



Newsletter, January 2024

“See what I can do!” It has been three years since I first heard God continuously telling me, “See what I can do!” This is what I repeatedly heard God say when I was battling with Him whether to begin the nonprofit, Banner Bears. Two wonderful ladies, Von Rhodes and Mary Catherine Slaughter, agreed to come alongside me to begin this journey and it has been absolutely amazing what God has done in this short amount of time!

800 children in 2023! Since Banner Bears was formed, we have doubled the number of children we have reached each year. Because of Messengers like you, Banner Bears was able to deliver around 800 bundles of comfort and hope to these young children and teenagers! Last fall we delivered bundles to several children’s homes in the eastern part of NC as well as rescue missions, domestic abuse centers, and family shelters.

Reaching teens! We felt led to reach out to teens and were excited to deliver our first teenager bundles in the fall of 2023. The response to these new teen bundles has been extremely positive and overwhelming! Some of the children’s homes have only teens, so this broadens our abilities to reach children of all ages.

Rewarding opportunity! This past fall, Banner Bears had a wonderful opportunity to come alongside the local chapter of the national organization of Sleep in Heavenly Peace to help build and to help deliver beds for the underprivileged children in the Rocky Mount/Edgecombe area. The Rotary Club of Rocky Mount and the Rotary Club of Red Oak added 100 Banner Bear bundles to these beds. The smiles of the children were priceless! It was a very rewarding experience to participate in this mission and to be able to see the children not only receiving their own new bed, but to also see them tightly hugging their teddy bears.



Updated website! Our website has a new look to it! Also, we are now posting our latest newsletter on the website. Recently we designed a **child’s activity page** which can be used for Sunday School, Trunk n Treat, VBS, or any use you may desire. This activity page and the newsletter can be freely downloaded and printed for your use.



Going forward! We will now begin to gear up for Valentine’s Day which is always a big delivery time to the children in family shelters. Looking forward, we also have presentations on the calendar of 2024 to introduce our mission to the community. **Please contact us if you would like a presentation of our mission for your church or organization, or if you are interested in hosting a fundraiser for Banner Bears which helps to enable us to continue this ministry.**

Thank you! Banner Bears wants to **thank you** for responding with a compassionate heart of being a Messenger of hope and comfort to children in their distressing times and to enable us to reach these children with the comfort and hope of Jesus. With us all working together, we can make a difference and “light up the darkness.” 2 Cor. 4:6