



for **CHILD**
and **FAMILY**
ENRICHMENT

CELEBRATING
25 years
2001-2026

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.

P.O. Box 69
186 Fred Craddock Drive
Cherry Log, GA 30522
706-632-1772
craddockcenter@tds.net
craddockcenter.org

JANUARY / FEBRUARY / MARCH 2026

MILK & HONEY NEWSLETTER

From the Executive Director

INVESTING IN 25 YEARS OF IMPACT

As we celebrate 25 years of service, we are reminded that our story has always been written by people like you. When you give to The Craddock Center, you are doing far more than making a donation — every gift, every act of generosity is an investment in lives, in hope, and in the future of our community and a mission you believe in.

Your gift becomes the fuel that turns vision into action. It buys books, hires staff, keeps the lights on, supports programs, and allows The Craddock Center to respond when needs arise. Unlike a financial investment, the return isn't measured in profit; it's changed lives, ignited imaginations, stronger families and communities, and improved education outcomes in southern Appalachia, and the countless moments of care and connection made possible through this mission.

You also invest in the foundation that makes meaningful work possible. Strong staff, thoughtful planning, safe facilities, and clear communication all multiply impact. Because of you, we are not simply operating; we are growing stronger, remaining relevant, and more responsive with each passing year.

Perhaps most importantly, your generosity is an investment of trust. I am deeply grateful for the confidence you place in us, and we remain committed to stewarding every gift with care, transparency, and faithfulness to our mission as we step into the next 25 years.

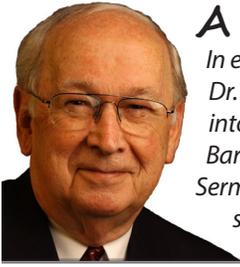
Thank you for being partners in this journey. We could not do it without you. Look at what your investment has built — and imagine what it will make possible in the years ahead.

SNOW DAY IN THE MOUNTAINS

February 1, 2026



Happy & Hope...We Deliver



A Taste of Milk & Honey

In each issue of this newsletter, we usually include a segment from Dr. Craddock's book, 'A Taste of Milk & Honey' to help you gain insight into our founder, Dr. Fred Craddock. This issue will be a little different. Barbara Brown Taylor wrote the Forward for his book 'The Collected Sermons of Fred B. Craddock.' This issue will share some of her insights so that we can better know Dr. Fred Craddock.

Barbara Brown Taylor has spoken and written about Fred B. Craddock many times. She was both influenced by him and later became one of the leading interpreters of his preaching style.

She called him "a preacher like no other". In an introduction to The Collected Sermons of Fred B. Craddock, Taylor described his distinctive preaching method, "He assumes from the start that we are capable of attending to the text... dealing with open-ended stories, and drawing our own conclusions. He does not tell us what he is going to tell us. He sits down before we are ready. He lets us chew our own food."

In the Forward, Taylor recalled the first time she heard him preach at Yale Divinity School in 1978, "He simply spoke of the gospel so compellingly that I wanted to know more... and how I could learn to use language that way too." Dr. Craddock's preaching helped awaken her own desire to preach.

Taylor marveled at his ability to notice meaning in ordinary moments. "How does he use such simple language to convey such luminous truths? How does he see the sorts of things we all see... and see more than we can see?" She believed his sermons worked because they started with everyday experiences and opened them toward the gospel.

Barbara Brown Taylor often explained that Dr. Craddock respected the intelligence and spiritual capacity of the congregation. Instead of forcing conclusions, he created space for listeners to participate in the sermon's meaning, like "bending two poles toward each other... leaving an opening for listeners to enter"

One of the most beloved stories associated with Dr. Fred B. Craddock—and one that Barbara Brown Taylor and many other preachers have referenced—comes from his sermon about what it means to give your life to Christ.

The Story of the Man Who Gave Everything

Dr. Craddock told about a wealthy man who came to his pastor and said he wanted to give his entire life to Christ. The pastor was thrilled and said the church could certainly use the man's help.

So, the man began giving things away: First he gave a large gift of money. Then he donated some land. Then he gave his house to the church. Eventually the man returned to the pastor and said: "Now I have given everything I own." The pastor replied gently, "No, you haven't. You have given a lot of things. But you haven't given yourself yet."

