

Shining Star

A lone in the hospital, kids with cancer face some of the scariest moments of their lives. Taylor C., 11, would like to give every one of those kids a hug. Since she can't do that, she does the next best thing. She buys them teddy bears! Over the past four years, Taylor has given away nearly 17,500 bears. "Love goes into every bear," she says. And she's not kidding—Taylor makes sure each bear she donates gets a hug before it meets its new owner.

Taylor started her project after losing one grandmother to cancer and watching another survive the disease. To raise money to buy her bears, the California girl makes hair clips and sells them at school, in stores, and anywhere else she can. Since her program has become quite large, she enlists all the kids she knows to help. At one "painting party," 200 kids worked together to decorate Taylor's clips! Taylor has also received many, many donations for her good work.

Running her hair clip business is a challenge, but Taylor knows her efforts are worthwhile. "The bears help kids get through the bad times," she explains. To find out more about Taylor's program, visit taybearhugs.org.

Do you have a friend who shines as a volunteer? Maybe you're a star volunteer yourself. Write to the address on page 2 to tell us all about the shining stars you know. Each girl we honor receives a certificate and a sparkly star pendant—and AG will donate \$500 to her cause. ★



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