

Loving Hearts for Christ Bear Closet Volunteer GPS

Our Story: In 2006, the first Baby Equipment and Resource (B.E.A.R.) Closet launched at Snow Hill United Methodist Church. It was clear there were families with children with needs too great to ignore in every community surrounding them. So, a group of volunteers looked for ways to reach out to provide help for those in need. B.E.A.R Closet of Marion, N.C. Was opened in 2018 by Philista Gossett, whose mission was to help families in McDowell County, NC that had limited resources, regardless of identity.

To date, the BC has served well over 3,000 McDowell County families with essential needs, such as; baby equipment, food, formula, baby clothing, diapers, wipes, children's clothing, and many referrals to other community resources.

Today, there are several BC's in a few counties of WNC, each staffed by dedicated volunteers, serving thousands of families every year.

We are a 501c3 non-profit organization, dedicated to help struggling families with the basic necessities for newborns and young children up to age 6. Donated items in the BC are available to families at no charge. New equipment does have a slight charge, since we have to purchase these items with monies raised through fundraisers, and generous tax deductible donations from church and community members. Every donation helps the BC have the resources to support and encourage families throughout McDowell County.

Volunteer Opportunities for Those Ages 15 (15-17, with parent/guardian approval) and Above:

Sorting & Packaging Clothes

Cleaning Equipment

Help With Cleaning Facilities

Costume Characters (Easter Bunny, Santa, etc.) for Events

Balloon Artist, Crafts, Face Painting for Events

Photography

Planners for Fundraiser Events, etc.

Every act of service, no matter how large or small, makes a difference in the lives of children and families in need.

“Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.” Matthew 25:40

Volunteers are valued as an essential part of accomplishing the, Loving Hearts for Christ Bear Closet of Marion NC mission to reach out and deliver the Bear Closet's services with compassion and care. Volunteers provide valued help in the organization and care of the many donations of babies and younger children clothing, equipment, and other supplies. Through our volunteers hands they help struggling parents and guardians keep their young children clothed, fed, and clean to maintain good health.

Volunteer Guidelines:

Use of Alcohol or Drugs are Not Permitted!

Smoking inside the premises of the buildings is not permitted

Use of profanity is unacceptable.

Treat others as you would want to be treated!

Every volunteer must sign in and out each day!

Volunteers are asked to be present on the days they have agreed to, and if they are under the weather or have been exposed to something contagious, please call or have someone call for you, and inform us of your absence. We are very dependent on your consistent help, but we need you there well, and healthy. Failure to attend without communication of habitual absenteeism will result in dismissal. Please inform us before you start a project. If you feel you cannot do it as needed, ask for assistance. If you do not understand how something is to be done don't hesitate or be ashamed to ask for more clear instructions.

As a Loving Hearts for Christ Bear Closet volunteer you need to sign in and out every day you work. As a non-profit we have to track this information for volunteer hours and monthly reports. Volunteers will receive training on the individual jobs to be done. Sometimes you may be asked to volunteer for outside events, such as, setting up a fundraiser event, face painting, costume characters,

crafts, etc.

Loving Hearts for Christ Bear Closet is a non-denominational, but Christ-centered non-profit. Christ says, in Matthew 25:40, “Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.”

We do not discriminate against religion, race, or color. We are here to help the caretakers of babies and small children.

We do not tolerate anti-racism, sexual harassment, alcohol, or drugs. If you feel threatened by any of these things, please report it immediately.

Remember, we are all working together to make a better life for others. We need to go about doing what we do in a professional manner, caring and being concerned for ourselves and those we work with and serve.

To volunteer at the BC you will need to sign an **Accident Waiver Land Release of Liability Form**. If you are between the ages of **15 – 17**, a parent or guardian is required to sign this waiver. The safety of our volunteers is important. If you feel unsafe, or challenged in any way this needs to be reported immediately.

Always work smart. Look around you, make sure there is nothing that could cause injury. Do not lift anything too heavy; **ask for assistance or do not lift the object**. Please report any injuries or observed dangers

We provide, mask, gloves, and hand sanitizers for your protection. Don't hesitate to use any or all of them.

We all have days that just seem to be off, “emotional” days, and things may not be going well. We care for our volunteers, and if you feel the need to be heard, we want to help you. That is why we are called “Loving Hearts for Christ.” It's very difficult to do a

job, and do it well, if your heart is heavy. We will listen and pray with you when and if that will help you.

Thank you for your willingness to care, and be a volunteer for the Bear Closet.

Loving Hearts For Christ B.E.A.R

www.bearclosetofmarion.com

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