



Happy & Hope. We Deliver.



### The Living Room

**You may not know this.....**The Craddock Center is part of a network of agencies in southern Appalachia that provide support to families in need. The Living Room and our new Family Room contain donations of furniture, clean bedding, and household items from our surrounding community. Donations are growing and so are the numbers of families needing basic items. Used and sometimes new furniture and household items are shared with families in crisis, recovering from fire, or family violence. We often see young families with small children visiting The Living Room searching for simple items such as a table, chairs, or dishes. Over 100 families have received services from The Living Room and Family Room. We are open Tuesday and Thursday. Donations can be made any day.

## MARCH-APRIL 2020 NEWSLETTER

# MILK & HONEY



## Craddock Cares...



### Wrapped in Hope & Love

**Craddock Cares** is a new outreach program sponsored by The Craddock Center. **Craddock Cares** was formed in 2020 to support children, women, and the elderly who find themselves in emergency situations, displacements, and other significant crisis events. The Fannin County Sheriff's Department placed an order for 30 kits and we delivered!

Our **Craddock Cares** kits include selected items placed in 2-gallon, water-proof bags. The bags are designed to be easily carried by law enforcement for emergency use when transporting or caring temporarily for children or adults in transition.

One **Craddock Cares** kit includes:

- Lightweight tote bag
- Blanket
- Bottled water
- Stuffed animal
- Toothbrush & tooth paste
- Hand towel
- Hat and gloves (winter)



Contact us at The Craddock Center if you want more information on this program or to learn how you can help with this new outreach within the communities of southern Appalachia.



### Dueling Children's Book Challenge!

**Are you a member of a book club, organization, or church group?**

**Is your group up for a challenge?**

This spring, The Craddock Center would like to help you organize a Dueling Children's Book Challenge. Find a partner group and invite that group to a challenge and see which group can collect the most books for our Children's Enrichment Program. Set a time frame, and we'll help you get things started. Contact us for more details.



#### 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



A Taste of Milk and Honey

Dr. Craddock’s Vision for The Craddock Center



DR. FRED B. CRADDOCK


“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 shall barely get by.” Every life needs enrichment and that means classes in health care, job training, family economics, child-rearing. It means music and art and storytelling. It means getting together to listen to each other’s stories and to enjoy one another. 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 to die.”

*This is my vision and to it I give my life. ~Fred Craddock*

 Have you ever wondered what a typical day is like in each of the 64 classrooms we visit? The artists in the Children’s Enrichment Program are in each classroom for 30 minutes of stories and music. That means movement, laughter, learning, imagination, and lots of fun. Whether we use puppets, instruments, scarves or other props, children join us in singing, dancing and hands-on participation.

When people ask, “How do we know if we make a difference?” Here is what we hear... the children know our names and cheer when we enter the classroom. They ask questions like, “Can you stay longer?” or “Can you come to my house?” or “Will you come to my birthday party?” You see, they want us to bring this joy into their homes. When we see the children at the local grocery store or ball-games, we are sure to get a hug. We also get feedback from teachers telling how excited the children are on days we visit. Some talk of children who did not participate in music or stories until the Craddock Center came along. Teachers and parents alike say we bring “Happy & Hope” while adding that important love of learning into each visit.



THANK YOU, GOPHER BROKE and CAROL CAIN as ROSIE the RIVETER for providing a wonderful afternoon of Songs & Stories 2020. You were both incredible in your shows and so entertaining. When the afternoon was over, all we heard was, “We want more!” It was the

perfect way to spend a cold and wintery day in January in Cherry Log, Georgia.

We LOVE you all.....



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All you need to do is sign up directly on smile.amazon.com in support of our organization. Below is the direct link to The Craddock Center. Share this information and this “easy to use” link to the center with your family and friends.

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/01-0597551>

Thank you for all your support!