



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**MEDIA ALERT** – Wednesday, February 21, 2024

**Fargo Public School District #1**

## **STUDENTS TO PRESENT WE CARE BEARS DONATION TO ESSENTIA HEALTH**

Snuggling a teddy bear can help to calm the nerves of anybody in a scary situation. The first graders at Lewis & Clark Elementary School are making sure children at Essentia Health and the YWCA feel that comfort.

- WHAT:** We Care Bears Donation Celebration  
**WHEN:** **Friday, February 23** from 1 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.  
**WHERE:** Lewis & Clark Elementary School, 1729 16<sup>th</sup> Street South, Fargo  
**CONTACT:** **Stacy Anderson**, Lewis & Clark Gifted and Talented Teacher,  
[anderss5@fargo.k12.nd.us](mailto:anderss5@fargo.k12.nd.us) or 701.446.4860 for more information.

The first graders in Lewis & Clark's Gifted and Talented program will present collected teddy bears and assorted stuffed animals to a representative from Essentia Health in a special presentation on Friday. The students collected 70 new stuffed animals during their We Care Bears donation drive, February 12-16. Donations came in from school staff, students, families, and the community.

Lewis & Clark holds the We Care Bears donation drive every year during National Kindness Week. Over the years, the Lewis & Clark community has donated between 50 and 400 stuffed animals per year to numerous organizations including Fargo Police Department, Fargo Fire Department, Cass County Sherriff Department, and area homeless shelters.

We Care Bears is a national project started by Jessica Carscadden of San Diego, California in 2013. She was comforted by her stuffed animals while in an orphanage in China. She was eventually adopted and gave her stuffed animals to the San Diego Fire and Police Departments to help other scared children be comforted in a time of need. Now, many states have teddy bear donation drives. The Gifted and Talented students at Lewis & Clark have run the We Care Bears service project each year since 2017.

[END]