Dr. Craddock would pause after telling the story and say something like, "Most of us think giving our lives to Christ means some dramatic moment—climbing on an altar and laying everything down. But in reality, it is more like taking a thousand little coins and dropping them one by one into the offering plate every day of your life."

Then he would conclude: "You listen to a neighbor's troubles instead of saying, 'Get lost.'"

You forgive someone who hurt you. You choose honesty when it would be easier to lie. Little by little you give your life away."

Dr. Craddock's "little coins" illustration isn't just about giving—it's about consistent, everyday choices that reflect love, care, and attention. The Craddock Center works with children, families, and communities, focusing on small, consistent interventions—like early childhood education, mentoring, or family support—that cumulatively transform lives. Just like Dr. Craddock's preaching, the Center shows that **ordinary, faithful actions build extraordinary outcomes over time.**

The Craddock Center is a living embodiment of Fred Craddock's principles: faithful small acts, attentive listening, honoring real-life stories, and trusting ordinary people to create extraordinary change. Just as Dr. Craddock transformed hearts through storytelling and grace, the Center transforms communities through education, support, and love.



The Winner Is!!!

Lucas Watson is the winner of The Craddock Center's Children's Book Writing Contest. This contest was conducted as a part of our 25th Anniversary Celebration.

Lucas is an honors and AP student at Gilmer High School, where he took the Audio Video and Technology class to sharpen his skills and passion for writing and film making. Thanks to the class, he was introduced to a screenwriting camp at the Georgia Film Academy, where he won a contest to have his original script adapted and produced into a short film. Lucas plans to pursue a degree in film in his upcoming college years. Even outside of school, he spends many hours on personal-creative projects. Much of his free time is either spent with family and friends or playing with his dog, Chucky. Whether it's one day from now or one year from now, Lucas will still be testing and exploring his world for new opportunities.

The inspiration for his book, 'Clarence the Crab,' comes from his fond memories of childhood television shows and the energetic enthusiasm of many characters. He used both dry and oil pastels to illustrate his wonderful book.

The registrants for the contest were asked to write a children's book for the 3-4 age group. The submissions were judged on the following criteria: creativity & originality; adherence to the themes of family, friendship, or learning; quality of writing, including grammar & storytelling; and the quality of illustrations. Lucas' book excelled in all of these areas!

Lucas did a reading of his book during our Songs & Stories concert on February 7th. He also received his \$1,000 award at this time.



Lives Touched, Stories Shared

We wanted to add a “human voice” to the Milk & Honey Newsletter by sharing real stories, in their own words, from our volunteers and donors to show the tangible impact of the work of The Craddock Center.

Rev. Bill Crowl, Fmr. Board President - Many years ago, Patty and I helped drive a supply of books and stocking caps to one of the schools served by The Craddock Center. Upon our arrival, the teachers told us the children were so excited that The Craddock Center was coming again. The children knew a free book and stocking cap awaited them on the tables in the hall of the school. Most importantly, each child would be making their own choices! It brought tears to our eyes watching each child carefully consider those important decisions.

In the midst of all this unbounded excitement and joy, the children did not forget siblings or friends that were absent that day. Many quietly approached those of us at the table and asked, in a very soft voice, if they could choose a book and cap for those missing that day. Of course! And a quiet thank you was the response of every one of those asking the question.

I will never forget, as we were leaving, seeing the children lined up ready to go back to their classrooms. Some were excitedly sharing with each other the books they had chosen. Some were just quietly and carefully reading each page. Their faces were lit up with pure wonder. And...almost every one of the children was wearing their new stocking cap.

Yes, The Craddock Center is all about the children.

We want to hear from You! As a valued member of our community, your support is a testament to the work we do together. We would love to hear from you about what inspires you to support the work of The Craddock Center. Your testimonial would not only help us understand the reasons behind your commitment but also inspire others to join us in making a difference.

If you're willing, we kindly ask you to share a few words about why you choose to support The Craddock Center. What motivated you to start supporting The Craddock Center? What impact do you feel your support has made?

