



Newsletter, January 2026

Dear Messengers:

5 years!! Five years ago, we waited with anticipation on how well the concept of this ministry would be received.

Since then, we stand amazed at how God has expanded the ministry of Banner Bears numerous times since our beginnings in 2021. Since the first year, our distribution has *tripled* as Banner Bears reached out to the hurting souls these past five years. We are excited that this past year of 2025, we were able to give out over **1,200** bags of comfort and hope! This was all because of your compassionate hearts to give financially, giving through the crayon and lotion drives every August, and the prayers that went toward Banner Bears. We thank each Messenger for your generosity to enable this ministry to move forward.



Just to remind you of the type of organizations to whom we give children and teen bear bundles – Banner Bears reaches out to our local hospital's surgical center, domestic abuse centers, family shelters, a local ministry that counsels young children suspended from school, child advocacy centers, children's homes, foster care programs, rescue missions, police/fire departments, as well as others who reach out to us.

Additionally, we are also busy visiting senior residents in nursing homes. We have gained some wonderful volunteers this past year who help with deliveries to nursing homes and we are very grateful to them. One of the nursing home facilities has "adopted" us and we were asked to sing to their residents. Thankfully, a couple of our volunteers have beautiful voices and Von Rhodes has the gift of musical instruments. They told us it is difficult to get groups to come in to minister to their residents and it is always a highlight for them as they are lonely and often feel forgotten. It brought a smile to their faces and ours as they eagerly participated in singing well known hymns.



Looking ahead to a new year, we are excited of the open doors that God will bring our way to impact the children, teens and seniors who are broken, vulnerable, and seek the comfort and hope that can only be found in Jesus. It can be overwhelming to see the many needs around us. We would love to reach them all, however are limited with the resources we have available. With your support, we do what we can, and pray that all needs are ultimately met.



As always, we are **so grateful** for your contributions which have kept us active with the deliveries to reach out to your surrounding community and beyond! **Thank you!** As a reminder, at Banner Bears, every penny goes to direct ministry costs as no one gets a salary. We work from our homes, and we donate the gas our vehicles use toward the ministry because our hearts are focused only on reaching as many hurting souls as we are able.

Banner Bears wishes you a blessed and healthy 2026!!

Linda Sheets Mary Catherine Slaughter Yvonne Rhodes Pamela Wood