

Spinoza Speaks...

Spinoza's "buddy bear project"™

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Joining Hearts and Hands Makes A Difference

It is no surprise that more and more people are stepping in to brighten the days of a sick child's life. Not a week goes by here at Spinoza where one of the "buddy bear project" coordinators aren't notified of an individual who is willing to go out and share the love that Spinoza has to offer. These people, Spinoza's "Ambassadors" as we like to call them, go out of their way to educate the public on the therapeutic teddy bear named Spinoza.

Then there are the clubs and other community organizations, each member contributing in their own way to bring the gift of Spinoza to a chronically, critically or terminally ill child or a child going through a tough time in their life. It is this kind of love and understanding that makes Spinoza's "buddy bear project"™ successful.

Many clubs and organizations have also taken the time to share with us their stories. One such story that caught our eye is as follows:

"When Barbara Murray, President of VFW Ladies Auxiliary 7721, explained Spinoza's "buddy bear project" at the June 1996 Auxiliary meeting, there were very few dry eyes in the room. A motion was immediately approved to purchase a Spinoza Bear. That first bear was presented at the September 1996 meeting. That began a virtual avalanche. Individual members inquired as to how they could contribute. The VFW Post 7721 Veterans voted to purchase a bear, community organizations and individuals also made contributions. Seeing how the project had caught fire, President Murray contacted the "buddy bear project" coordinator for her state to locate additional eligible children throughout Collier County, FL. Five names, then ten names, to date this Auxiliary is responsible for the acquisition of 42 Spinoza Bears that have been given to the local chronically, critically or terminally ill children... We have been so very



Barbara Murray, President of VFW Ladies Auxiliary 7721 presents 2 year old Madison (Madi) who has been diagnosed with Acari Syndrome, with her new "buddy", Spinoza while her mother, Dawn, looks on.

fortunate that several of these beautiful children have been presented their bears at Auxiliary functions, sharing a very special kind of love with us all.

Recognizing that this is one of the most rewarding programs an auxiliary, post or friends there of, can become involved with, President Barbara has continued with her efforts to ensure that every eligible child in Collier County, FL has his/her own special "buddy", Spinoza. Bless them all."

Your generosity says you feel like we do, that together we will make the difference in the lives of children who are suffering from an illness or crisis.



Fundraising Idea\$!

We wish to thank everyone who has shared their creative fundraising ideas. We encourage anyone with a new idea to share it with us so we may pass it on to others.

- Every year during hunting season, Barb Dansereau of American Legion Unit 465, in WI, makes several pies to be sold throughout the community for \$4.00 each. Not only is this a hit for the hunters going out of town but for the newcomers and the locals as well. (Even the employees here at Spinoza were able to sample some of the delicious pies Barb dropped off when she stopped by to pick up a Spinoza Bear. Thanks Barb!)
- A Jaycees chapter in Florida holds a weekly raffle and auction on Monday nights. They say it has been very successful because not only do they put an advertisement in their weekly paper but their local businesses are very supportive as well.
- A corporation in Minnesota held a soup contest. After the contest sampling was over, they sold the soup to the employees for lunch.
- An American Legion Unit in Ohio bought a four foot Christmas tree and decorated it with paper ornaments they had made. Each ornament represented a raffle ticket and was sold for \$1. When all of the ornaments had been purchased the tree was raffled off.
- Cake walks are often a popular, fun and successful fundraising idea. Desserts are donated and for a small fee, contestants walk around in a circle to music and when the music stops, if you are standing on the designated square for the dessert, you win!

Total Number of Sponsorships as of November '97

American Legion Posts & Units.....	2861
Lions & Lioness.....	2482
VFW Posts & Ladies Auxiliaries.....	986
Kiwanis.....	723
Foundations & Corporations.....	685
Jaycees.....	370
Other.....	266
Individuals.....	196
Knights of Columbus.....	167

Who Are Spinoza's Children?

Spinoza's "buddy bear project"™ is a project that was developed for children suffering a profound illness or crisis in their lives. The project was created by The Spinoza Company, a small for-profit company in St. Paul, MN. We work with over 1000 health care agencies who provide us with names of children they feel would benefit from the love and encouragement Spinoza brings. These children come to us from all over the country, from newborn and premature babies to those who are 17 and 18 years old.

Currently, we have over 5500 names of children waiting to be sponsored and continue to receive new names daily. In every state there are children suffering a critical, chronic or terminal illness or children in crisis. Many of the children we work with suffer from diseases such as cerebral palsy, spina bifida, cystic fibrosis, major organ transplants, and several forms of cancer. Children may spend a great deal of time in the hospital away from their family and friends, sometimes in isolation. Medical treatments may also be received in the child's home but this does not lessen the impact the illness has on the child's life and those around them.



profound developmental disabilities, profound mental retardation, severe emotional/psychological traumas (victims of domestic abuse/violence) and children whose parents have recently passed away.

