



Happy & Hope. We Deliver.

STAFF SPOTLIGHT

LAUREN MILLER



Having a strong passion for children and desire to help her community, Lauren Miller joined The Craddock Center as our new office manager on June 18, 2018. She is a Gilmer High School graduate of 2015, and is currently pursuing her dream of becoming a business major. She brings much expertise, creativity, and personal dedication to the center. Her family is a great support group, and cheers her on as she follows her dreams. Being newly engaged, Lauren's biggest support is her soon-to-be husband, Josh. In her spare time, Lauren enjoys hiking and kayaking with Josh, and spending time with her newborn niece, Oaklyn. Lauren is from Spring City, TN, but considers her hometown Ellijay, GA as she has resided there for 15 years.



JULY— AUGUST 2018 NEWSLETTER

MILK & HONEY

THE CRADDOCK CENTER

2018 –2019

Annual Fund Campaign

\$300,000.00 !



“OUR WORK CONTINUES”

Dear Friends,

Believe it or not, The Craddock Center is beginning its 18th year of delivering *Happy and Hope* to Head Start and Pre-K children! The Center has grown a lot during these years and now serves 1,300 low income children in 63 classrooms on a weekly basis. Our Children’s Enrichment Program staffed by five Arts Specialists provides language-rich music, storytelling in the Appalachian tradition, physical activity to combat childhood obesity, and now classroom puppetry to children who otherwise have no exposure to these critical foundational needs of literacy. We distribute more than 2,000 new books each year to children within nine counties through the Story Express, in their classrooms, at school functions, at art festivals, at health fairs, and at Camp Craddock sites in the summer.

We deliver these experiences to these children at no cost to them or to the schools. We deliver these experiences to the classroom because most of these children have no means to travel other than to and from school. We provide these books to each child because these children’s parents have no ability to buy the books for their children. Our literature explains the deficit these children suffer from having no books in their homes. We encourage you to take time to read our brochure.

How do we provide these experiences for these children at no charge? Because **YOU**, our generous donors, **SEE TO IT** that we have the funding to accomplish these essential esteem-building experiences for these children. Because **YOU**, our caring donors, **CARE** about this inequality between these low income children and those who have far more than they do. Because **YOU**, our generous donors, **VOLUNTEER** to knit woolen caps for these children to wear in the winter and make wooden toys so that these children have gifts at holiday time.

When we lost our beloved founder Dr. Fred Craddock who, with his wife Nettie, gave their all to see to it that these children had opportunities to exceed in school and in life, we wondered if the Center could carry on without him. We quickly learned that **YOU, our dedicated and generous donors, truly BELIEVE** in these children and the importance of their success in their early educational years .

Please continue to give generously, volunteer consistently, think creatively, and support these children lovingly and without hesitation. We remain committed to the children and to you, our supporters. We – and they – **THANK YOU. We – and they - depend on you! Our 2018 campaign goal is \$300,000.00.**

Sincerely,

Judy Wyndham, Board Member

2018 Annual Campaign Chair

THE CRADDOCK CENTER MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to deliver educational and cultural programs to children, families, and communities, primarily in Southern Appalachia. We serve by sharing and spreading centuries old traditions of song and story characteristic of the region.

A TASTE OF MILK & HONEY



DR. FRED B. CRADDOCK

MY VISION ... My vision for The Craddock Center is clear and firm: that we keep our pledge, in some way, every day, to enrich lives through service.

This means that all who work in and through The Center, paid and volunteer, infuse every act and word with the grace of God. This is achieved not by an abundance of religious talk but by being gracious as God is. To be gracious is to welcome all without distinction. Some have and some do not; we make no distinction. Some give and some receive; we make no distinction.

Some have been here for generations and some arrived yesterday; we make no distinction. Some are young and some are old; we make no distinction. And every one of us has been, is, or

will be a minority person, so who would presume to make distinctions?

To build such a community is difficult but not impossible. It takes time and effort to build trust so that those who have known only isolation or rejection will accept hospitality. Some are so needy that they have not realized what or how much they have to give to others. A few come running but many must be sought, and none are to be forgotten.

The program of The Center is determined by need. In some cases it may begin with food, clothing, or housing, but that is only the beginning. There is no commandment, "Thou shalt barely get by." Every life needs enrichment and that means classes in health care, job training, family economics, child rearing. It means to include the confined, by visits, cards, calls, and gifts. It is to say, "This is a good place to live, to raise a family, to build friendships, to grow old and die." This is my vision, and to it I give my life.



CAMP CRADDOCK!

Camp Craddock is underway! The Craddock Center staff, mission groups from across the nation, and fabulous volunteers are busy this summer serving local children with food, crafts, and adventure resulting in lots and lots of "Happy and Hope". Reverend Brad Biggerstaff, Camp Coordinator and Melanie Miso, Camp Intern are busy at work with Connie Chancey , Programs Director to

insure a fun camp experience for approximately 50 children each week.

The Craddock Center welcomes and greatly appreciates Sandy Springs Christian Church of Marietta, GA., Mt. Zion UMC from Marietta, GA., and Mattapoisett Congregational Church of Mattapoisett, MA. A huge thank you to volunteers from Gates Chapel UMC and Nine Mile UMC both of Ellijay, GA. Last but certainly not least...we have been extremely blessed to have the help of Scout Master Greg Withrow and Troop 404 of Gilmer County at Camp Craddock. Scout Troop 404 worked very hard!



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