

Teddy Bears to the Rescue!

When Vlad Romano was just 2½ years old, an ambulance rushed him to the hospital with a high fever. The ride was scary—until someone placed a teddy bear in his arms. That calmed him down and made him smile.

Now 10, Vlad helps calm down other kids in emergencies by making sure they have teddy bears too.

To earn money to buy

the bears, Vlad sets up lemonade and apple cider stands near his home in Bethel, Connecticut. He uses the money he earns to buy bears for fire departments in his community. Fire departments respond to many emergencies, so many have their own ambulances.

So far, Vlad has donated more than 400 teddy bears.



Vlad Romano with firefighters

“Kids in ambulances are really scared,” says Vlad, “and I want them to feel safe.”

STRANGE BUT TRUE

Animals at some zoos in Germany can't wait for the holiday season to end. That's when local stores donate their unsold Christmas trees to the zoos. (Only the real trees, of course!) Elephants and camels gobble up these holiday leftovers. The trees are rich in vitamins, so they make healthy snacks. Other animals, like polar bears, play with the trees like toys.