This is a small list of some of the diagnoses we see. Unfortunately there are many more. Spinoza provides these children with the hope, encouragement and love that can help them get through the day. By sponsoring a child you can show them and their family that even strangers care and can give a little love.

Spinoza's Rendezvous Under The Bridge

"Several weeks ago, after I had presented a program to the Lexington, VA Lioness Club, I received a call from Pat Randolph, their immediate past president. She said, 'Dr. Meyer, we need a Spinoza Bear for a 6 1/2 year old little girl, who is going to have a lung transplant. She is going into the hospital at the end of the week.' This was on a Monday.

I told Pat, 'It takes 2-3 weeks to get a Spinoza, once we place the order, and besides UPS is on strike. There is no telling when we can get him.' I have learned over the past two years, as an ambassador for the "buddy bear project" to keep some bears on hand for a 'just in case' situation. I told Pat, 'This sounds like a 'just in case' situation, so I DO have a bear for you.'

Pat said, 'Great, I will drive to Richmond to pick him up.'

'No,' I said, 'I have a Lions meeting in Brookville-Timberlake on this Thursday. Do you know where that is?'

'No,' said Pat, 'and besides I have a doctors appointment Thursday at the University of VA Hospital. Can we meet at the hospital?'

'I will never find you there,' I replied. 'On Main Street, just at the start of the University is a railroad bridge crossing over Main Street. Spinoza will meet you under the bridge at 4:00 pm Thursday.'

On Thursday, Spinoza and I arrived under the bridge at 4:00 for a rendezvous with Pat. She wasn't there. How would we find each other? We waited awhile and then I saw Pat walking toward the bridge. Spinoza and I escorted Pat back to her car where Spinoza said all his goodbyes, and they drove off towards Lexington and the waiting Christina.

There is a certain warm feeling about helping these special kids. This is just one of my many heartwarming experiences with Spinoza."

Dr. Edward C. Meyer, PDG
Lions of Virginia, Ambassador

A Partial List of Over 1000 Health Care Facilities!

For additional names in your area call 1-800-CUB-BEAR

Arizona

Children To Children
Yavapai County Health Dept.
University Medical Center

Tucson
Cottonwood
Tucson

Arkansas

Arkansas Children's Hospital Little Rock

California

UCSD Medical Center San Diego
Harbor-UCLA Medical Center Torrance
Candlelighters of Monterey Seaside
Inland AIDS Project Riverside
UC Davis Medical Center Sacramento

Colorado

Presbyterian/St. Luke's Medical Ctr Denver

Florida

Children's Medical Services Dist 10 Ft. Lauderdale
MD Anderson Cancer Center Orlando
Community Home Services, Inc. Naples
Interim Health Care Gainesville & Ft. Myers
KITES-Kids In Distress Sebring
Miami Children's Hospital Miami

Georgia

Care South Albany
Hospice Atlanta Atlanta
First American Home Care Atlanta
Hospice of Houston Warner Robbins
Memorial Children's Hospital Savannah

Idaho

Southwest District Health Dept. Caldwell

Illinois

Visiting Nurse Assoc., Fox Valley Aurora
Loyola University Medical Center Maywood
Swedish American Health System Rockford
Children's Memorial Medical Center Chicago
Trinity Medical Center Moline
Wyer Children's Hospital Chicago
Lutheran General Hospital Park Ridge
Cook County Children's Hospital Chicago

Indiana

Olsten Kimberly Quality Care Muncie
Pediatric Nursing Specialist Indianapolis
Wabash Vern on Manor Wabash

Iowa

Mercy Hospital Medical Center Des Moines
Genesis Medical Center Davenport
North Iowa Mercy Health Center Mason City

Kansas

Ellsworth County Hospital Ellsworth
Via Christi Medical Center, St. Francis Campus Wichita

Kentucky

Shriner's Hosp for Crippled Children Lexington
Rural Home Health Services Maysville
Madison Pediatrics Richmond

Louisiana

Regional Medical Ctr for Children New Orleans

Maryland

Johns Hopkins Children's Center Baltimore
Southern MD Home Health Services Clinton
U of MD Hospital for Children Baltimore

Massachusetts

Boston City Hospital Boston

Michigan

Nurses Unlimited Grand Rapids
Blodgett Memorial Medical Center Grand Rapids
Hurley Medical Center Flint
Ionia County Health Department Ionia
Marquette Gen'l Hospital Marquette
Children's Hospital of Michigan Detroit

Minnesota

Fairview University Medical Center Minneapolis
St. Cloud Hospital (Home Care) St. Cloud
Shriner's Hospital Minneapolis
Brainerd Medical Center Brainerd
Cottonwood-Jackson Community Health Services Jackson

Mississippi

U of MS Medical Center Jackson

Missouri

St. Louis Children's Hospital St. Louis
Staff Builders Home Health Care St. Louis
St. Johns Regional Health Center Springfield

