

Wee-Cycle-It sale set for Aug. 7-8

By CAROLYN R. WILSON/Correspondent

An Abingdon woman is introducing moms to a new way of going green while actually making some green.

With the help of her church family, friends and other volunteers, Alicia Arney has organized Wee-Cycle-It Children's Consignment Sale, a volunteer-run effort that is being well-received by parents in the region. Similar consignment sales, open to the public, are growing in popularity in communities throughout the country that support "Go Green" campaigns. "It's a great way to reduce, reuse and recycle children's items," said Arney.

Since last year, Arney has organized the seasonal children's consignment sales to help families

stretch their dollars during these difficult economic times by selling and purchasing gently-used children's items. The next fall and winter sale is scheduled for 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 7, and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, August 8, at the Fraley/Garrett House, directly behind Sinking Spring Presbyterian Church at 136 East Main Street. Selected items will be sold half price from 2 to 5 p.m. on Saturday.

When Arney moved to Abingdon in 2004, she approached her pastor at Sinking Spring Presbyterian Church about hosting the children's consignment sales.

"I had previously lived in Atlanta, where there are a huge number of consignment sales, and I thought

■ See SALE, Page A2



Carolyn R. Wilson

Alicia Arney gets ready for another Wee-Cycle-It sale.

SALE: Wee-Cycle-It sale set for August

■ Continued from Page A1

Abingdon could benefit from something like this as well."

Arney describes the consignment sales a "win-win shopping experience for everyone."

Consignors price all of their items and receive 70 percent of the selling price, minus a \$3 advertising fee. Partial proceeds received from sales benefit the Sinking Spring Presbyterian Church Preschool. Arney said approximately \$2,500 from the previous two sales last fall and this spring helped to purchase playground equipment for their preschool.

In addition, Arney said the consignment sales are helping people in the community find great deals on used items below the retail costs.

Items that do not sell can be donated to Ecumenical Faith in Action. Arney reported that four racks of clothing and 12 boxes of baby items have been given to the non-profit organization since the consignment sales began.

The children's items are organized throughout five rooms and a hallway. Arney said a larger location for the sales will be needed if sales continue to grow. Consignors

must have a minimum of 10 accepted items to sell. Currently, there is no limit on the number of items a consignor can bring. She recalled that one of her consignors brought three van loads of items for a previous sale.

Arney said she started out with 42 consignors for the first sale last fall and estimates she has as many as 55 consignors scheduled to bring items for the upcoming sale in August. Most of the consignors are from the Abingdon area, while some come from Bristol, Johnson City, Piney Flats, Glade Spring and

Lebanon.

Arney said the children's consignment sales are a "step up" from yard sales because all items are screened. Clothing items must not have tears, stains or missing buttons. Only seasonal clothing is accepted from sizes for premature infants through teens. Other items accepted are baby equipment, such as strollers and high chairs, riding toys, children's books, videos and CD games, new stuffed toys with tags, uniforms, costumes and dress-up clothing, kid's furniture, kid's bedding, large plas-

tic toys and maternity clothing.

Wee-Cycle-It does not accept adult clothing, used stuffed animals, violent items, broken or recalled items and items missing pieces or car seats more than 5 years old or that have been recalled.

"The beauty of these sales is all of these children's items are found in one location. Mom's easily get hooked on the consignment sales because they find what they are looking for." Quick sale items are baby furniture and equipment, such as strollers and car seats and large toys, such as

swing sets.

She gives credit to the volunteers for the success of the project. Many of her volunteers are members of Sinking Spring Presbyterian Church and parents of pre-school children. Arney said her good friend, Karen Blatter of Birmingham, Al., has helped her organize each of the events. "But, God always gets the glory for all of this."

To learn more about the children's consignment sales or to become a consignor or volunteer, contact Arney at Alicia-arney@hotmail.com.