

## **FIRST FOSTER CLOSET IN WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS TO OPEN AT ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH**

**[LONGMEADOW, MA, October 28, 2021]** - St. Andrew's Church of Longmeadow will be opening Lydia's Closet for foster families in need on November 4, 2021. Working closely with the Massachusetts Department of Children & Families (DCF), the members of St. Andrew's recognized a great need to help families throughout western Massachusetts communities who are bringing foster children into their homes.

"Very often, children in need of a safe home are placed with foster families with very little notice. These last-minute connections can mean the foster parents may be unprepared with appropriate clothing and supplies for the age of the child that comes to their home." explained Rev. Charlotte LaForest, Rector of St. Andrew's. "There are a few donation closets in the eastern part of the state, but none in this area until now. The members of St. Andrews have come forward with care and donations to help get this needed service started so we can help lessen the financial barriers for children and their foster families during those crucial first few weeks together."

Beginning on Thursday, November 4<sup>th</sup>, Lydia's Closet will be open Thursdays 3pm- 6pm Sundays 11am-12pm. For emergency situations, the closet can be opened within 24 hours to meet families with urgent needs. It is located on the basement level of St. Andrew's Church at 335 Longmeadow Street, Longmeadow. Entry is through the door in the back of the church facing the parking lot.

Donations of new and very gently used clothing ranging in sizes from infant through teen are gratefully accepted, along with necessary accessories like cribs and car seats. Anyone interested in donating may do so by searching Lydia's Closet Baby Registry on Amazon.

For more information, contact St. Andrew's Episcopal Church at 413-567-5901 or [lydiascloset@st-andrews-longmeadow.org](mailto:lydiascloset@st-andrews-longmeadow.org) or watch for event updates on its Facebook page - <https://www.facebook.com/standrewslongmeadow> .

**Contact:** Jennifer Greene

**Phone:** (413) 567-5901

**Email:** [admin@st-andrews-longmeadow.org](mailto:admin@st-andrews-longmeadow.org)