



Happy & Hope. We Deliver.

## The Power of Storytelling

**One of the joys we find** in being a part of The Craddock Center is witnessing the power of storytelling. Here are a few stories that have made a true impact this year...

You see, there is a rancher in East Colorado who lives miles from anyone. This wonderful new friend of the center sends quilts, stuffed animals, books, and many other items to us in support our work with children. How did this rancher know about The Craddock Center? It was the power of storytelling. One of our board members told the story of The Craddock Center to friends in a Christmas letter. The story of our work with children prompted his friend, a rancher in Colorado, to contact us and begin sending items each month.

Then, there is the story of a couple who owns a getaway cabin in Fannin County. They stopped by The Craddock Center one day, curious to know the “background story” behind the center. After hearing the story, this couple initiated a team of volunteers from their metro Atlanta church who, to this day, help with the monthly newsletter, assist in handing out books, knit and crochet hats, sort and label books, and enjoy being with kids during the summer sharing stories and crafts.

Recently there was a knock on the door at the center, and a visitor entered the office. She had heard stories about The Living Room (an outreach of the center that gives away household items and furniture to families in need). She said she had items to donate. After opening The Living Room and carrying items inside, I noticed her items were brand new and still in unopened packages. It seems that our friend had received numerous gift cards to celebrate a special event in her life. Instead of using them for herself, she used those gift cards to purchase new items for families in need. “So many families are hurting nowa-days,” she said, “and this is something I can do to help.”

It’s all about the power of our stories!



## MAY/JUNE 2020 NEWSLETTER

# MILK & HONEY



## Reflections From the Classroom

Over the past few weeks, I’m sure most of us have experienced a few moments of reflection. Well, we’ve been doing a lot of reflecting at The Craddock Center, and our thoughts focus on those special moments from the classroom. We want to share these with you....

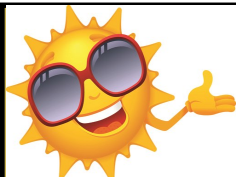
*Last December I was talking with the mom of a Head Start child. She works in a local service industry and is an immigrant. She told me that her little boy had brought home from school a wooden truck that he loved so much that he sleeps with it! I asked her if Santa had given it to him at school and she excitedly exclaimed, “Yes!” Thank you, Santa Jack, and thanks to the wonderful toy makers across the country who make wooden toys for The Craddock Center all year!*  
...from Beth

*There’s a deaf child in one of my classes. The last time I visited that classroom, the child ran out of line and came up to me and gave me a big hug. After pushing the other kids out of the way, the child sat in the front row, signing with me during every song. Now, I am so encouraged to incorporate more signing into my songs so I can be sure ALL of my children can always participate.*  
...from Amanda

*Recently, I visited one of my classrooms and one of the shyest little ones in class came over to me and whispered, “I love you Miss Judy, and I am so happy you are here!” Then, each time I glanced their way, the precious child would bashfully smile back at me! This made my day and shows the impact we make!*  
...from Judy

*We were singing “We are Monsters Stomping Around the Room.” Now, we do some major STOMPING in that song! I noticed a pair of glasses on the floor that were in danger of getting stomped. I asked the teacher to help. She asked her student to put them on, and the girl began to cry. She did not want to be seen in glasses. I noticed her glasses happened to be pink. Well, guess what color reading glasses I had in my purse? PINK! I ran to put them on and said, “Look, my glasses are pink just like yours!” The tears stopped, the glasses went on, and with a big smile, she stomped along to the rest of the song.*  
...from Natalie

*A young woman walked up to me after one of our Christmas puppet shows for foster kids. She had a bright smile on her face as she told me that she, too, had been a foster child 15 years earlier. She remembered the puppet shows, the songs, and the stories from The Craddock Center when she was in Head Start. Thank you for still bringing “Happy and Hope” to us!*  
...from Pam



