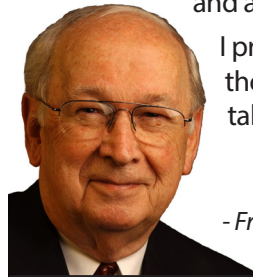


Our mission is to deliver educational and cultural programs to children, families, and communities, primarily in Southern Appalachia. We serve by sharing and spreading centuries-old traditions of song and story.

A Taste of Milk & Honey

Evidently, we have not been clear about who attends Head Start. Last week a person who was just learning of our Children's Enrichment Program asked, "And you take this program to Head Start schools?" "Yes, we do." "Well, isn't Head Start where the children are sent who have learning disabilities, you know, the ones we once called 'retarded'?" "No, absolutely not."

I took this as a "teaching moment" and explained that all schools should provide educational opportunities and programs for those with special needs. Head Start is not different in that regard. But what is different about Head Start is that it is a pre-kindergarten program for children of the poor. Ninety percent of Head Start children are from families living at or below the poverty level. These children are bright and happy, they respond quickly to stories and songs and rhythmic movement, and, of course, to love and encouragement. If they are lacking, the lack is not in their heads but in their stomachs; not in their hearts but in their homes, often too cold or too hot; not in their potential but in their opportunities. Why not call the Center and arrange a visit to a Head Start school? You'll see.



I probably said a bit more to my questioner, things like how she could serve those who are under-served, etc. You know, essentially what you and I have talked about. Remember?

- From Dr. Fred Craddock, Milk & Honey, March 2008

From the Executive Director

On January 26, 2024, The Craddock Center was awarded the 2023 Non-Profit of the Year by the Gilmer County Chamber of Commerce. We were recognized for the many years of service to the children and families in our community. Since 2001, The Craddock Center has served over 30,000 three and four year old children and the need for our services continues to grow.

And yes, we are growing: we have added nearly 100 new children over the last three years to our Children's Enrichment Program; the use of our Living Room program has increased 29% in two years; over 100 new volunteers in the last three years; 5,947 hours of helping from our volunteers in the last three years; and 196 first-time donors over the last two years.

After 23 years of service, The Craddock Center remains a relevant part of our community. We have improved our Children's Enrichment Program over the years and, to follow our mission of enriching the lives of both children and families, we have added new programs to further reach the families in our community.

I am excited to announce that we are beginning new programming to reach the "Seniors" in our community. In August of this year, we began providing monthly music and song programs to four local senior communities/centers.

And on October 5th, we will host the 'Family, Caregiver, and Aging Wellness Community Event'. The event is designed to create awareness of services available to families, caregivers, and the aging. We are working with Senior Medicare Patrol to organize this event. Highland Rivers Behavioral Health, Georgia Mountain Health, Piedmont Health, the Latin American Association, CORE, Institute for Healthy Aging (UNG), Parkinson's Foundation, Bethesda Community Clinic, North Georgia Community Action, Mutual of Omaha, and the Alzheimer's Association will be attending.

The Craddock Center is walking the talk...we ARE enriching the lives of children and families in southern Appalachia!!

COMING

December 3, 2024

GIVING TUESDAY



Without you, we could not enrich the lives of the children and families we have reached out to in the last 23 years. I keep going back to part of our mission statement...“We serve by Sharing.” Our donors exemplify this!

Please consider a gift to The Craddock Center this upcoming holiday season. Your generosity ensures the work of The Craddock Center is sustained and the children and families we serve continue to reap the benefits of our programs.

You can go to our website, craddockcenter.org, and use the ‘DONATE’ button found on our home page or mail your donation to PO BOX 69, Cherry Log, GA 30522.

Thank you in advance for your continued support and generosity!



Our SMART BABIES Program is GROWING



Just like the babies of the parents who participate in our workshops, the Smart Babies program is growing! The word is out in our community about the quality of this program and our facilitators and new agencies are eager to join. And thanks to the \$100,000 grant we received last April, we can support this growth!

Beginning this Fall, we are adding Gilmer County Head Start and Fannin County Head Start, Her Hope Pregnancy Center, Safe Choice Pregnancy Center, and Georgia Mountain Health are continuing the use of Smart Babies for their interested clients.

In addition, we have trained six new workshop facilitators (Sally Dowling, Kathleen Holt, Susan Klevansky, Chris Martinez, Irene Nowicki, and Kim Strube) to help support our growth.