Your story can be as brief or as detailed as you wish. We may share your testimonial in our communications, such as on our website, in newsletters, or on social media, to help show others the meaningful work we are doing together. If you prefer to remain anonymous, please let us know, and we will respect your privacy. Please contact Kirk Cameron, Executive Director at kirk-craddock@tds.net with your questions or testimonial. Thank you for your unwavering support. Together, we are making a lasting difference.

We Serve by Sharing – The Legacy Program of The Craddock Center

First, thank you for your support of the work of The Craddock Center. Because of you, we **ARE** making a difference in the communities of southern Appalachia. The Craddock Center wants to continue to make a difference in the decades to come and beyond.

This month we are launching the Legacy Program of The Craddock Center - We Serve by Sharing. **“We Serve by Sharing”** is from The Craddock Center Mission Statement. **We serve the children and share our time, skills, talents, and money** to sustain the work and plan for and build for the future of The Craddock Center.

The Craddock Center has been serving the children and families in our communities for 25 years. We don't know what our communities will look like 25 years from now, but we have no doubt that what we do for the children will continue to be needed.

Please consider a planned gift to support and sustain the work of The Craddock Center. You can call The Craddock Center at 706-632-1772 to request a brochure.

Thank you again for your support of The Craddock Center and thank you for your consideration on how you can support its future.



The Craddock Center

for **CHILD**
and **FAMILY**
ENRICHMENT

CELEBRATING
25 years
2001-2026

SAVE THE DATE

June 13, 2026 at 6:30pm

25th Anniversary Gala

Songs & Stories 2026

Songs & Stories returned to a packed house at the Craddock Center on February 7, 2026!

We were especially excited and honored that John McCutcheon, a world-traveled musician, songwriter, and folksinger, returned as the performer for this event. He thrilled our guests with beautiful folk music and storytelling.

As always, admission was free, and our guests responded with very generous donations. The money raised will go towards the purchase of new books for the little ones we serve.

Songs & Stories was started by Dr. Fred Craddock over twenty years ago. He wanted something in the winter that people could enjoy. This is an event that brings people together to have a fun winter afternoon highlighting the old Appalachian traditions of storytelling and folk music.

Songs & Stories, featuring John McCutcheon, returns next year on Saturday, February 6, 2027, at 3:00 pm.





Celebrate Your Birthday by Making a Difference!

This year, consider turning your birthday into a gift for others. Instead of presents, you can invite friends and family to support The Craddock Center's 25th birthday by creating a Facebook birthday fundraiser.

It's simple to set up, and every dollar raised helps us continue our work for the next 25 years of serving children and families in southern Appalachia through education, literacy, and outreach programs.

If The Craddock Center has touched your life or your heart, your birthday is a wonderful opportunity to share that mission with others!

Simply click 'Create Fundraiser' and select The Craddock Center when your birthday appears!

Start your birthday fundraiser today and help us keep the story going!



You're invited to a special moment in the life of our community!

Join us for the Dedication of The Dr. Fred Craddock and Mrs. Nettie Craddock Conference Center

as we celebrate a space created to inspire learning, fellowship, community, and service for generations to come. Together we will honor the legacy of Dr. Fred and Mrs. Nettie Craddock and give thanks for all who made this vision possible.

Come be part of this meaningful celebration as we gather for a brief dedication ceremony, fellowship, and gratitude for the many hands and hearts that helped bring this project to life.

The Craddock Center
186 Fred Craddock Dr., 30513
April 30, 2026
11:00 am

All friends, supporters, and members of the community are warmly invited. We hope you will join us as we dedicate this new space to the continued work of nurturing hope, learning, and community in the north Georgia mountains.

Please RSVP to 706-632-1772 or kirk-craddock@tds.net

DONATE NOW

You can support
The Craddock Center

1. Open camera
2. Scan code
3. Give now

Thank You for your generosity!



MAKE A 25TH ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATIVE DONATION



For 25 years, The Craddock Center has walked alongside children and families in southern Appalachia—bringing books, educational support, and encouragement to those who need it most. Children have opened books, discovered new possibilities, and felt the steady support of this community. That legacy belongs to you.

