

Heart Hugs Teddy Bear Project



*Adopt a Teddy Bear for only \$5
and help comfort a child
undergoing heart surgery*

Why do children need heart surgery?

One in 100 babies are born with some kind of heart defect, some of which require surgery to repair or treat the condition. Babies as young as a day or two old sometimes require heart surgery.

Why Teddy Bears?

Our Teddy Bears can be a friend who stays with the child every step of the way through many invasive and painful procedures such as catheterizations, blood draws and IV sticks. They are always willing to give a soft, cuddly hug to provide a little comfort and feeling of safety to the child.

Who will get these bears?

Our goal is to provide Teddy Bears to all children in Southern California who undergo heart surgery. We are fortunate that we have many large medical centers that provide heart surgery for children - some of which perform over 50 heart surgeries each month. Every day many babies and children undergo heart surgery - so the need is very great.

What about the parents?

Amidst their own turmoil of emotions, parents need to learn medical terminology, wade through insurance requirements, and navigate the hospital setting - all while trying to comfort their frightened child. We are made up of parents from all over California who have children with heart defects and know what it's like to hand a child over for surgery. The Teddy Bears provide our contact information so parents can contact us any time they need help or support.

What is California Heart Connection?

It is a non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization run solely by volunteers that supports children and adults with congenital heart defects throughout California (Tax ID# 75-3096704). It was founded by two Irvine "Heart Moms" who realized that there is nothing more valuable than connecting with other parents for support - and most importantly - for hope. California Heart Connection sponsors events, provides an online support group, matches families with similar diagnoses, and offers resources vital to helping those with heart defects.

How can I help?

Please help us provide these Teddy Bears to children undergoing heart surgery. We've negotiated a very low price of only \$5 for a soft, cuddly bear wearing a California Heart Connection T-shirt. Each \$5 you donate can make a huge difference in the life of a child and all donations are tax deductible.

Send check or money order to: California Heart Connection, 56 Cedarlake, Irvine, CA 92614

Credit card donations: Go to www.networkforgood.org and type "California Heart Connection"

Thank you for making a difference!

