



PROVIDING HOPE AND HELP

BEAR's Quarterly Newsletter

BEAR Newsletter | October 5, 2022 | Volume 2022-10

## BEAR QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

As BEAR closes out its fiscal year, I would like to say thank you on behalf of myself, the staff, and the Board of Directors for another remarkable year. To those, I have met and to those, I haven't had the opportunity to meet yet, I would like to thank you for the contributions you have made to BEAR and the children and families we have served over the year. From monetary and gift donations to volunteer hours and beyond, we have been able to collectively serve the most children in BEAR's history. This is important as children and families continue to experience hardships at unprecedented rates and are in need of resources more than ever.



I would like to take a moment to highlight BEAR's success with Heart Gallery Houston. In October 2021, BEAR began displaying Heart Gallery Houston photographic exhibits throughout the Greater Houston area to educate and spread awareness to the thousands of children in the foster care system. With the help of a handful of amazing volunteer photographers, BEAR has been able to take beautiful photographs of children currently in foster care waiting for a "Forever Family" and exhibit them through our community. By the end of this calendar year, Heart Gallery Houston will be in 5 of our local shopping malls but has also been exhibited in the Children's Museum, a few Houston Astros' Games, two YMCA's, local art exhibits, shopping events, and more. To date, 26 children featured in Heart Gallery Houston have found "Forever Families". It is thanks to YOUR support that we are able to provide programming such as Heart Gallery Houston to the children we serve on a daily, weekly, and yearly basis.

Also, because of your support BEAR was able to serve over

38,000 children through our BEAR Necessities Program, over 11,500 children through our Back to School Program, and finally, over 19,500 children through our BEARing Gifts Program. Your continued belief in our work means more children will be comforted during oftentimes very traumatic times of their lives.

Thank you for your continued support!

Sincerely,

**Tammy Hetmaniak**  
Executive Director  
BEAR

---

## BEARing Gifts!

**GIFTING  
HOPE  
THIS  
HOLIDAY  
SEASON!**



Each year during BEAR's holiday program ~ **BEARing Gifts**, approximately **19,000 children** receive brand-new holiday gifts. Thanks to the incredible passion and hard work of dedicated volunteers, selfless donors, and generous sponsors, the holidays are made special for kids who would otherwise not feel the magic and joy of the holiday season.

**[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE](#)**

***DONATE***

***SPONSOR A CHILD***

***HOST A TOY DRIVE***

***SHOP FROM OUR AMAZON WISH LIST***

***VOLUNTEER***

***\*Opportunities to be posted on November 1st!***

## UPCOMING EVENTS



**BEAR**  
PROVIDING HOPE AND HELP

# Birdies for Charity is BACK!!!

**PLEASE CONSIDER DONATING TODAY!**



## **BIRDIES FOR CHARITY**

### **What is Birdies for Charity?**

It is a fundraising program designed to give local charities the opportunity to generate contributions through the Cadence Bank Houston Open. 100% of your donation comes back directly to support our mission!

BEAR is extremely honored to be one of the recipients of Birdies For Charity 2022!

YOU can support BEAR's mission by donating through Birdies for Charity! If we make it into the top six charities, we have a chance of being invited to the Houston Open. Every PENNY counts! Help get us to the course! Please donate today!

**SUPPORT BEAR AT BIRDIES FOR  
CHARITY**





## Annual Fall Fundraiser - Celebrating 25 years! Stetsons & Stilettos

**Tickets are sold out, but it's not too late to get in on the 50/50 Raffle!**

We are so excited to celebrate our 25th birthday and honor **Barbara Perlick**, Heart Gallery volunteer photographer. Thank you to all who have bought tickets to our sold-out event. For those who haven't, you can still get in on all the fun and support with our 50/50 Raffle!

**HOW IT WORKS:** For every digital ticket you purchase, you will be entered into the 50/50 raffle. The winner will be selected on the evening of October 23rd and will receive half of the earnings via check at the conclusion of the event! The winner need not be present to win.

**ENTER OUR 50/50  
RAFFLE**

## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



## Meet Elly Gribov

Heart Gallery Photographer, Mom, Master of All Things Family and  
Amazing Heart Gallery Advocate!

### What inspired you to become a photographer for BEAR's Heart Gallery Houston Program?

**Elly:** *I was inspired to become a Heart Gallery photographer solely by these amazing children in care. Too many children are aging out of foster care without ever finding their forever families. My ultimate goal would be that there are no longer children aging out of care because they all found their forever families. Being adopted myself and also having adopted my daughter, I know how amazing adoption can be. My goal is that each child gets to experience this love because they were adopted by someone who saw a Heart Gallery display. We can change the trajectory of their lives through the Heart Gallery photography and hopefully gift them with their forever families.*

### What's your favorite thing about being a mom?

**Elly:** *My favorite things about being a mom are the unconditional love and all of life's daily little moments, even the mundane task of laundry, that truly adds up to the honor and privilege of motherhood. I love not only the cuddles, hugs, and kisses, but also the teachable moments, kissing the boo-boos, reading extra books at bedtime, and weekend trips to the museums and parks. These daily little moments are just everything to me.*

### What would you say to someone who is not able to foster or adopt but wants to make an impact in the life of a child?

**Elly:** *Everyone has an opportunity to make a huge difference in the life of a child in care. I always tell people that donating money also cannot hurt and what better organization to donate to than to BEAR and their Heart Gallery Houston program? I also suggest fulfilling children's wishlists during BEAR's Bearing Gifts program. The opportunities are truly endless to impact a foster kid's life. No small action goes unnoticed!*

## HEART GALLERY SPOTLIGHT



MIRACLE & SANTIAGO  
12 AND 10 YEARS OLD

Miracle and Santiago are a pair of close siblings who get along very well with each other. Miracle takes her role of being the older sister seriously and sometimes wants to be the boss. Both siblings are protective of each other. Miracle and Santiago enjoy playing with each other and have some of the same activities and hobbies in common. They enjoy playing board games and video games together in addition to playing outside sports together like Frisbee and soccer. They do not have a preference on playing outside or inside, as long as it is a game they agree on. Sometimes, like any siblings, they disagree over a game or whose turn it is but are easily redirected and are not upset with each other for long. Every night before bed, both siblings have a routine of making sure to hug one another goodnight.

To learn more about fostering and adoption, please [click here](#).

**SEE OUR HEART  
GALLERY**

---

**We are so thankful to all our sponsors, donors, and volunteers!**

Whether you donate items, money, or your time, we appreciate all you do to help us in our mission to improve lives by providing hope and help for at-risk and CPS-involved caretakers in the Greater Houston Area.

BEAR...BE A Resource for CPS Kids is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Your donation is tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. EIN #31-1516122

**DONATE  
HERE**

---

3572 E TC Jester Blvd., Houston, TX 77018 | [www.bearesourcehouston.org](http://www.bearesourcehouston.org) | 713.274.9850