Because of faithful friends like you, thousands of young lives have been strengthened and inspired. As we celebrate this remarkable milestone, we invite you to make a special 25th Anniversary gift. Your commemorative contribution will honor the past, sustain today's programs, and help us reach even more children in the years ahead. Together, we can ensure the next 25 years are even more impactful than the first.

Please use the QR code below or go to <https://www.craddockcenter.org/> and select the 'DONATE' button in the upper right of the home page.

You can also mail a donation to: PO BOX 69, Cherry Log, GA 30522

Thank you for your generosity and for celebrating our 25th Anniversary with us!



"We [The Craddock Center] are about the business of enriching lives, of lifting self-esteem, of instilling a sense of self-worth, of effecting socialization so that each child can play and study and grow as an equal to other children." – Dr. Fred Craddock

Dr. Seuss's Birthday

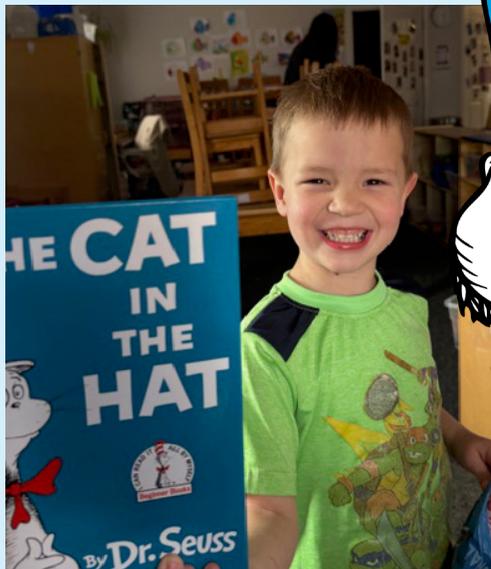
CELEBRATING READ ACROSS AMERICA DAY & DR. SEUSS'S BIRTHDAY

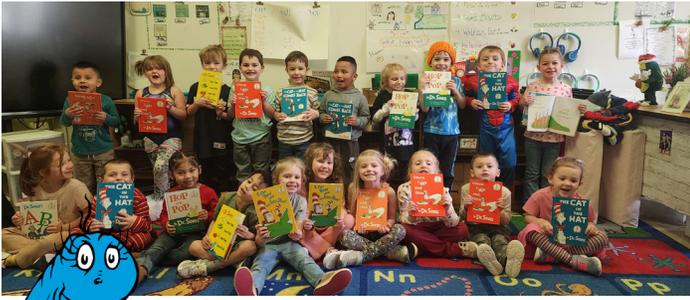
On March 4th, The Craddock Center celebrated Read Across America Day and Dr. Seuss' Birthday. On this day volunteers from The Craddock Center delivered 1,178 brand new Dr. Seuss books to the pre-K and Head Start children we serve.

Read Across America Day is a day to celebrate the joys of reading. It also brings awareness to the importance of reading in education for our children. The founders of this day decided to have it on Dr. Seuss' birthday. Dr. Seuss is one of the greatest authors of children's books. Most kids have grown up reading his many entertaining books. The Craddock Center is making sure our kids can share in the joy of his books like many of us have over the years.

Thanks to Elder Taylor and Elder Augustine for packing the books.... And thanks to Beth Roberts, Cathy Cavagnaro, Joe Cantwell, and Carolyn Lakes for delivering the books.

Special thanks to the Clipper Petroleum Foundation and Operation Round-Up for their generosity in supporting this program!





THANK YOU FROM THE TEACHERS!!

