

## Wee-Cycle-It Children's Consignment

# Putting faith into action

## Four-day sale begins today

BY CAROLYN R. WILSON

For the Washington County News

ABINGDON, Va. — In 2008, Alicia Arney had no way of knowing her idea to recycle children's clothing and toys would end up improving the lives of so many people in the area.

Arney, who created Wee-Cycle-It Children's Consignment, has watched the Abingdon seasonal sales mushroom each year. And, this year is no exception.

As many as 325 consignors are registered for the four-day sale that begins on Wednesday, Feb. 22, and operates through Saturday, Feb. 25, in the Grand Hall at Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center in Abingdon.

The sale on Wednesday and Friday is 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Thursday's sale is 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.; and on Saturday the sale opens at 9 a.m. and closes at noon. Selected items are 50 percent all day Saturday.

According to Arney, an estimated 2,000 people are expected to shop for a new season of clothing for their families during the spring sale.

Arney said some of the items for sale include an abundance of clothing for infants, children, and teens, maternity wear, toys, books, videos, baby equipment and gear, kids' and baby furniture, bedroom suites, cribs, outdoor plastic play sets, strollers, high chairs, and exersaucers.

"We have just about everything — even the kitchen sink. That is, the

big plastic sinks for child's play," she said.

"The most wonderful thing about this event is seeing God's hand at work," said Arney. "The consignment sales help families buy and sell quality clothing at bargain prices. That's especially important during this economic downturn."

Customers at the sales are encouraged to donate non-perishable food items for the Kids' Cupboard Backpack Program which is privately supported to benefit needy students at Abingdon Elementary School.

Suggested food donations include jars of peanut butter, granola bars, pudding cups, snack crackers, and juice boxes. The program helps meet the needs of hungry children at times when other resources are not available. The food items are discreetly distributed to children on the last day before a weekend or holiday vacation.

Wee-Cycle-It sales also benefit local families, church ministry, and mission work.

"We've been able to help families whose homes were burned. It's amazing to hear the stories of people who have needed our assistance," Arney said.

Children's clothing and items leftover from the sale are donated to Ecumenical Faith in Action to help families in Washington County, Va. Guidance counselors in the Washington County Public Schools have the opportunities to choose from the leftover items to serve

students from low-income families.

After consignors receive seventy percent of the selling prices, the remaining proceeds benefit the Woodland Hills Christian Church in Abingdon. According to Arney, church members are using a portion of the money to help purchase materials for the completion of a prayer garden in a Christian events venue in



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the Dominican Republic.

Customers at the Wee-Cycle-It sales are allowed

to purchase merchandise using cash and checks with valid identifications.

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Casey Moore is among many volunteers who helped organize the Wee-Cycle-It Children's Consignment sale that begins on Wednesday, Feb. 22, and operates through Saturday, Feb. 25, in the Grand Hall at Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center in Abingdon.