

## How Can You Help?

Businesses and individuals can join us by sponsoring a bear for \$50 or a classroom of bears for \$500. Your family name or logo will be printed on the bear's shirt. The students will find homes for all of the bears and you will get recognition in press releases and promotional materials highlighting this wonderful program.

To become a Bear Givers corporate donor and/or individual sponsor, please complete this form and mail to:

School For Language and Communication Development  
100 Glen Cove Avenue  
Glen Cove, NY 11542

This form is also available online at:  
[www.slcd.org](http://www.slcd.org)

Company \_\_\_\_\_

First Name \_\_\_\_\_

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

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Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (516) 609-2000  
Email: [info@slcd.org](mailto:info@slcd.org)

### Our Sponsors

## Bear Givers

Bear Givers was founded and developed by Joseph B. Sprung as a nonprofit organization committed to bringing joy and hope not only to individuals in need but to children who can learn how to improve our world.

Bear Givers is an empowerment program developed to teach children with and without disabilities to give charity and show kindness to others with special needs. Through the program, children personally send Teddy Bears to others in need all over the world.

Bear Givers provides grants to charitable organizations such as the School for Language and Communication Development so that they can develop specialized giving programs which become part of their organization's curriculum on an annual basis. Giving programs are unique to each not-for-profit organization. Teddy Bears have been sent by children to shelters, hospitals, hospice programs and cancer centers.

In 2007, Joseph Sprung, Founder, and Diane Lempert, Director, of Bear Givers visited the School for Language and Communication Development (SLCD) which is a not-for-profit 501 (c)(3) educational program for children with developmental disabilities from preschool to age 21 years. SLCD specializes in children along the autism spectrum continuum and presently serves over 350 students in two facilities on Long Island and in New York City. The proposal submitted by SLCD to Bear Givers was to develop a program which would teach children with disabilities to send their Teddy Bears to programs all over the United States.



## Bear Givers

Bear Givers  
444 Madison Avenue  
22nd Floor  
New York, NY 10022  
(212)224-0140

Now operating in Florida:  
Bear Givers  
433 Plaza Real  
Suite 273  
Boca Raton, FL 33432

[www.beargivers.org](http://www.beargivers.org)



## School For Language and Communication Development

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Glen Cove, NY 11542  
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## Bear Givers

## SLCD's 2008 Giving Program Children's Charities



Each classroom identified a particular charitable organization either locally or nationally, wrote letters to children in those organizations, and then sent their Teddy Bears with letters of hope and friendship. Every organization that received Teddy Bears from SLCD's children sent letters back "child to child" about their organization's missions and programs. The children at SLCD were provided with an extraordinary opportunity to decide which program they would support, explain why a particular charity was of interest, learn about where the charity was located, why its mission was important, and finally, learn something about the children being served. The letters exchanged between children were extraordinary in both their feelings and insights. One little boy with autism noted that "the worst thing in the world is not to have a mommy and a daddy."

The Bear Giving Program at SLCD was a six-month project that received a tremendous amount of media attention in newspapers, magazines, and television programs. In addition, the program created at SLCD provided other children's organizations with ideas about contacting other not-for-profits around the United States to develop communication and educational linkages.

## SLCD's 2009 Giving Program Honoring Our Heroes

This year, SLCD is proud to announce a new project with the Bear Givers Foundation. Twenty-five of our classrooms consisting of approximately 12 students each will identify servicemen and women who have been wounded over the past 60 years in military service. Students will learn about the personal and professional lives of the servicemen and women in the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines who have committed their lives to protect and defend the United States. Students in each class will have reading and writing activities which are directly related to curriculum-based requirements.

One of the things that we learned last year was that our children have an emotional sensitivity which should not be underestimated. Citizenship develops social awareness, self-esteem and altruism – aspects are often ignored in educational curricula for students with disabilities. It is important to teach children to give, how to give and why to give to others. Social altruism must be taught first in the home by parents who are actively involved in their communities. With our children, social altruism must also be taught directly in school. SLCD has included within its educational curriculum a program devoted to teaching children to be socially proactive and personally responsible within natural environments. We want our children to succeed in work settings. They need to develop the social skills to work and live independently. We look forward to teaching our students by honoring the extraordinary deeds of servicemen and women.

## A Child's Letter

*Dear PFC William Jennings,*

*My name is Dequan Cunningham, and I am a third-grade student at the School for Language and Communication Development in Glen Cove, New York. I have been learning about soldiers who serve our country in my class. We read the newspaper and talk about current events every day. We have a flag outside of our school building, and we say the Pledge of Allegiance every morning.*

*I love America and I want to thank you for protecting our freedom. I have learned about your special equipment and training, and I know how hard you work to protect America.*

*My class – School Age 5 has adopted you and other soldiers in your unit. We would like to show our appreciation by sending you a special Teddy Bear and a letter that expresses our gratitude.*

*Our school has a special website [www.slcd.org](http://www.slcd.org). We work hard every day too, and I hope that one day you can come and visit my class.*

*Most sincerely,*

*Dequan Cunningham*

