book or <input type="checkbox"/> "Mommy, You're My Hero" story book	\$160.00	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Military Package, Spinoza Bear, 9 tapes, workbook, "Daddy" & "Mommy" books, pin	\$173.00	_____	_____

- Please accept our donation to the "Friends of Spinoza" fund, to sponsor Bears for children in need.
- Check here if you would like Spinoza's tapes in Spanish
- Check here if you would like our staff to locate a child in your community, or call our toll free number. 1-800-282-2327

Total Amount _____



Shipments to Canada, please add \$15.00 per Bear to cover additional shipping charges.

Check/Money Order (payable to Spinoza's "buddy bear project")

VISA American Express

Mastercard Discover

Card# _____ CVT#* _____

Exp. Date _____

Card Billing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Mail the sponsor form and payment to:

Spinoza's "buddy bear project"
PO Box 97
Cornucopia, WI 54827

SPINOZA



Credit card orders can be faxed to:
(651) 604-6681

Or call our toll free number:
1-800-282-2327

Canadian Orders must be paid with a credit card or a Money Order in US funds.

* 3 or 4 digits from back of card

Update on American Legion Children & Youth

In October, Spinoza's Pam Golubowicz addressed the National Child Welfare Commission. The top 10 Departments were recognized and awarded. Reports on all 50 Department were provided. Spinoza and the 9 tapes, puppets, CDs, videos, lapel pins, books, additional information and resources were available. Pam discussed the use of Spinoza Bear in Long Term Care, Hospice Care, Early Childhood, Education and with Military Families.

Serve the children of those who are serving their country.

The newest package at Spinoza is our Military Package, designed for children coping with their Parents deployment and used in Military Impacted Schools. The Military Package includes:

- ◆ Spinoza Bear and his library of 9 tapes, available in English, Spanish and French (6 tapes).
- ◆ "Help For Kids, Understanding Your Feelings about Terrorism, War & Peace", a 36 page Workbook for the older child. Comes with a curriculum guide for parents, teachers, and caregivers, a valuable tool for Military Impacted Schools. "Help for Kids" was written by Carol Gesme, MA, CFLE, Minneapolis, MN.
- ◆ "Daddy You're My Hero" and "Mommy, You're My Hero" storybooks for children under age 6, written by Michelle Ferguson-Cohen and published by Little Red Haired Girl Publishing, Brooklyn, NY.
- ◆ A heart shaped cloisonné pin with the Stars and Stripes.



Here's An Idea

May Chmielewski and Sarah Lepus of the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 180 in Baltimore, MD have raised all their "bbp" monies without ever asking for a check from their Treasurer. Once a month, the Rosedale Post 180 hosts a Spaghetti Supper and they sell chances in the form of a 2-part ticket. Many have donated items for the "prizes" won in this Spinoza "BBP" fundraiser. They put half of the 2-part ticket in a box, and shake it up and pull out the winning number on the tickets sold through out the supper.



Will Pearson, rodeo clown and SAL member in Arizona, raising funds for the Spinoza "buddy bear project".

It is our goal at Spinoza for every Military Branch Base and Military Impacted School nationwide and overseas to have a Military Spinoza Package. MacDill Air Force Base has four Spinoza bears they use in their family center and recently ordered 2000 "Help for Kids" workbooks. Can you help? Serve the children of those who are serving their country. See the Military Package on the order form included in this Newsletter.



Spinoza's "buddy bear project"
 PO Box 97
 Cornucopia, WI 54827

1-800-282-2327 www.spinozabear.com



Last June, The Monroe Evening News in Monroe, MI published an article about some of the children and families who have been a part of Spinoza's "buddy bear project". Here are some excerpts from the story.

*"I was happy when I got him," said 12-year old Faith Davis of Ida, who has had a Spinoza for years. "The tapes talk about how to feel better, not to make fun of other people and stuff like that. I think there was one that talks about how junk food is bad and a breathing one that teaches different exercises." Faith's mother, Sandy Edwards-Davis, said her daughter had spent more than 500 days overall in the hospital and received a Spinoza to help her deal with things emotionally and physically. "It helped me feel better and doing the exercises helped me breath a little easier and I was able to get out of the hospital," said Faith. "The one (tape) that she is talking about the most is the **Breathing Healthy, Breathing Free tape,**" said Mrs. Edwards-Davis. "It's the one that teaches deep breathing and one of the things that resulted was she would initially get off the oxygen and take more and more steps toward going home."*

Faith's mom became involved in the "buddy bear project" along with Kathleen Whitman, Supervisor of the Program for Children with Hearing Impairments, a special feature of the Ida Public Schools. Kathleen Whitman, Supervisor of the Program for Children with Hearing Impairments, a special feature of the Ida Public Schools, said Mrs. Edwards Davis has been instrumental in distributing many bears throughout the program.

"I think it is really valuable for the children," said Ms. Whitman. "I think any time a student has a disability they may feel as though they are different and programs like the Spinoza bear help them to know that they are valued as a person. One mom told us her son never goes to bed without his bear." Five-year old Samuel Hawkins of Lambertville received a Spinoza earlier this year. Rochelle Hawkins, mother of five, including Samuel, says, "It's very soothing... I'm sure it's one of those things that will continue to grow with him. We were very grateful to receive it."



Thank you to the Monroe Evening News, writer Stephanie Ariganello and photographer Valerie Tobias

Samuel H, sponsored by St Clair Shores WOTM Chapter 69

Sponsors	Grand Totals	Jan 06 to present
American Legion Auxiliaries	11,144	578
American Legion Posts	3675	88
Sons of the Am Legion	758	144
Lions & Lioness	5371	166
Women of the Moose/ Moose Lodges	3729	429
Foundations & Corporations	3380	118
Kiwanis	3122	167
VFW Posts & Auxiliaries	2900	29
Individuals	970	
Jaycees.	570	
Knights	350	
GFWC.	275	
Optimists.	210	
Elks & Eagles	193	
Pioneers.	62	
Marine Corp Aux.	54	
Union Pacific.	45	
Rotary.	27	
DAV	21	
Military Order of Cooties and Aux . . .	20	
Others.	73	