



THE LOCAL FAMILY SCENE & CITY GUIDE... **SANTA BARBARA | CA**

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Hospice of Santa Barbara Seeks Compassionate and Dedicated Volunteers



"I Have a Friend"® Mentor Program

Hospice of Santa Barbara is seeking volunteers—especially bilingual and male volunteers—to make a difference in a child's life by joining the "I Have a Friend"® Mentor program.

Mentor volunteers are adults who experienced the death of a parent or sibling as a child, and are trained and matched with children who have recently experienced a similar loss. Mentors help the children understand that not only are they normal, but also that their lives will be good again, and they can be happy and successful people.

Hospice of Santa Barbara is hoping that good mentor matches from the community will come forward to help these children recover from their painful loss, as well as enrich their own lives.

Registration is required. For more information or for a Mentor Application, please contact (805) 563-8820.

Volunteers Needed to Sew Beloved Bears

Hospice of Santa Barbara is seeking volunteers to sew Beloved Bears for people who have lost a loved one. The Beloved Bear program provides families an opportunity to turn a piece of clothing into a tangible keepsake infused with memories, texture, and even the familiar comforting scent of their loved one.

It also helps to solve another sensitive issue; many families do not know what to do with the deceased person's clothing – they want the smell of the clothes or the memory of the clothes. The bear provides a way for memories to continue, in a gentle and even interactive way. The teddy bear serves as a joyful memory of a loved one because it is something "new" and appropriate for both kids and adults. Creating the bear is also a ritual

for the family; they now have something special and unique and, at the same time, familiar.

For more information or to volunteer, contact (805) 563-8820.

Hospice of Santa Barbara "volunteers" its free professional counseling and care management services to more than 470 children and adults every month who are experiencing the impact of a life-threatening illness, or grieving the death of a loved one.