Thanks also goes out to our existing group of facilitators: Sue Hriljac, Cathy Cavagnaro, Patti O'Dell, and Maureen Hicks and to our Smart Babies Coordinator, Bev Cook, for the incredible amount of planning & coordination and training they have invested in making this program an enormous success since our first workshop on November 16, 2023.

Smart Babies is designed to help parents of children, ages 0-3, to be their child's best first teacher. The program is provided by The Craddock Center and is free of charge to participants. The Smart Babies program is using the Ready for Kindergarten curriculum which emphasizes targets in the three following areas: Language and Literacy, Math and Reasoning, and Social and Emotional Learning. We are initially concentrating on workshops for parents with children in the following age groups: 0-1 years, 1-2 years, and 2-3 years.

Parents attend three free workshops for each age group. During each workshop, parents learn about targets in the three areas mentioned above and are given methods and tools (toys and books) to focus on these targets at home. There are many opportunities for sharing and practicing during the workshop. Snacks or lunch are provided after each workshop to promote further discussion and bonding among the parents.



We need **BRAND NEW** CHILDREN'S BOOKS!

During this school year each of our nearly 1,200 children will receive four brand-new books. That's 4,800 books!! We need Dr. Seuss books, Golden Classic books, and other children's books for three- and four-year-old children.

You can mail a donation to The Craddock Center at PO BOX 69, Cherry Log, GA, 30522 and put 'books' in the comment section. You can also go to craddockcenter.org and use the 'DONATE' button on the home page and put books in the notes.

And, you can order books from Amazon, Walmart, and Target and have the books mailed to: The Craddock Center, 300 Cherry Log St., #69, Cherry Log, GA 30522.



**Thank you for
your generosity
and supporting
our children!**



What are the Teachers Telling Us?

As we wrap up each school year, the teachers and Directors of the Head Start and Pre-K programs we serve are sent a Children's Enrichment Program evaluation. Their feedback is important to The Craddock Center. It helps us improve our programming and highlights those things we should continue to provide.

The feedback below was received in May 2024 for the last school year:



"The children look forward to each class and have grown from the activities."

"The children love and look forward to your visits each week. They sing the songs they learn and talk about the stories read to them. They get excited to guess what 'friends' they will meet the next week."

"All Craddock Center services align with pre-K goals and standards. Pre-K strives to develop language, literacy, math, and social emotional skills through play, stories, and music. The program aligns perfectly!"

"It [CEP] has given them the opportunity to discover their natural talents. So many of our kids have opened up and look at books in a different way."

"It [CEP] helps our kids find their passion. It encourages them to participate. Some of our kids are shy, but with Ms. Sheila they are open to new things."

"Many of our students never hear nursery rhymes and songs until they come to school, and the activities and songs that are provided by The Craddock Center are a big help with this. Also, many of the children do not have many books at home, so The Craddock Center is providing them with books as well."

"We love everything that The Craddock Center provides for our students. You guys are amazing!"



Your generosity and gifts to The Craddock Center make all of this possible. As a reminder, all of our programming is provided at no cost to the schools. Please continue to help us positively impact the nearly 1,200 three- and four-year-old children we serve each year.



Recruiting Board Members

Are you looking for a rewarding experience?

A new opportunity to give back to your community?

Do you have a passion for children and literacy?

The Craddock Center is looking for motivated individuals to serve on its Board of Directors.

Most of us reach a point in our lives where we need a new challenge. What better way to introduce a new challenge than to inspire change by serving on a nonprofit Board such as with The Craddock Center. As a Board Member, you will witness first-hand the impact of our programs for the children and families in our community while offering advice, oversight, and support.

Nonprofits such as The Craddock Center lead by fulfilling our mission and working to make an impact on the children and families of southern Appalachia. We are looking for members of our community who want to lead with us and bring your skills and expertise to make a difference in our community!

