

Mary's Cradle
401 College Avenue
Bluefield, WV 24701
April 22, 2010

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Greetings from Mary's Cradle! We are excited to see spring and have already been quite busy. For those of you who are not familiar with our program, I will tell you a little bit about us. Mary's Cradle has been in existence since December of 1995 and is a non-profit ministry of the United Methodist Church. It is located in Trinity United Methodist Church and is accountable to the Bluefield Cooperative Parish (five United Methodist churches in Bluefield, WV). We serve pregnant women, mothers, fathers, foster parents, and their precious little ones. We offer maternity attire and infant/toddler clothing from Newborn to Size 4T. We also offer diapers, cribs, car seats, and any infant or toddler furnishing that is donated to our project. For infants we give a "Newborn Layette" to help get them started which includes diapers, wipes, baby wash and lotion, blankets, bottles, books, onesies, sleepers, etc.; included is a gift for the new mother (i.e. shampoo/conditioner, toothbrush, toothpaste, soap, lotion and so forth). We have resource books on pregnancy, raising children, children with special needs, in addition to books in Spanish. We have a collection of children's books that the children are able to pick from. We served over 1,000 in 2009. We have been able to serve 250 families this year and are thankful for the ability to do so. We are able to help families because others have given generously of their prayers, time, and donations. In 2009, we were blessed to share 103 cribs to those in need. We have been able to provide 15 cribs this year so far. At the moment, we have several on the waiting list for a crib. After sharing my concern with the members of our board, one of the members came up with what I think is a wonderful idea. She suggested that we do a campaign on Mother's Day...*Give a Crib in Honor of a Mother*. I am asking you today for your church's help. Would you please join us in this endeavor? If so, please hang up the enclosed flyer (the flyer includes a picture of the actual crib that we purchase tax free from Wal-Mart) in your place of worship and collect the contributions on Mother's Day Sunday. Please be sure all checks are made out to Mary's Cradle and mail them to our address listed above. If you would like to include the flyer in your bulletin, please call me or email me and I will email it to you. In closing I would like to tell you what one of our mothers shared regarding the crib she received from us recently, she wrote: "Getting a crib meant the world to me. I didn't have anything for my daughter to sleep in, and Mary's Cradle gave my daughter a bed to sleep in. Thank you!"

We would truly appreciate your prayers as we continue to reach out to these families and show them the love of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Thank you for your consideration. God bless you!

Sincerely,
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