

A MOUNTAIN TOP EXPERIENCE

The north Georgia mountains are beautiful, and I love going there. From Atlanta, there is a wonderful highway that makes the trip quick and easy. However, a turn to the right or left off that ribbon of asphalt quickly takes you on a back-road adventure!

Through The Encouragement Project, I was recently invited by the Craddock Center to be a part of a book give-away to children in a Head Start pre-school there in the mountains. The Craddock Center provides new and like new books for the children as gifts during the school year, and a traveling lending library in the summer goes to the local communities in several north Georgia counties.

So as not to be late, I left home very early that morning, which turned out to be a good thing! After driving back and forth, and unknowingly passing the turn off to the school three or four times, I finally stopped at the local Post Office for directions.

The unmarked road I was looking for led back into the hills, and the center stripe soon disappeared. Thinking I was lost, I had thoughts of turning back when the tiny school finally came into view. The Story Express, a van equipped with shelves for books and stairs that fold out for access, was quickly turned into a gift book center. Soon, six classes of eager, precious four and five year olds took turns climbing the stairs and carefully selecting books to keep as their very own. What a thrill to see the joy in their faces as they sat down on the rock wall by the van to look at their books and share them with their friends!

Tiny school, marvelous vista, wonderful, polite and grateful children—the pictures tell the best story.



We are excited to have Reba Shackelford as a guest writer for The Story Board this month! Reba is a retired school teacher and administrator, and is currently on the board of The Encouragement Project. She has an active piano studio, and serves as pianist and choir director in her church. Reba is mom to TEP director, Stephanie Cervantes, and is looking forward to the birth of her first grandchild in July!



A WOOLLY GOAL...

At *HUGS and KISSES*, we have been blessed by the generosity of those who are making scarves and hats for those in need. To date, we have received donations of **32 beautiful Hugs and Kisses!!**



We are so excited to see the incredible creativity and loving effort that has gone into these pieces. How amazing to know that there will be many who benefit from these gifts when the weather turns cold once again!

In this regard, we have set for ourselves a goal to have **100 Hugs and Kisses** to give out to needy children, the homeless, and others in need of warmth.

If you like to knit or crochet, would you consider making a hat or scarf to donate to The Project for someone in need? We would love to have your help!

Let us know if you are able to join us in this effort...

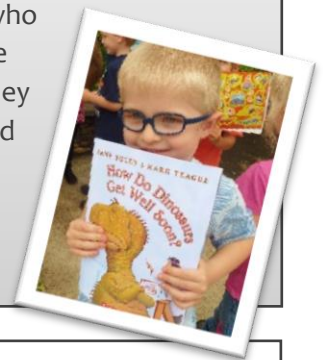


LOTS OF BOOKS!!

We have had several very generous donations of books recently for *THE BOOK DROP!* What abundant and generous gifts... well over 1000 new and gently used books! Since the beginning of the year, we have processed and given out over 3500 books to...

- The Craddock Center – a ministry in the mountains that provides books to low income children and teens.
- Give a Kid a Chance – a back-to-school initiative serving over 3000 needy children to help them get ready for the new school year.
- A local elementary school EIP Program – provides summer reading materials to at risk children.
- St. Jude’s children’s hospital – gifts of reading materials for patients and their siblings.

If you have children/youth books to “clear out” or know someone who might, we would be more than happy to see that they get to children who would love to have books of their very own.



THE ENCOURAGEMENT PROJECT is run solely with the financial gifts and donations of those of you who are interested in helping and encouraging others through this ministry. Gifts of any amount are helpful, and go toward seeing believers encouraged, and those in need helped. We greatly appreciate your willingness to be a part of this team. Would you join us monthly at the...

\$10 ~ *ground* level ~ \$25 ~ *creative* level ~ \$50 ~ *encouragement* level ~ *other* amount (anything is a blessing!)

Checks made payable to “The Encouragement Project” can be mailed to: [The Encouragement Project ~ PO Box 452 ~ Alpharetta, GA 30009](#)
If you prefer to set up a recurring monthly gift, please let us know and we will send you the banking information.

The Encouragement Project is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. All gifts are tax deductible.

CONTACT US... WE WOULD LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU!

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