

Tommy the Moose brings joy to girl in E.R.

TAYLORVILLE

Throughout the life of the Tommy Moose program, the Loyal Order of the Moose has donated over 100,000 moose dolls to emergency first responders and children.

These cuddly moose dolls are donated to first responders' such as fire departments, local police, state police, ambulance companies and hospital emergency rooms.

Moose dolls are also given to children who have been frightened by events beyond

their control, have experienced violence in any form, accidents that cause injury to themselves or others, and family disputes.

Norman Kirkendoll, Community Service Chairman for Taylorville Moose Lodge 1516, was spending the day donating moose dolls to members of the emergency services community when he coincidentally met a young lady at the Taylorville Memorial Hospital E.R.

"I was given permission to

speak with the girl and her mother while they were in the treatment room. I spoke with them and introduced Tommy Moose. The young lady accepted him and listened to his mission and the goals throughout the Moose Fraternity," explained Kirkendoll.

The young lady, Markie Kocurek, and her mother, Catherine Kocurek, were at TMH because she suffered a fractured forearm. The staff at TMH placed a cast on her injured arm and Markie was



TAYLORVILLE — One of the locations Norman Kirkendoll visited on Wednesday, January 27, was the Taylorville Fire Department. Norman was able to donate Tommy Moose dolls to members of TFD. Pictured, from left to right, is Captain Bob Durri, Assistant Fire Chief Mike Creus and Norman Kirkendoll all holding a Tommy Moose doll. Picture provided by Norman Kirkendoll.



TAYLORVILLE — Norman Kirkendoll, Community Service Chairman for the Taylorville Moose Lodge 1516, was spending his day donating Tommy Moose dolls to emergency first responders when he met a young lady at Taylorville Memorial Hospital. The young lady was in the E.R. with a fractured forearm. Norman introduced Tommy Moose to the young lady. Pictured, from left to right, is Catherine Kocurek, Markie Kocurek and Norman Kirkendoll. Picture provided by Norman Kirkendoll.

about to be discharged when Norman saw her.

"I just think it is such a coincidence that I would be out delivering Tommy Moose to first responders and I ran into a child who just suffered

an injury," stated Kirkendoll.

Tom Hatcher, a past Supreme Governor of the Loyal Order of Moose, took the Tommy Moose program from Connecticut to the entire Moose Fraternity in

2003-2004, and the program

turned out to be a smash hit.

To learn more about the Moose Fraternity please go to www.mooselnl.org.