

**Volunteers of America of North Louisiana- Highland Center
Neighbors for Neighbors Program
Presents
THE DIAPER CLOSET**

First Presbyterian is helping to initiate a **new** program in the Highland area for the working poor to provide and distribute free **diapers and diaper wipes** to the babies of the working/near poor families in the Shreveport and Bossier City areas. The Diaper Closet is a non-profit volunteer program under the auspices of the "Neighbors for Neighbors Program," which is a program established at the Highland Center through our friends, Susie Nunnally and Bob Thompson. The Diaper Closet will operate out of the Highland Center.

We need First Presbyterians to help jumpstart this program by buying diapers and wipes whenever they shop at grocery stores or at discount stores. We also need First Presbyterians who can donate no more than 1 hour per month sorting and dispensing diapers to ensure each participating family receives the size and amount of diapers they need for the month.

By providing families these diapers and wipes, we are ensuring that the need for hygienic essentials for their youngsters is being met. We also are providing a supportive cushion from welfare and the opportunity to succeed for families who are struggling to make ends meet, but have incomes too high to qualify for federal and state subsidies.

The Diaper Closet already has its first client. It is serving and will serve families with babies and toddlers under the age of three years old. The program will initially serve Providence House graduates, VYJ graduates, Dress for Success participants, Highland Center Day Care families, and Lighthouse Center families. The families will be screened by an employee of Volunteers of America. The criteria will include:

- Must be a resident of Shreveport or Bossier City
- One parent/guardian must be employed
- The income of the family should not exceed the 200% of the Federal Poverty guidelines (see attached guidelines).
- Each family will be asked to sign a product liability waiver and will also agree to allow The Diaper Closet to use the child(ren)'s picture for fundraising purposes (The Diaper Closet will **not** use the child(ren)'s name for such purposes).

Call the Church Office at 222-0604, and let us know if you are interested in spending time with others sorting and delivering diapers and whether morning or evening works better for you. You do not need to make a long-term commitment—you can help when you're shopping or whenever else you can.

If you have questions, please feel free to call Sarah Kirkpatrick--934-4012 or Brandy McNeill—221-8404.