**“Thank you so much for the Dr. Seuss books!
What a wonderful gift! We all appreciate
your generosity and support!”**

Katrina Kingsley, Director – Gilmer County Pre-K

**“Thank you for the books.
The students loved them.”**

Brittany Hoyt, Director – Peachtree Elementary Pre-K

**“Thank you so much for the books!
The students were very excited.”**

Hillary Chastain, Teacher – Martins Creek Elementary Pre-K

**“Thank you so much for the books, they loved them!
We appreciate all you do for our Pre-K program
at Union County Primary School.”**

Holly Cook, Director – Union County Primary School Pre-K

**“Thank you to The Craddock Center for generously
donating these wonderful Dr. Seuss books to our
classroom! Our students were so excited to explore
the colorful stories and celebrate reading together.”**

Stacey Trammell, Director – Lumpkin County Head Start

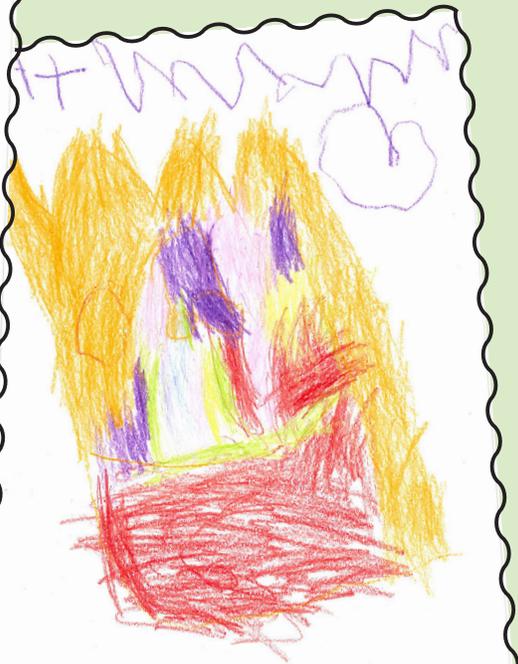
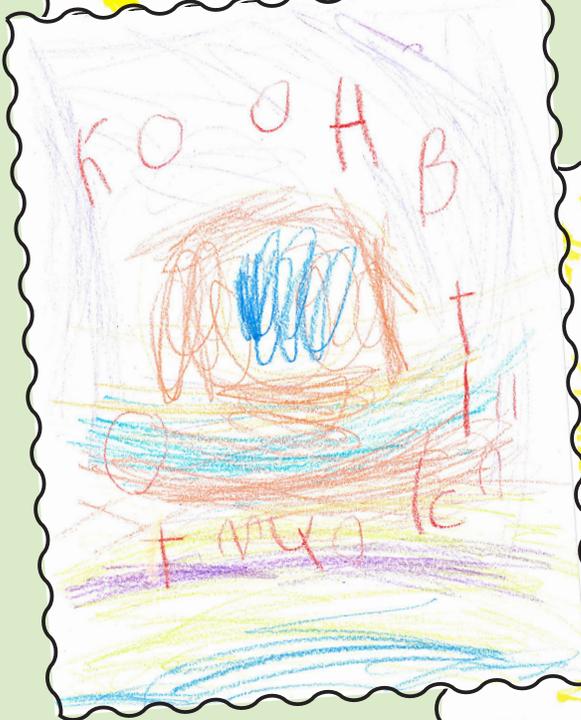
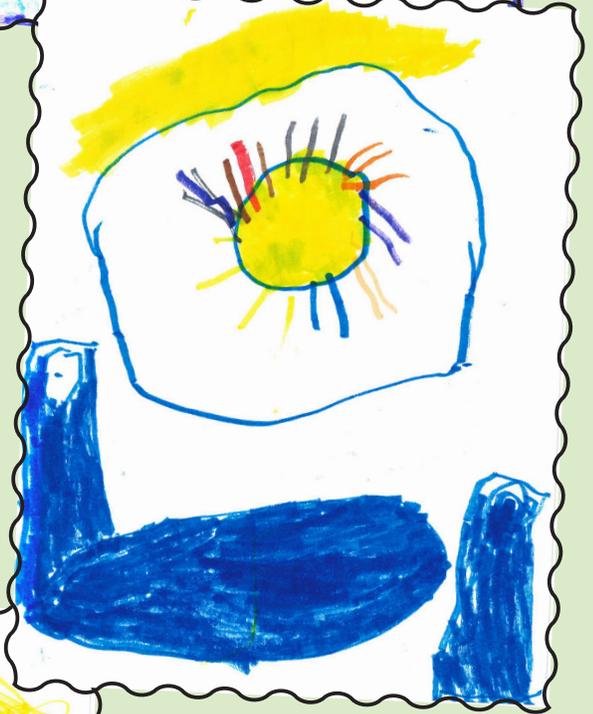
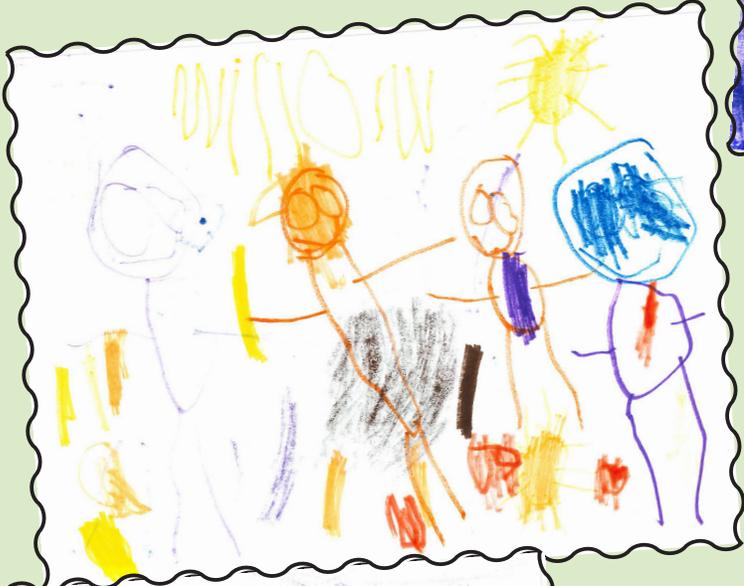
**“We sincerely appreciate your generous donation of
books for our Pre-K students. Your support helps spark
curiosity, imagination, and a love of reading
in our youngest learners. Thank
you for making a meaningful
difference in our classroom.”**

