

## ABOUT BEAR WITH ME

Clinics, hospitals and emergency rooms are scary places when you're young. If kids only had a friend to hold their hands, things would be so much better. That is why Bear with Me was organized in 2003 by volunteers at Christ United Methodist Church Plano to comfort children in their times of need.

Dedicated and inspired volunteers take pleasure in turning a hand-made felt bear or pillow into a special "friend" with its own personality. Besides being cuddly, our bears are great listeners. And best of all, they know Jesus and spread the love of God when the chips are down.

They are made by sewing two pieces of felt together, stuffing with polyfil, drawing or embroidering their faces and finishing the edges with embroidery thread. They are completed with a colorful ribbon tied around their neck and a name written on their toe. Their names are also on their "adoption" tags which are tied around their necks and give their birthdays, a Bible verse and credit to the church.

All volunteers in Bear with Me work independently. If you have a sewing machine you can take a pattern and make bears from start to finish. Otherwise, you will be given bears that are already machine sewn and ready for you to finish.

As the volunteers make their bears and pillows, they take joy in knowing that they will bring comfort and a smile to the children who receive them. One volunteer noted, "I originally volunteered because I thought it would be a nice way to get back into crafting. But then I realized what a difference this simple gift can make in a child's life. That's when this became a mission for me, not just a hobby. I was also inspired to make each piece more special."

As they make their creations, volunteers hope and pray for those who will receive them. They give them special touches that make each bear or pillow special and unique – just as each child who gets one is a special and unique creation of God.

Bears are delivered quarterly. Once all bears are turned in they are tagged and sorted into groups for distribution.

Bears are delivered to local hospitals, clinics and shelters. Bear with Me is always open to new recipient locations providing they can accept our bears with the scripture on their tag.

Some of the organizations we have shared with in the past are:  
Children's Medical Center of Dallas  
Children's Medical Center Legacy

Emily's Place  
Hope's Door  
Methodist Hospital Richardson  
Operation Once in a Lifetime  
Plano Children's Medical Clinic  
The Scottish Rite Hospital of Texas  
Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital Plano  
The Methodist Children's Home Waco  
The Methodist Children's Home Regional Office Dallas  
The Medical Center of Plano  
Various CUMC Missions  
Wylie Children's Medical Clinic

To date we have distributed Over 8,200 items. In addition to bears we make bunnies (Spring only) and also make pillows with a bear applique. We have been blessed with several beanie baby collections. We can only take this sort of item if they are in new condition.

For further information contact Ruth Jensen at [rwalkrtx@tx.rr.com](mailto:rwalkrtx@tx.rr.com) or 214-912-4519. Funds for materials can be contributed through the church finance office if you would like to participate but do not sew. Also, prayers for our mission are always welcome.