



For Immediate Release

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For More Information Contact:

Stephanie Lutes-Bottorf

417-234-5745

[thebeaniebrigade@gmail.com](mailto:thebeaniebrigade@gmail.com)

Facebook/thebeaniebrigade.org

## JOIN THE BEANIE BRIGADE!

Springfield, MO- The Beanie Brigade's mission is to "warm the heads and hearts of children and teens undergoing brain surgery, chemotherapy or radiation by providing them a beanie for comfort and support."

The organization was founded when a 13 year-old boy had undergone surgery in December 2014 to remove a brain tumor. He sat in his hospital bed with his head partially shaved and incision in full view. He felt self-conscious and wanted to cover his head when his friends came to visit. His friends and family rushed out to try to find a hat that fit his swollen head and also made him feel better. That hat was a beanie. Two weeks later the family learned of another little boy who had

undergone surgery. The family mailed him three beanies to hopefully make him feel better if only for a minute. The Beanie Brigade was born!

The Beanie Brigade has delivered close to 700 beanies to doctor's offices, hospitals, child life groups, and individuals since January 2015. Most of the hats have stayed in the Springfield, MO area but hats have also gone to kids in other areas of Missouri, Florida, and Arkansas.

The Beanie Brigade is need of new beanie hats as well as donations to continue to provide these hats to every child that needs one. Individuals can donate a new beanie by contacting Stephanie Lutes-Bottorf at the [beaniebrigade@gmail.com](mailto:beaniebrigade@gmail.com) or donations can be made to <http://www.gofundme.com/Thebeaniebrigade>.