

Spotlight on Staff



CONNIE CHANCEY
Arts Specialist for the Children's
Enrichment Program at The
Craddock Center!

Connie grew up in Cherokee Co. N.C. with one sister and three brothers; she has a twin brother; she grew up listening to her uncles and grandfather tell stories; Connie also loved to tell stories ... mostly scary ones.

Connie enjoys traveling and has traveled over half of the U.S. She loved singing in church; took four years of chorus in high school; she has taught Sunday school, children's choir and directed Vacation Bible School.

Connie already had two daughters by the time her twins were born. She became a stay at home Mom. Connie loved teaching and playing with her children. When her twins entered first grade she decided to enter the workforce. Her best friend Lisa who taught Pre-K in Murphy told her she knew of the perfect place for her.... The Craddock Center!

Connie interviewed at the Craddock Center for the position of music specialist, she was hired and it quickly became her dream job. A few years later Betsy Doty conducted a work shop for TCC artist and she rediscovered her love of storytelling. Now she does both!

Connie enjoys hanging out with family and photography. She is married to her soulmate Shawn Chancey and they have 4 children:

Alesha married to Jared and they have 4 children. Preston, Brock, Brooklyn, and Bronson.

Ashley, a special education teacher at MACA in Blue Ridge, Georgia.

Kayleb is certified in machine shop and works in a cabinet shop in Mineral Bluff, Ga.

Kayla, a sophomore at Georgia Highland in Rome, Georgia.

Connie said "The reason I like working for the Craddock Center is the children. Not just because I can deliver happy and hope to them each week but they give me happy and hope." "When I walk into a room they meet me asking for one of their favorite stories; What a Blessing!"

SPRING IN FULL SWING!

What a busy month April was here at The Craddock Center—with the promise of many other exciting things to come in May! First of all, the Story Express has been keeping the roads hot with our fourth and final visits to the schools for the 2016-17 school year. Oh, what a delight it is to see the children climb on the Story Express and look at us with their shy smiles and then start looking with excitement at all of the shiny new books! You can tell when they finally lock eyes on "the one." They'll quickly pick the book up and then look at us with questioning eyes almost as if to say, "Can I really have it?" Then, when they're told that they can indeed keep the book so many of them will grin from ear to ear, thank us, and then joyously run off to show their new treasure to their friends. It would be impossible to make all of this happen without our wonderful volunteers. Whether it's driving the Story Express to the schools, greeting the children as they board the bookmobile, or organizing and labeling the books, our volunteers have been spectacular!

Our Children's Enrichment Program staff is wrapping up a wonderful year of working with over 1300 children in 63 classrooms! Ms. Amanda, Ms. Angie, Ms. Ashley, Ms. Candi, Ms. Connie, Ms. Natalie, and Ms. Sharon have worked so hard this year to keep that wonderful Appalachian tradition of songs and stories alive by sharing them with the children in our Head Start and Pre-K classrooms. These artists don't stop working just because school is out for the summer, though. They'll be participating in workshops to sharpen their skills and providing family-friendly songs and stories at community events. For example, on June 10 you can find Ms. Sharon representing The Craddock Center and telling stories at the Family Fun Day hosted by Gilmer Arts at Harrison Park in Ellijay. The Story Express will be there as well. If you're local, check it out!



We are almost ready for Camp Craddock! We created an Amazon wish list of supplies we

need for our games, crafts, and other activities, and the response has been incredible. We'd like to specially acknowledge long-time supporter Jim McLean who alone has helped to take care of over half of the supplies we need in order to deliver "happy and hope" during camp this summer. We have been overwhelmed by his generosity! Though the list is now much shortened, we do still have some supplies left that we could use. If you're interested in contributing, you can find the list at: <http://a.co/1cdZiKf> In other Camp Craddock news, one of the wonderful mission groups who will be doing a week of camp this summer is Sandy Springs Christian Church. Last summer, they did Camp Craddock at the Mulberry Street Apartments in Ellijay. However, they didn't stop there! They formed such a great bond with the kids in that community that they did a Christmas get-together with them and, most recently, made a special trip up to Ellijay to do an Earth Day celebration with the children. A member of the group, Nancy McDaniel, shared, "We love those kids at Mulberry! Several were waiting for us and came running up to the cars as we pulled in. 'They're here! They're here!' rang out as we parked. What a wonderful gift! We did a nature scavenger hunt, made necklaces, decorated reusable tote bags, and feasted on hot dogs. Everyone is looking forward to July when we return!" What a fantastic work Sandy Springs Christian Church has been and will continue doing with the children from Mulberry Street. We're thankful for all of the mission groups who help us bring joy to the children in our area by delivering Camp Craddock!



O, For A Thousand Tongues

O, For A Thousand Tongues and then I could express the gratitude of 1000 children who say to you, “thank you.” It is important, whether you gave little or much, that you have blessed children you probably will never meet. I want you to know that last August most of these children came into Head Start classrooms afraid, silent, or crying, hiding behind Mother. This month they ran out of those rooms laughing and singing. Thanks to you, they have songs to sing all summer, stories to tell all summer, and books to take to their parents with a new request : “Read me a story.”

Not all the beautiful changes in the children are due to our program; of course not. Most, but not all, come from homes that are poor in things but rich in love. The Head Start schools have good teachers who care for the children. But the Head Start programs are strapped for funds and word out of Washington brings tragic news of further cuts. Budgets are trim, with no funds for programs of enrichment-music, art, storytelling, and dance. And so, through the Craddock Center , you come into their classrooms singing, dancing, telling stories. You have enriched their lives, and if the statistics are to be believed, you have improved their chances for success in school and in life. So, thank you. I hope you will join us in August to begin a new year.

It has been my pleasure to visit some of the schools. To be sure, with some children there is evidence of physical and emotional abuse and it breaks your heart. But the overwhelming experience is one of delight. You look at each new face and say, “This is a child of God. I see a striking resemblance.”

Dr. Fred B. Craddock, A Taste of Milk & Honey

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Pursuant to GA Code Section 43-17-8 this charitable appeal is made on behalf of The Craddock Center, located in Cherry Log, Georgia. Full program and financial information is available upon request: PO Box 69, Cherry Log, GA 30522 | 706-632-1772 | craddockcenter@tds.net

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