If you have an interest in serving on the Board of The Craddock Center, please contact Kirk Cameron at 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!**



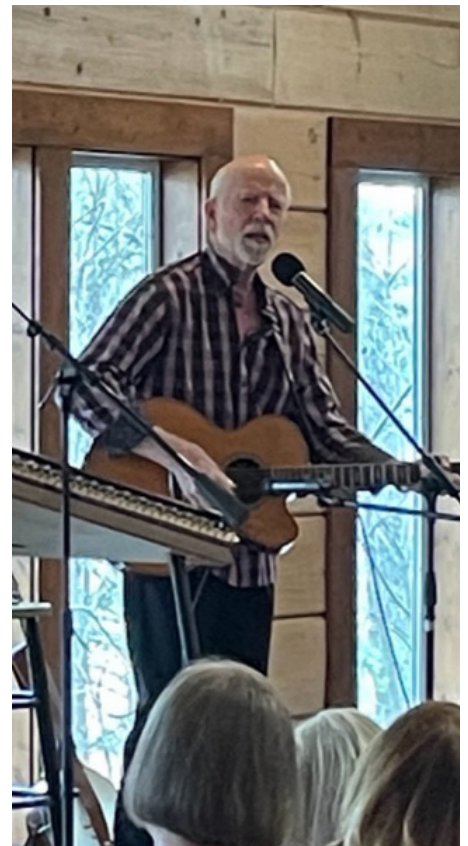
Songs & Stories

The Craddock Center

Save the Date

FEATURING
John McCutcheon

THE CRADDOCK CENTER
February 8, 2025 @ 3:00 pm
186 Fred Craddock Drive, Cherry Log, GA 30522
Free Admission / Donations Appreciated



THANK YOU ANONYMOUS!

During the year we receive many monetary donations, books, and hats from many anonymous donors. Thank you for your generous gifts! We wish we knew who you are so that we could thank you. Please know that your anonymous gifts are valued and appreciated, and they help us bring joy to the many children that we serve. Thank you!



Calling All **KNITTERS!**

The Craddock Center has a long-standing tradition of providing our 3- and 4-year-old children with a handmade, knitted cap in November. This gift provides the children with much-needed warmth and a happy heart during the winter. We have been able to do this because of the time and generosity of knitters and knitting groups from all over the country! THANK YOU!

Many questions regarding the size, materials, and patterns of the hats can be found on our website at: <https://www.craddockcenter.org/get-involved/knit-a-hat/>

At the time of this publication, we have received 725 of the 1,200 knitted caps that we need for this November. You can mail your handmade knitted caps to The Craddock Center, 300 Cherry Log St., #69, Cherry Log, GA 30522. We can also pick them up within a reasonable distance from The Craddock Center. You can reach us at 706-632-1772.



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 August 1, 2023, through September 13, 2024.**

\$100,000+

ANONYMOUS FOUNDATION

\$20,000+

The Warren & Augusta Hume Foundation
Eugene and Karen Boring

\$15,000+

William B. Orkin Foundation, Inc.
Elizabeth Roberts King Endowment

\$10,000+

Gary and Nancy Fayard

\$9,000+

James and Carla Self
Earline Crooke

\$5,000+

The Scott Hudgens Family Foundation
Piedmont Charitable Foundation
Mrs. Nettie Craddock

\$4,000+

Todd and Heidi Ferraro
Christian Church Foundation
New Hope Christian Church

\$3,000+

Susan Elliott-Bryan
Dr. Russ Atchley
Ellijay Lions Club
Faith, Hope, and Charity
Sarah Allred
Jerry and Faye Hardiman

Sally C. Anderson
United Community Banks
Linda Kliros
North Georgia Community
Foundation

John and Frances Tipton
Marcia Lehman
Milly Hastings and Steve Stevens
Ray Larson
AFC Home Club

Janice Glascock
Robin Massaro
Rolf Meinhold
Gerald and Joan Lord
Diane W. Bales and James Gibson

\$1,000+

Due West UMC
Sue and Mike Hriljac
Gilmer County Family Connection
Clipper Petroleum Foundation
August Fifth Foundation, Inc.
Network for Good
Ronald and Bette Jensen

Ann White Morton
Church of the Good Samaritan
Richard and Cathy Cavagnaro
Betty Scott Noble
Cherokee County Foundation
Patti O'Dell
Blue Ridge Kiwanis

Big Canoe Women's Fellowship
Bill and Patty Crowl
Bev Cook
Alight Solutions
National Christian Foundation
Susan and Hartwell Dew
Marvin and Eileen McRoberts

Fannin County Family Connection
Jack and Trisha Senterfitt
Amicalola EMC Trust
John and Dee Craddock
Michael and Amelia Ellison
Dianne Dollar Watson

