

# The Bear Essentials

## CenterPoint Energy Foundation contribution helps Joe Joe Bear Foundation replace stolen bears for sick children

**Houston – Feb. 9, 2021** – The Joe Joe Bear Foundation, a 501(c)(3) charitable organization dedicated to providing new sterilized and sealed teddy bears for children with cancer and other life-threatening conditions, today announced it has received a grant from the CenterPoint Energy Foundation to help replace bears stolen from a storage facility on Jan. 6.

The specially sterilized bears are given to the children while they are in the hospital to help calm their fears in the time between leaving their parents' side and when the anesthesia takes effect.

“We are profoundly grateful to the CenterPoint Energy Foundation for this donation,” said Jeanette Maurer, Founder and Executive Director of the Joe Joe Bear Foundation. “CenterPoint Energy’s generous support will help us replace bears that provide comfort to children who are facing illnesses. Our bears are often the only toy or stuffed animal they can have while undergoing treatment.”

Because the bears are going to ill children with compromised immune systems, they are more expensive than those found in a typical retail store. The bears are ordered from a special factory where they are medically sealed and transported directly to Joe Joe Bear, which in turn distributes them to the hospitals to comfort sick children.

“Making a positive difference in the communities where we live and work is one of our top priorities,” said Alicia Dixon, CenterPoint Energy’s Director of Community Relations. “Through the CenterPoint Energy Foundation’s contribution, Joe Joe Bear will be able to continue providing these bears to children at a time when they need a little extra comfort and security.”

### **About Joe Joe Bear Foundation**

The Joe Joe Bear Foundation, a children’s charity based in Katy Texas, serves the Greater Houston/Galveston areas, was created in memory of Joseph David Ordaz, who passed away on March 10, 2009 from Acute Lymphocytic Leukemia. He was 24. The Joe Joe Bear Foundation provides children with life-threatening illnesses teddy bears. For more information, visit [www.joejoebear.org](http://www.joejoebear.org).

### **About CenterPoint Energy**

As the only investor-owned electric and gas utility based in Texas, CenterPoint Energy, Inc. (NYSE: CNP) is an energy delivery company with electric transmission and distribution, power generation and natural gas distribution operations that serve more than 7 million metered customers in Arkansas, Indiana, Louisiana, Minnesota, Mississippi, Ohio, Oklahoma and Texas. As of September 30, 2020, the company owned approximately \$33 billion in assets and also owned 53.7 percent of the common units representing limited partner interests in Enable Midstream Partners, LP, a publicly traded master limited partnership that owns, operates and develops strategically located natural gas and crude oil infrastructure assets. With approximately 9,600 employees, CenterPoint Energy and its predecessor companies have been in business for more than 150 years. The CenterPoint Energy Foundation is a charitable giving vehicle focused on strengthening the quality of life in the communities served by CenterPoint Energy. For more information, visit [CenterPointEnergy.com](http://CenterPointEnergy.com).