



New Community Outreach Benefits East Asheville Families with Children

B.E.A.R. Closet (Baby Equipment And Resource Closet)

Beginning Monday, July 13, 2015, the Baby Equipment and Resource Closet (B.E.A.R) at East Asheville United Methodist Church will begin a new outreach ministry in the local community. This ministry will serve low income families and expectant parents struggling to care for their families. The B.E.A.R. Closet will provide free gently used clothing (sizes infant to 4 toddler), shoes, and baby equipment such as strollers, high chairs, swings, pack n' plays, bouncy seats, bathing and hygiene products, bedding items, as well as loving encouragement to expecting moms and parents. The outreach will be open the second and fourth Mondays of every month from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. and is located at 48 Browndale Road, across from the V.A. Medical Center.

According to the 2012 NC Justice Center statistics, 26% of Buncombe County children live in poverty (1 in 5), and 36% live in single parent households. The poverty rate has increased 85% since 2001. *"We wanted to respond to these statistics and recognized that the B.E.A.R. Closet outreach ministry and our mission statement, 'In Christ's name we share our love with families,' was the perfect platform to meet needs and be in community with our neighbors,"* states Annalee Allen, Pastor at East Asheville United Methodist Church.

There will be a Community Baby Shower to support the opening of the B.E.A.R. Closet on **Saturday, June 27th from 9:00 a.m. to noon**, where East Asheville neighbors and local community agencies can drop off donations of baby clothes, diapers, activity gear and equipment, baby bottles, hygiene products and other clean, gently used items. There will be volunteers to unload donations and free breakfast items provided. Monetary donations are also welcomed. For more information call (828) 298-3211.

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bearcloset.org

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