### 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**



DR. FRED B. CRADDOCK

## A Taste of Milk and Honey

### A Memory of Dr. Craddock

#### Maslow and The Craddock Center

Emily Saliers and Amy Ray, also known as The Indigo Girls, held a benefit concert for The Craddock Center on March 1, 2005, at the 40 Watt Club in Athens, Georgia. Their music is not only critically-acclaimed, it is transformative. Dr. Craddock knew Emily since she was a teenager, and in his words, *“Their playing this benefit for Appalachian children tells you who they are.”*

The show was stellar. In the intimate and dimly-lit setting of the 40 Watt, Dr. Craddock briefly took the stage. Many, perhaps most, of the attendees were unfamiliar with the work of the Center, and Dr. Craddock’s duty was to enlighten them. He began to speak: *“...we work with preschoolers, three and four years old, and what we do is this...”* People continued their conversations, not listening attentively, as is characteristic of such a time and place. As he continued to talk, the room grew quieter. *“Some of you may remember there was, a couple of generations ago, a psychologist named Maslow who classified needs as food, clothing, shelter, and then safety, and then love, et cetera, et cetera, and at the top was self-fulfillment,”* said Dr. Craddock. A few cheered, probably Psychology majors. *“Self-fulfillment involves stories, music, art, dance. Now what we do is turn that upside down and consider the top part as the basic need.”*

Suddenly, there were lots of cheers, and people had stopped their side conversations and were paying attention. *“If these children, who are economically disadvantaged and under-socialized, can have brought into their lives by professional people who love them, art, music, dance, and story, they are going to take care of the problem of their being on the cycle of welfare and disappointment and dropout. They’re going to break through that and look the world in the eye.”* At this time there were even more cheers. In under two minutes, Dr. Craddock had won over the 40 Watt crowd to the work of The Craddock Center.

I recently watched the video of this speech, and it brought tears to my eyes, not just to hear my dear friend’s voice, but to witness his amazing ability to bring everyone into his mission by sharing the story in its purest, simplest form. I remain grateful to the Indigo Girls for their generosity in hosting this event, and I am grateful for all of our supporters who enable us to carry out Dr. Craddock’s vision. May I share with you some good news? We are still accepting partners in our work. We hope you will join us.

... As told by Teri Slemons



## Connie’s Corner

With schools closing their doors for the year, we finished a little earlier than expected with our 2019-2020 Children’s Enrichment Program (CEP). We’ve some wonderful “Happy” memories. Our CEP artists provided weekly programs of stories and music. We also had the chance to work together to present our extra special shows! These included dressing like Dr. Seuss characters as part of Read Across America. We also enjoyed two joy-filled puppet shows. Our Campfire Stories and Songs gave our classrooms a unique experience with an indoor campfire and s’mores. We invited Santa to visit our schools and join us in a Holiday Parade in McCaysville. Santa and Mrs. Claus helped us, during their visits and special events, distribute over 1,300 handmade wooden toys. Finally, with the help of our fabulous volunteers, we delivered over 2,600 books and over 1,300 hand-knitted hats and gloves. Almost half of our little friends in Pre-K and Head Start will be returning next year. So, with all these wonderful experiences, we can’t wait to see them, and the new students that will join them in Fall 2020.

For the past 5 weeks, our artists and the Craddock Center staff have spent “stay at home” days getting ready for the next school year! Ms. Connie and the CEP Artists have been spending their time planning, learning lots of new songs, and polishing up on storytelling. Did you know we’ve been sharing on Facebook? We are posting songs and story videos on our Facebook page. If you have not seen us on Facebook, please check us out and “like” our page. Make a comment, we would love to hear from our fans! Since we’ve all been working from home, we have had a few visitors in the videos like Ms. Bunny and the Craddock Center mascot bears, “Happy and Hope”. Also, many thanks to my adult kids and grand kids who volunteered to help with our Facebook videos. It was such fun to share my work with my family, and each one had a great time, too. My granddaughter, Brooklyn, said, “Nana, are all the kids going to get to see us [on Facebook]?” I told her I hoped that they would. She told me that I have the coolest job ever, and I have to say I agree 100%. So, keep on reading, sharing stories, and staying safe and healthy. Until we get together again, we hope to see you on our Facebook page.

