

Firefighters to Give Out TLC Bears

Written by Graham Riche

Friday, 06 July 2012 09:26 - Last Updated Friday, 06 July 2012 10:01



Children who are involved in fires, road traffic collisions and other incidents attended by Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service are to benefit from a little TLC thanks to the generosity of TLC Nottinghamshire – a charity which supplies teddy bears and soft toys to youngsters in distress.

Founded in Essex by the Freemasons, Teddies for Loving Care (TLC) was set up to supply teddy bears to accident and emergency and paediatric units for staff to give to children admitted to hospital. Organisers in Nottinghamshire have decided to extend the scheme to include the fire and rescue service, meaning that children involved in incidents attended by firefighters will receive a teddy to cuddle to help make them feel better.

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Graham Wood a retired senior fire officer and now the Assistant Provincial Grand Master of Nottinghamshire Freemasons saw the benefit the charity could bring to the work of the fire service and facilitated the initial meeting with fire service management. Fire Service Area Manager Keith Jones said: "Being involved in a house fire or road traffic collision is naturally an extremely frightening and bewildering experience for a small child, so receiving a teddy to cuddle and take away with them will hopefully help to alleviate some of the stress and anxiety they feel, and make them feel better in what essentially is a bad situation.

"We are extremely grateful to Teddies for Loving Care for offering to supply the teddies to us, and I am sure they will make a big difference to the children we are called on to assist."

Graham Riche, Chairman of Nottinghamshire TLC, added: "Our charity supports children suffering trauma and, whilst this is predominantly to hospitals, it is a natural extension of our work to provide comfort to children who have lost all their cherished possessions in a fire or need comfort as a result of being involved in a motor accident.

"We decided to approach the fire and rescue service and offer our TLC bears to assist them in their front line work, and are delighted that our Teddies for Loving Care are being extended beyond the hospital environment to give comfort to even more children in distress."

Teddies for Loving Care relies entirely on donations, 90% of which come from Freemasons, their family and friends. Donations (made payable to TLC Nottinghamshire) can be sent to Graham Riche at TLC Nottinghamshire, Sheltons Barn, Grange Court, Wilford Road, Ruddington, Nottingham, NG11 6NB.

Picture

From R to L: Area manager Keith Jones receives TLC bears from Nottinghamshire Freemasons Graham Wood, Graham Riche and Neil Potter.