\$500+

Gordon Hellman
Steven and Annette McBrayer
Beth Roberts
Kirk Cameron and Michael Kilpatrick
Christian Women's Fellowship
AA Thursday Nights
Judith Clairmont and Timothy Vanduser
Ken Cissna
Southern Comfort Cabin Rentals

Loahna Brenner
John McMullan
David Jones
Mr. and Mrs. Mark Musick
America's RV Warranty
Nancy Sargent McGrath
Carol McGinnis
Clay to Custom Construction
Ann H. Cook

Advisewell, Inc.
Clay and Ethel Hock
Rebecca and Daniel Doster
First Christian Church Decatur
Vivian Guthrie
Jerald and Aundre Rookstool
Overall Pest Solutions
William Prather
Larry King

Clarence and Gwendolyn Seeliger
Women of Grace at Blue
Ridge Methodist Church
Rebecca Bunton
John Hastings
Cathy and Thomas Archibald
Byron and Judy Wyndham
Emily Smith
Zoo Groovy Art

Up to \$500

Ted and Cindy Minick
Jewish Congregation of Blue Ridge
Sherry and Bill Echelberger
Lutheran Church by the Lake Women
Anne Williamson
James Shelton
Log Cabin Community Church
Jeffrey Ray
Wayne Everbach
Jack Nolen
Steven Dennison
Michael Jones
Linda Sutton
Elizabeth Howard
William and Connie English
Arlyn and Susan Moulder
Georgia Mountain Health Services
Daniel and Maureen Hicks
Blue Jeans Pizza & Pasta
June Krise
Paul H. Anderson
Tom and Beverly Ottinger
David Akers
Albert Toth
Cynthia Easterling
Johnny Wray

Celine Melton
Kenneth Irby
Layne Smith
Ace Hardware Blue Ridge
Kevin Panter Insurance
Nordstrom
Eugene and Lois Watson
Betty Lamb
Judy Weiland
Linda and John Montgomery
Jeanie and Tim May
Ben and Claire Shelley
Sandy Springs Christian Church
Michael and Amelia Ellison
Bill and Sharon Golden
Robert Gleadall
Beth Jones
Wendell and Jennifer Fox
Becky Callihan
James and Betty Willis
Carol Moulter
Richard Coombs
Carol Hanson
District 15B
Michael McWilliams
Richard and Patricia Kassal

Marla Johnson
Alan Kolodkin
Russell Pittman
Christopher Caltrider
Jay Smith
Jane Simpson
Cherry Log Christian Church Disciples
Women
Stacy Carr
Lillie Mae Lumpkin
Darryl and Marilyn Devnick
Lisa Weir
Judith Long
Chris Martinez
Bascomb UMC United Women in Faith
Milton and Janis Hill
Jeremy King
Melba Gandy
Louise Reaves
Darlene Bundrick
Catherine Spruill
Debbie Peterson
Karen Lee Howarth
Group of Rachel
Bonnie and Franklin Bowman
Edward and Helen Hatch

Blue Ridge Community Theater
Carol Martel
Verint, Inc.
Allen and Sharon Garrison
Cassie and Lennon Stover
Calvin and Fran Hopper
Karen Dorgan
J. Walton Senterfitt
Vera Roberts
Sarah Lightner
Joanne McNally
Kathleen Matthews
Karen Bowyer
Tracy Goodbar
Richard and Linda Goddard
Rick Flint
Michael and Andrea Bales
James and Betty Jo Holt
Mary Nelle Cook
Deanna Turco
Luther and Martha Lewis
Whitacre and Jean Ann Mansfield
Betsy Becker
Terry Fields
Robert and Emily Cowdrick
Carolyn Scott

Jackie Lumpkin
Carolyn Lakes
Michael Oliphant
Ann Brayley
Frances Shumake
Alvin and Chris Taylor
Francine Huff
Laura Litman
Jacqueline and John Congleton
Kyle and Debra Ermoian
Thomas and Jane Keene
Andy Meeks
Jeff Boring
C. Dawn Johnson
Karen Stockwell
Jennifer Rider
Peter Harvey
Carol Jorgenson
Lisa Ogle
Sammie Maxwell and W. Russell
Pregeant
Anne Haltiwanger
Debbie and Marc Liskin
Susan Spencer
Anonymous