



444 Madison Avenue • 22nd Floor • New York, NY 10022 • (212) 224-0140
www.beargivers.org

News Release

Bear Givers and Lower East Side Brownie Troop Donate Teddy Bears to Children at Helen's House in Lower Manhattan

Two Local Organizations Partner to Do Good and Make a Difference

December 1, 2011

On December 8th, the young children residing at Helen's House, a transitional housing program for families in lower Manhattan, will each receive a cuddly teddy bear to keep, hold, and love thanks to the joint efforts of local Girl Scout Brownie Troop #3253 and Bear Givers, a New York-based philanthropy.

The Brownies decided to make the children residing at Helen's House the beneficiaries of the Take Action community service project they need to perform in order to earn the Brownie Quest Award, the culmination of a journey designed to unlock the meaning of leadership.

"As the Lower East Side's only Girl Scout Brownie troop, the girls wanted to focus their efforts very locally," explained Ann Hamilton, the troop leader. "It's a great way for the girls to learn about giving and helping others."

When Joe Sprung, founder and chairman of Bear Givers, heard about the project, he knew it was a perfect fit for his philanthropy and donated the bears. Through hospital visits and school programs, Bear Givers touches the lives of children and their families across the country and around the world with a personal visit and the gift of a soft, cuddly teddy bear.

"We are thrilled to be partnering with this local Brownie troop and accompanying them when they give out the bears at Helen's House," said Diane Lempert, president of Bear Givers.

The Brownies and Bear Givers team will visit Helen's House on December 8th and give each child in residence their own teddy bear along with a personalized note.

CONTACT: Anne Sternheim, (914) 654-1071, absternheim@gmail.com

About Bear Givers

Bear Givers is dedicated to bringing joy to the lives of children in need. Through hospital visits and school programs, this innovative non-profit touches the lives of children and their families across the country and around the world with a personal visit and the gift of a soft, cuddly teddy bear. Bear Givers also offers programs that enable these children to become givers and experience the thrill and pride of bringing happiness to others. Bear Givers programs include Hospital Visits, Teddy Bear Clinics, Empowerment, and EmpowerArt. For more information, visit beargivers.org

About Helen's House

Inaugurated in 1991 and funded by the New York City Department of Homeless Services, Helen's House is a transitional housing program that provides temporary accommodations with on-site social services for 16 single parents and their pre-school children. During their stay, each family is housed in a furnished efficiency apartment, and has access to onsite social services that address the psychological and concrete causes and effects of homelessness and unemployment. Eventually, through self-discipline and self-reliance, 90 percent of Helen's House families move into permanent housing. For more information, visit henrystreet.org/programs/housing/helens-house.html.

About Girl Scout Brownie Troop #3253

Founded in 2010, Girl Scouts Brownie Troop #3253 serves Manhattan's Lower East Side and surrounding neighborhoods. Girl Scouts of the USA is the preeminent leadership development organization for girls with 3.2 million girl and adult members worldwide. Girl Scouts is the leading authority on girls' healthy development, and builds girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place. The organization serves girls from every corner of the United States and its territories. Girl Scouts of the USA also serves American girls and their classmates attending American or international schools overseas in 90 countries. For more information, visit girlscouts.org