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The Center for Re-Creation And Family Training, Inc.(C.R.A.F.T.) is a Christian, non-profit organization (501c3) incorporated under the laws of the state of Illinois and governed by an independent board of directors. CRAFT is interdenominational in its outreach, nondenominational in its emphasis, interracial in its scope and Christ-honoring in all its actions.



Center for Re-Creation And Family Training

C.R.A.F.T., Inc.

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# CENTER FOR RE-CREATION AND FAMILY TRAINING



“Come thou and all thy house into the ark”

Genesis 7:1

## **C.R.A.F.T.**

Established in 1974 and incorporated in 1975, for over 30 years, the Center for Re-Creation And Family Training Organization (C.R.A.F.T., Inc.) has adhered to its mission of developing and implementing programs directed towards building a stronger, more productive African-American community.

The CRAFT Organization primarily serves the youth and families of the Pembroke/Hopkins Park area of Illinois. The community has one of the highest poverty rates in the state. The residents of the community suffer from all of the issues that are companions of a poverty stricken community—drugs, violence and the accompanying abuses. This poisonous environment has to be counterbalanced with a positive option for the community, so CRAFT offers that alternative.

### **Afterschool/Summer Day Camp**

In 1974, CRAFT started its afterschool and summer day camp programs. The Afterschool Program held evening Bible classes, recreation, group discussions, Black history and etiquette classes 3 days a week for stu-

dents in grades 3-12. The summer day camp program expanded these activities into daylong activities that included weekly cultural trips.

### **C.I.D.A.L.**

The Christian Institute for Developing Altruistic Leaders (CIDAL) was the educational arm of CRAFT and it was started in 1975. CIDAL strongly emphasized Christian leadership and altruism. The elementary level began in 1988 with K-2 and the 3rd grade was added a year later. CIDAL closed its doors in 1990 due to lack of finances. Prior to that all 26 high school graduates attended college.

### **Eagles Program**

CRAFT changed its focus to the mentoring of elementary students through the Eagles Program in 1991. The primary mission of the Eagles Program is to build self-esteem and self worth in African American youth by providing role models, leadership and guidance for the students. CRAFT partners with the Lorenzo Smith School in Pembroke where

students are encouraged to maintain at least a 2.0 GPA in their quest for academic excellence. Sessions with the students cover such topics as personal development, responsibility and identity, goal setting and maintenance of positive friendships. Awards for academic excellence are given out for students who meet the criteria.

### **Student Adoption Program/Student Assistance Fund**

The Student Adoption Program (SAP) was initiated in 1991 to assist students in their preparation for and pursuit of postsecondary education. The Student Assistance Fund (SAF), a part of the Student Adoption Program, was created to offer financial, social, emotional and spiritual assistance to college students who are primarily from the Pembroke Township area.

### **Hezekiah Brady Jr. Scholarship**

In 2004 the CRAFT Board of Directors established the Hezekiah Brady Jr. Scholarship in honor of the memory and dedication of the founder of CRAFT.