

Bears for sick children at Shore Memorial

NASSAWADOX – Kids who are sick and frightened may get a little help from a friendly bear when admitted to Shore Memorial Hospital, thanks to the vision of a local teenager. When Arcadia High freshman Chelsea Hall suddenly became gravely ill a year ago, a routine test showed serious heart problems. She was whisked to Children’s Hospital of the King’s Daughters (CHKD) where she underwent extensive testing and multiple surgeries. She remembered that a social worker gave her a teddy bear which helped calm her terror. “I was overwhelmed when I first came in, and she was so nice. I know it’s weird for a 14-year-old to snuggle up to a bear, but I really needed something to hold on to.”

When Hall’s health improved, an idea came to her. Why not collect bears for other children in the hospital? Since then, she has collected hundreds of bears all over the Shore which she has distributed to CHKD and, as of last week, to the pediatrics wing and Emergency Department of Shore Memorial. Hall’s success is a tribute to her generosity and concern and is another example of the caring spirit of the Eastern Shore community.