Susan Jones, Teacher –
East Fannin Elementary Pre-K



Thank You Notes FROM THE CHILDREN

What you do makes a difference! Whether you donate knitted hats, books, wooden toys, supplies for Summer Send Off or make a monetary donation...it all makes a difference to our wonderful children and they appreciate your kindness and love! The pictures below are thank you notes from the children at Ranger Elementary Pre-K in Cherokee County, North Carolina.



Friends of The Craddock Center

The Craddock Center cannot do what we do for the children and families of Southern Appalachia without the financial support of our donors. **Thank you and recognition to those individuals, organizations, and foundations for their generosity in supporting The Craddock Center, from January 1, 2025, through March 13, 2026.**



\$30,000+

The Warren and Augusta Hume Foundation

\$25,000+

Thornwell Family Foundation

\$15,000+

William B. Orkin Foundation, Inc.

Jim and Carla Self

\$10,000+

The George Link Jr. Charitable Trust

Gary and Nancy Fayard

Nettie Craddock

\$9,000+

Heidi and Todd Ferraro

Elizabeth Roberts King Endowment

\$8,000+

Ellijay Lions Club

\$5,000+

Hammill Family Foundation

Ray Larson

Faith, Hope, and Charity

Dr. Russ Atchley

Linda Kliros

\$4,000+

Friendship Christian Church

Earline Crooke

Jerry and Faye Hardiman

\$3,000+

Clipper Petroleum Foundation

August Fifth Foundation, Inc.

Blue Ridge Kiwanis Club, Inc.

Piedmont Charitable Foundation Inc.

Faith Presbyterian Church

Milly Hastings & Steve Stevens

Due West UMC

Jane Simpson

Max and Sandy White

\$2,000+

Sally C. Anderson

Hartwell & Susan Dew

Janice Glascock

Marcia Lehman

Mark & Lisa Snoddy

Amicalola EMC Trust

Diane Bales and James Gibson

New Hope Christian Church

\$1,000+

Susan Elliott-Bryan

Sarah Allred

August Fifth Foundation, Inc.

