



Dear Parents,

Bears That Care is an organization that my brother Colin (Mrs. Smith's class), sister Jaedyn (Mrs. Bury's class) and I, Taryn (Harvest Park) started; to collect stuffed animals, toys, and books for children who are involved with child protective services court system. Many of these children are some of the most disadvantaged in our county. They have a history of abuse or neglect. They often come to court feeling very frightened and alone. While we cannot change their situation, it is our hope that we can provide a little comfort and something to hold onto during this very difficult time. We are hoping to collect enough toys so that every child coming to the Alameda County Dependency Court can receive one.

In the past four years, Walnut Grove students and their families donated more than 7500 toys. As a result of this amazing generosity, the toy program has expanded to include all three Alameda Dependency Courtrooms. Your gifts have brought much joy to the children that have received them.

If your child would like to participate in our toy drive, please have them bring unwrapped stuffed animals (or toys or books) to their classroom between January 22nd and January 26th. There is a special need for board games, puzzles, balls, and toy cars. The toys must be new or in excellent (like new) condition. Due to the financial challenges of many of the children, please install new batteries for any battery operated toys. The class with the most donations will win a pizza party, and a \$25 gift card for their teacher. Every class with at least 30 donated toys will receive homemade cookies.

You can email us at bearsthatcare68@yahoo.com if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Taryn, Colin and Jaedyn Lambert

With your help, we hope to once again make our toy drive a huge success. Thank you!