

Spinoza Speaks...

Spinoza's "buddy bear project"™

Vol. I, No. 1, Spring '97

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We've Come A Long Way...Together!

Spinoza's "buddy bear project" first sent a Spinoza Bear to a terminally ill child in Minnesota in July, 1994. Since then, 7000 children of all ages from all over the country have received the gift of a Spinoza Bear from very special people concerned with children and their communities. The "buddy bear project" is possible because of unique partnerships and collaborations between The Spinoza Company, a small for-profit company, hundreds of dedicated health care professionals and thousands of generous sponsors.

We wish to express our deepest appreciation for the contributions our sponsors have made and look forward to continuing and strengthening our partnerships for a long time to come. Ultimately, it is sponsor support which keeps the "buddy bear project" going strong, and we commend you on the support you provide to your communities. We also invite any individual or group looking for new ways of serving children to participate in Spinoza's "buddy bear project".

Brooke, 4 months old, from Wisconsin sits with her new friend Spinoza, who is as big as she is!



Amanda, from Wisconsin, enjoys a beautiful day outside with her new "buddy", Spinoza.

Our contacts in the health care facilities and our ambassadors also deserve a big thank you! In the past few years, these participants have worked very hard knowing their only compensation is the satisfaction of helping to make a difference in the life of a child. The courage of the children we serve touches our hearts as they face many challenging battles every day. Warm friendships have developed between participants in the "buddy bear project". Many people have been willing to share emotional moments or personal stories about their experiences with a child or family.

It is with this in mind that we created "Spinoza Speaks...." In addition to providing stories of Spinoza's influence on people's lives, this newsletter is full of suggestions on how participants can become more involved in the "buddy bear project". Please feel free to send in photos, stories, or fundraising ideas for us to include in upcoming issues of "Spinoza Speaks...."



Ambassadors Go the Extra Mile to Bring Smiles to Children's Faces

"When you believe in this project, it's easy," says Mary Richards, Department Youth Activity Chairman of the Ladies Auxiliary of the VFW and State Guard, VA. "It's not that hard, it's a very easy project to promote. When you are helping children, anyone can give." Mary's dedication made a tremendous difference in the lives of over 60 children in the state of Virginia. She is just one of many "buddy bear project" ambassadors who are going that extra mile to bring smiles to the faces of children who are suffering a profound crisis in their lives.

Ambassadors are individuals who have taken the "buddy bear project" on as a special project. Many of them travel with their Spinoza bears giving presentations at local clubs or organizations and attending

fundraisers where the proceeds are used to sponsor children.

Maggie Moschell, an ambassador from Cincinnati, OH, saw to it that children who suffered effects from the shooting at an elementary school in Scotland received their very own Spinoza bears. She contacted newspapers, e-mailed companies and potential sponsors, and gave presentations all around the Cincinnati area. Many people rose to Maggie's challenge and over 30 children were sponsored!

We would like to acknowledge the efforts of our many ambassadors: Harold Rector, Lions, WA; Betty Lehman, American Legion Auxiliary, WA; Ken Roush, Lions, MN; Jim Crawford, American Legion, OH; Ed Mroz, Knights of Columbus, Nova Scotia, Canada; Linda Kimball, Kiwanis, IL; Tim Beck, Jaycees, MN; Dr. Edward Meyers, Lions, VA; Dennis Boland, American Legion, FL; Barbara Murray, VFW Ladies Auxiliary, FL; Michael Klingeman, American Legion, MO; Harry Kovaschetz, Lions, NM; Lou Dimmerman, American Legion, OH; Gloria Verbecke, American Legion Auxiliary, OH; Sandy Snyder, American



Jim Crawford, Commander of American Legion Post 97, presents Sydney with a copy of *The Legend of Spinoza*.

Legion Auxiliary, MI; Betty Kay, Corporate Employee Group, NJ; Vincent Buccigrossi, American Legion, NY; and many more we were not able to list.

A Big Bear Hug To You!

If you are interested in becoming a "buddy bear project" ambassador or if you would like additional information about the project, please contact the coordinator for your state by calling 1-800-CUB-BEAR (1-800-282-2327).

Fundraising Idea\$!

These are fundraising ideas that other organizations or clubs have shared with us.

- Have each person count the number of pairs of shoes at home and pay \$.10 per pair.
- Blind Auction - bid on items that are donated and wrapped.
- Las Vegas Night
- Tool or fishing lure count - have each person pay \$.05 for every tool or lure they own.

Total Number of Sponsorships as of May '97

Lions.....	2203
American Legion.....	2113
Veterans of Foreign Wars.....	741
Kiwanis.....	624
Foundations & Corporations.....	464
Jaycees.....	318
Individuals.....	154
Knights of Columbus.....	152
Other.....	85

Ruby's Courage

Ruby was recently diagnosed with leukemia. During transport (to the hospital) she had a heart attack and stroke. This episode left her temporarily blind and with left sided paralysis.

Ruby was only 11 years old, (and) in a foreign environment...I gave her Spinoza since listening was something she could still enjoy.

She had already found comfort from Spinoza on nights when she was experiencing leg pain and when it was hard to sleep so far away from home and everything familiar and on the way out the door on her first trip back to Pediatric ICU she asked, 'Can I take my bear?'

I felt wonderful about her having Spinoza as a comfort during this difficult time in her young life. I quickly put in the tape "Dream On The Water" and we paraded into the PICU...She asked me to turn on the bear while the PICU staff was preparing for the procedure and held her uncle's hand and closed her eyes...

Taking Spinoza into PICU became part of the routine that comforted Ruby. That was in February and Ruby has graduated from the hospital and from the rehab facility where she learned to walk again during her 6 week stay there. She also had surgery on both eyes during that time and can see again out of both eyes. She still has a long course of treatment but the leukemia is in remission.

Thank you for your part in providing her Spinoza Bear. You have a part in her recovery!

Lynnette Salazar, Child Life Specialist
Methodist Hospital

A Partial List of Over 900 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

Tuscon
Cottonwood
Tuscon

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

A New Package Offer!

Spinoza's "buddy bear project" has received many inquiries about our book, *The Legend of Spinoza...the Bear Who Speaks from the Heart*. Sponsors of children who are in a life challenging crisis often wish to include the book with Spinoza and his complete library of nine audio cassette tapes. We are pleased to offer participating organizations a special package of Spinoza, his tapes and *The Legend of Spinoza* when sponsoring an individual child for only \$152.00. (Please see sponsor form.)

* If you are purchasing this same package for a health care facility to keep the price is \$180.78 - our regular price.



Kid's Update

Laura Nelson, who has undergone her second liver transplant is now 6 years old. She is currently going to preschool and will be attending kindergarten in the fall. Laura is also taking both ballet and piano lessons.

Laura's mother, Diane, says that her daughter is doing wonderfully and they are very proud of her. She is very happy and is well-adjusted after every thing she has gone through. Laura continues to use her Spinoza Bear.

F Y I

• We are pleased to announce that several military bases are now participating in the "buddy bear project". Children of active duty service members can be sponsored using special veterans funds. To find out which bases are participating or to sponsor a child, please call 1-800-CUB-BEAR (1-800-282-2327).

• KTCA, Public Television for the Twin Cities, in MN, recently produced and aired a 30 minute documentary called "Bear Medicine". The program talks about The Spinoza Company and Spinoza's "buddy bear project". If you would like a free copy of the video to share with your organization, please call us at 1-800-CUB-BEAR (1-800-282-2327).

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 Phone: 1-800-CUB-BEAR (1-800-282-2327) Fax: 1-612-227-1034 E-Mail: spinoza@spinozabear.com

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