

MILK AND HONEY

Vol. 3, No. 4

The Craddock Center
(Enriching Lives through Service)

April, 2006

SO WHAT DOES A SCHOLARSHIP REALLY DO?

April 10 was an exciting day ... I was able to witness firsthand the good work of the Children's Enrichment Program (CEP), as Pam Lindsey graciously drove me all over North Georgia to visit the CEP Arts Specialists at the Head Start Centers. First, we went to Dawson County, where we heard music and storytelling with Miss Tracy; then we were off to Gilmer County, where we heard Miss Amanda provide music, and finally we headed to Fannin County, where we saw Miss Kim instruct in creative movement. Let me tell you... the children love the program. Not only that, you can tell they also love the program givers, providing hugs and high-fives a-plenty. They know the songs, and eagerly and enthusiastically sing them. In Gilmer County, I watched as one little boy who had been summoned by his teacher stood beside her, sang, and did the hand motions to a song he clearly enjoyed, even though he was apart from the group. I also saw children that were outside on the playground press their faces to the window to peer in to see what we were doing. It's no wonder, for under Miss Amanda's leadership, the children had fun learning to count with the song "Five Little Monkeys". Teachers participated in the songs as well. With jungle music (March and April's theme) and the enticing rhythms, how could anyone sit still? In Dawson County, I watched one little boy who didn't want to participate not be able to resist being pulled into Miss Tracy's fabulous telling of the story "El Conejito". In Fannin County, the children had a fantastic time pretending to be weeble-wobbles, then singing the "Hello" song, saying hello in at least four languages while dancing to music (and all of this after lunch, no less!). In all, I observed about 80 children's happiness in the span of four hours, and that is certainly contagious. Not that I needed any reinforcement, but this unequivocally convinced me that coming to The Craddock Center will be quite enriching to me. It's unfortunate that you too can't visit these Head Start Centers and see the program in action. Please take my word for it: your scholarships are definitely well received. -TRS



WHY DIDN'T I THINK OF IT BEFORE?

In the last issue of Milk and Honey, we were at 255 scholarships (\$140.00 for each child) for our Children's Enrichment Program. The goal was 282. Motivating friends of children to reach the goal and finish the campaign was the challenge, what to do? Tears, begging, threats, sermonettes, favorite Scripture citations; my bag of tricks was empty.

In desperation I fell back on my 40 years in the classroom: I set a deadline. All inclined to give scholarships had until April 15 to do so.



The response has been amazing. We had 255, the goal was 282, we now have 294! Of course, notes accompanied many checks: "I'm ahead of the deadline; do I get extra credit". "I delayed my funeral in order to get this in the mail." "I hope this arrives on time; I'm in a dog sled race across Alaska." And, of course, the usual requests for extensions: "My aunt died again." "I gave my check to the mailman, but he has come down with leprosy." I enjoyed all the notes; it seemed like old times. A deadline still works its irritating magic.

But it's not the deadline, it's you and your generosity and your love for the children. Thanks. - FBC

LAUGHTER (OR LIMBO) IS THE BEST MEDICINE

The Craddock Center had a booth at the Gilmer County Health and Safety Fair on April 1, 2006. (No, this isn't an April Fool's Day joke.) Several community organizations and businesses were present at the event, which was geared toward children in the community. I heard more than one person say, "The Craddock Center... now what is it that you do?" This was an excellent opportunity to build our name recognition in the Gilmer County. A special thanks goes to Kim Cheves, who energized and lifted the spirits of several children attending the fair through music and creative movement...including Limbo! Dr. Craddock even led the limbo line. (Gotcha... April Fool's!) - TRS

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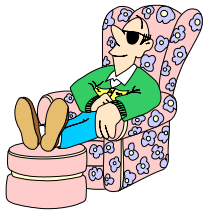
Teresa R. Slemmons, Director
Dr. Fred B. Craddock, Dir. of Development
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THERE IS SOME MISUNDERSTANDING

About my relation to the Center now that Teri Slemons is directing the day-to-day operation.

Here's the deal. I remain as Director of Development and as consultant to Teri. There will be no change in the purpose and vision of the Center; I simply will focus on making more friends and supporters for the Center.

But do I still have an office at the Center? You bet your bottom dollar I do. In fact, I have an even bigger office. I was officed in the front bedroom (our place was a 3-bedroom home) but now I am in the large eating area off the kitchen. I have a telephone, waste basket, and everything. This bigger room allows me to use all my office furniture: 3 lazy boys and a couch. Come see me.-FBC



CALLING ALL BOOKS

We desperately need books, particularly board books, for our Story Express. This is a good and bad thing... good, because we've been able to get many books into the hands of many children; bad, because many more children need books. Do you have a favorite book to share? Are you a member of a book club, garden club, or a pickin' and grinnin' group? Perhaps you could encourage your cohorts to bring a book to your next meeting, and collectively send these books to the Center. (Be careful not to spill coffee – or anything else – on them, though!) In the tradition of sharing stories, you might tell each other why a particular book is your favorite. Whether or not you confess that *The Velveteen Rabbit* still brings tears to your eyes is up to you. The children thank you.-TRS



Did you know...

With your help, The Craddock Center distributed 3200 books during 2005. That's an average of 267 per month, or 62 per week, or 9 per day...

GOING, GOING...



The Preaching Workshop set for October 2 is filling up quickly! If you want to attend, drop whatever you're doing and register now... if the lines are busy, hang up and dial again. Yes, it's only April, but with only 90 seats available and 37 already spoken for, procrastination will leave you out in the cold.-TRS

GUESS WHO'S THE LAST TO KNOW

Those of you with long memories will recall that a crew from the Discovery Times Channel came to Cherry Log last summer to film and interview for a program on Appalachian preachers. Charlie LeDuff of the New York Times and crew spent about three hours here. "And when will this be on television?" "Probably late Fall; you'll be the first to know."

In the last few days I have received from Charlie and from the producer of the show an apology: it was shown in November, 2005 and will be shown again. The title is "Country Preachers" and is part of a series Only in America. They also sent to the Center two DVD's of the program. Main attention is on a pentecostal tent revival in Virginia and a snake handling service in Georgia. I appear in an abbreviated interview which is not quite the highlight of the program.

Feel free to contact Tammy at the Center if you wish to check out a copy. Popcorn not provided.-FBC



YOU CAN DO THIS; AND WE CAN HELP

Spend the night that is, during Appalachian Weekend Sept. 29-30. You see, this year the schedule is different. On Friday night the Welsh Men's Choir will sing, along with some local singing groups. Miss that and you'll kick yourself all the way back to Idaho. And then Saturday morning and afternoon, singers and musicians from all over Appalachia will perform. Miss that and you'll eat rat poison and die.

Already I know of persons coming from Texas, Illinois, and Florida, plus gobs of folk coming up from Atlanta. So I have asked Tammy to provide the following information:

- Black Bear Cabin Rentals:** 888/902-2246; www.blackbearcabinrentals.com; blackbear@tds.net
- Simpler Times Cabin Rentals:** 352/795-0197
- Days Inn/ Blue Ridge:** 706/632-2100
- Douglas Inn & Suites/Blue Ridge:** 706/258-3600
- Ramada Limited/Blue Ridge:** 706/632-4444
- Best Western/Ellijay:** 706/515-1500
- Budget Inn/Ellijay** 706/635-5311
- Stratford Motor Inn/E. Ellijay:** 706/276-1080

For more information about the area, contact the Chamber of Commerce in Fannin County: 800/899-6867; www.blueridgemountains.com; in Gilmer County: 706/635-7400; www.gilmerchamber.com.-FBC

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