



New Community Outreach Benefits Fairview Families with Children

Beginning Monday, June 1, 2015, the Baby Equipment and Resource Closet (B.E.A.R.) at Fairview-Sharon United Methodist Church will be the first outreach ministry of its kind in Fairview serving low income families and expectant parents living at or below poverty level and struggling to provide for their families. The B.E.A.R. Closet will offer free gently used clothing (sizes premies to 5 toddler), shoes, 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 first and third Mondays of every month from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. and is located off Highway 74 at 2 Laura Jackson Road, across from Fairview Elementary School and the Food Lion Shopping Center.

The B.E.A.R. Closet of Fairview is a faith community partnership between three United Methodist Churches; Fairview Sharon, Nesbitt's Chapel, and Bethany United Methodist Church. 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. "Together we recognized a need in our community and an opportunity to meet that need in a practical way that reaches out to build relationships with families, strengthens our community, and shares our faith," exclaims Craig Allen, pastor at Fairview Sharon where the B.E.A.R. Closet is located.

There will be a Community Baby Shower to support the opening of the B.E.A.R. Closet on Saturday, May 16th, from 8:00 a.m. to noon, where Fairview residents and local community agencies can drop off donations of baby clothes, diapers, equipment and other items. There will be volunteers to unload donations and free breakfast items provided. Monetary donations are also welcomed. For more information contact Marie at 242-6166.

B.E.A.R. Closet (Baby Equipment and Resource Closet)
bearcloset.org

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