



# Never Too Young To Give

By Christine E. Miller



**Freshman at La Costa Canyon High School, Taylor Crabtree, continues to oversee her non-profit business, Taybear Company.**

There are those who think people only develop compassion and altruism with age, experience or mutual suffering. It's time for them to think again!

Taylor Crabtree was a second grader when her grandmother was diagnosed with colon cancer. She decided to paint hair clips, sell them, and use the profits to buy teddy bears for young cancer patients. With the help of her parents, friends

and teachers, she managed to meet and exceed her first goal of 50 bears. And so began Taybear Company.

Now a freshman at La Costa Canyon High School, where she earns excellent grades and also participates on the debate and volleyball teams, Taylor continues to oversee her non-profit business. Taybear Company has raised \$100,000 and prepared teddy bears for nearly 20,000 children

with cancer or chronic blood diseases at hospitals nationwide.

Since forming Taybear Company, Taylor has reached out for support by giving talks to school-children, church groups, Girl Scout troops, and volunteer organizations. At ten years old, she was invited to speak at the worldwide convention of The Million Dollar Round Table, an international association of financial and insurance professionals. After addressing this group of 6800, Taylor sold 5000 hair clips within a few hours.

Kids hand-paint all the hair clips, which Taylor sells for \$2.50 per pair on the Web ([www.taybear-hugs.org](http://www.taybear-hugs.org)), in front of supermarkets, to parents, friends, teachers – whomever will help support her cause. Cash donations from businesses and individuals also help towards her company's greatest expense – the cost of shipping her custom-made bears to hospitals all over the U.S.

The resounding gratitude Taylor receives at all levels – from individuals to multi-million-dollar companies – is not what drives this busy teen. She just feels good about helping others. Taylor is more focused on the moment – getting the bears she



**Taybear teddy bears ready to be shipped to hospitals across the U.S.A.**

has sitting in her garage right now out to hospitals – than pondering her humanitarian status.

It appears that for Taylor, giving is more a question of “how” than “whether”. And this is a rare attitude in anyone, much less a child of seven. It's Taylor's gift, and the world's good fortune.



**Hand painted hair clips are sold to purchase teddy bears for children with cancer or chronic blood diseases.**