Michael and Amelia Ellison

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William E. and Patty Crowl

Ronald & Bette Jensen

Robin Hering

Patti O'Dell

Michele Gravelle

Marvin and Eileen McRoberts

America's RV Warranty Corp

Big Canoe Chapel

Karen Boring

Richard and Cathy Cavagnaro

Bev Cook

Sherry and Bill Echelberger

First Christian Church of Decatur

First United Methodist Church - Ellijay

Gerald and Joan Lord

Steven & Annette McBrayer

Dr. Rolf Meinhold

Jerald & Aundre Rookstool

Jack and Trisha Senterfitt

Daniel M. and Maureen M. Hicks

\$500+

Christian Women's Fellowship

AA Thursday nights

Groovy Zoo

W. Arlyn & Susan Moulder

Kirk Cameron & Michael Kilpatrick

Vivian H. Guthrie

Tommy and Cathy Archibald

Linda and John Montgomery

Clarence F. and Gwendolyn G. Seeliger

Lydia Weathersby

AA Tuesday nights

Jeffre Ray

Paul H. Anderson

Community Foundation for Northeast GA

Gordon Hellman

Ethel Hock

Larry King

Carol G. McGinnis

Nancy Sargent McGrath

Ted McMullan

William Prather

Anne S. Prince

Leslie and Susan Spencer

Hodges Willis

Steven Dennison

Celine Melton

Dolores Sparks

Tom and Glenda Bell

Up to \$499

First United Methodist Church Blairsville

Southstate Bank

Anne M. Haltiwanger

Julie Weisberg

Jewish Congregation of Blue Ridge

Log Cabin Community Church

Mountain Light Unitarian Universalist Church

Travis Bealmear

Bascomb UMC United Women in Faith

Ken Cissna

Steven Dennison

Ted and Cindy Minick

Jack Nolen

Sandy Springs Christian Church

Emily O. Smith

Albert Toth

Phyllis & Joseph Adams

Wayne Everbach

Robert and Nancy Leitch

Debbi Westcott

Dairy Queen Grill & Chill

District 15 B

Blue Cabin rentals

Patrick and Debra Hrdy

Kenneth W. Irby

Kathy and Art Judy

Gerald Kersey

Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Martin

Michael G. McWilliams

Regions Bank

Eugene Watson and Lois Rogers-Watson

Judy Weiland

Sandy Wilbanks

Johnny W. Wray

Carol Hanson

Blake Jaurigue

David Akers

Michael Sullivan

James R. and Betty Willis

The Craddock Center Board

Mark Stallings

Gary Batchelor

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Angela Morton

Alan Schulman

Louanne Watkins

R. Michael and Andrea S. Bales

Nordstrom

Chestnut Ridge Christian Church

Disciple Women

Darryl D. and Marilyn J. Devnich

Milton S. and Janis Hill

Amber Johnson

Marla Johnson

Mary Elisabeth Jones

Jane F. Keene

Robert Lauth

Luther and Martha Lewis

Lumpkin, Lillie Mae

Marage, Mary

Murrey IV, Edward

Rees III, Howard D. and Julie A. Weisberg

Robert B Smith III M.D.

Rosenberg, Karen

Strickland, Kenneth & Frances

North Lane Technologies

Roberts, Wesley

Webb, Joseph C & Patricia

Anna-Soission, Kimberly

Ida-Anne Clarke

Coombs, Richard J.

Greenwall, Kurt

Higginbotham, Lynn

Krick, Charles S.

Meeks, Andy & Sherry

Morrison, Hedy

Oliphant, Michael

Roberts, Beth

Payne, Diane

Mansfield, Whitacre T. and Jean Ann

Thrivent Financial DAF

Ploetz, Ann

Shelton, James

Cowdrick, Robert & Emily

Ann Hixon

Frances E. Shumake

Frieda Brands

George Taylor

Christoph Tallerico

Manuela Uhl

Brian and Sheila Clayton

Beverly and Tom Ottinger

Bonnie and Franklin Bowman

Beverly Cook

Becky Walls

Heidi and James Kennedy

Bill Bellows

Charles and Sheila Shaw

Carolyn Lakes

Kathy Williams

Fay and Ann Pearce

Ross and Judith Pflugsten

Byron and Judy Wyndham

Karlene Ferguson

Meghan Vesel

Donald Dunning

Paula King

Sara Porter

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