Montana

Partners In Home Health Care, Inc. Missoula
Rosebud County Public Health Forsyth
St. Vincent Hospital & Health Center Billings

Nebraska

Children's Memorial Hospital Omaha

Nevada

Horizon Hospice Elko
University Medical Center Las Vegas

New Hampshire

Elliot Hospital Manchester

New Jersey

Children's Hospital of New Jersey Newark

New Mexico

Carie Tingley Children's Hospital Albuquerque
Presbyterian Hospital Albuquerque
U of New Mexico Pediatric Oncology Albuquerque

New York

The Children's Hospital of Buffalo Buffalo
Aurora Home Care, Inc. Cheektowaga
St. Vincent's Hospital & Medical Ctr New York

North Carolina

Brenner Children's Hospital at Winston-Salem
NC Baptist Hospital
Interim Health Care Charlotte & Raleigh

North Dakota

Medcenter One Bismarck

Ohio

Children's Medical Ctr of NW Ohio Toledo
Children's Hospital Columbus
Tod Children's Hospital Youngstown
Celina Area Visiting Nurses Celina
Children's Hosp Home Health Care Cincinnati
Children's Homecare Services, Children's Hospice Columbus
Medical College of Ohio Hospital Toledo

Oklahoma

St. Mary's Hospital Enid
Children's Hospital of Oklahoma Oklahoma City
Hillcrest Medical Center Tulsa

Oregon

Emanuel Hospital & Health Care Portland

Pennsylvania

Lutheran Home Care Services, Inc. Chambersburg
Allegheny General Hospital Pittsburgh

South Carolina

Children's Hosp of Greenville Mem'l Greenville

South Dakota

McKenna Hospital-Children's Ctr Sioux Falls
Black Hills Pediatric & Neonatology Rapid City

Tennessee

East Tennessee Children's Hospital Knoxville

Texas

U of TX MD Anderson Cancer Ctr Houston
SW Texas Methodist Hospital San Antonio
Baptist Hospital of SW Texas Beaumont
Center for Children-Med City Dallas Dallas
Crown of Texas Hospice Amarillo
Cook Children's Hospital Fort Worth

Utah

Utah Valley Regional Medical Ctr Provo

Vermont

Fletcher Allen Health Care, Med Ctr Burlington

Virginia

St. Mary's Hospital Richmond
Children's Hosp of King's Daughters Norfolk
UVA Children's Medical Center Charlottesville
Kluge Children's Rehab Center

Washington

Children's Hospital & Medical Ctr Seattle
Deaconess Medical Center Spokane

Wisconsin

St. Mary's Hospital Rhinelander
U of WI Madison Children's Hosp Madison
St. Mary's Hospital Milwaukee

Never Too Old For A Bear Hug!

"Words cannot express our appreciation to you for introducing Spinoza's "buddy bear project" to us... As I have mentioned to you before, the majority of our children have had very unfortunate childhood experiences, suffering from neglect and/or abuse. They need support, love and guardianship, but with this they still find it difficult to establish trust. It was amazing to see how they welcomed Spinoza. Many of them did not want to let go of it once they were hugging it. I was surprised to see that even the older boys, fifteen to seventeen, also reacted so lovingly to the Bear. They are now awaiting, very impatiently, for the arrival of their own bear."

Sincerely yours,
Helen Yu, LCSW
Social Work Coord./Child & Adolescent Treatment Ctr
Metropolitan State Hospital



Spinoza's "buddy bear project"™
 245 East 6th Street
 St. Paul, MN 55101-1940

*Give a gift from the heart.
 Spinoza® ...the Bear Who
 Speaks from the Heart™*

Send To:



Kid's Update

Brooke, who suffered from severe facial burns as an infant is now an energetic and lively toddler. She is living in the country with her parents and helping them take care of the animals. Although Brooke is still undergoing treatments, she is adjusting very well. According to her grandmother, she is a beautiful and loving child.

Brooke continues to fall asleep each night with her Spinoza beside her. She is very open to sharing all of her toys with others, but keeps her special "buddy", Spinoza, as her own.

F Y I

- We are pleased to announce the number of military bases participating in the "buddy bear project" has steadily increased. If you are interested in sponsoring children of active duty service members, please call 1-800-CUB-BEAR (1-800-282-2327).
- Due to the large number of sponsorships, we have recently increased the number of staff members to better assist you. We thank you for your patience in this time of transition.
- If you are interested in receiving a free copy of "Bear Medicine", a 30 minute video about the "buddy bear project" and The Spinoza Company to share with your organization, please call 1-800-CUB-BEAR.

Spinoza Speaks... is published biannually for organizations involved in Spinoza's "buddy bear project". If you would like to submit an article or letter, share your ideas with others, or comment on something you may have seen in our newsletter, please contact us at:
 Spinoza's "buddy bear project"™
 245 East 6th Street
 St. Paul, MN 55101-1940
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