

## **Dolly Parton's Imagination Library**

Powell County Public Library 725 Breckenridge Street Stanton, Ky. 40380

#### Overview

Over twenty years ago, Dolly Parton created the Imagination Library to inspire a love of reading in children of her home county in East Tennessee. In 2000, the program was expanded to serve any community with local partner support. More than one million children across the world are now receiving age-appropriate books each month free of charge.

#### Goals

- 1. To acquire financial support within the community and Friends of the Library for the Imagination Library for children ages birth to five.
- 2. To promote the Imagination Library while registering eligible children for the program.
- 3. To monitor registered children's addresses using the book order system provided by the Imagination Library Foundation

## **Specifications**

The total cost of providing each child under the age of five with one book each month is \$2.10. Donations will be collected from community partners that include Friends of the Powell County Library. Funds will be deposited in an account set up by the Powell County Public School System where payments totaling one half of this amount will be made. The remainder will be paid with funding provided by the Kentucky State Legislature.



Dolly Parton believes that if you can read, you can do anything, dream anything, and be anything. Through her Imagination Library program, she wants to ensure all children have books at home, regardless of the environment in which they live.

## Welcome to the Imagination Library

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library puts books into the hands and hearts of children across the world. We partner with local communities to provide a specially-selected, high-quality book each month to participating children from birth to age five. These books are personalized with each child's name and mailed directly to their home to create a gifting experience that makes books exciting and encourages families to spend time enjoying books together.

Best of all, Dolly Parton's Imagination Library is available to all children at no cost to the family.



"Before he passed away, my Daddy told me the Imagination Library was probably the most important thing I had ever done. I can't tell you how much that meant to me because I created the Imagination Library as a tribute to my Daddy. He was the smartest man I have ever known, but I know in my heart his inability to read probably kept him from fulfilling all of his dreams.

"Inspiring kids to love to read became my mission. In the beginning, my hope was simply to inspire the children in my home county, but here we are today with a worldwide program that gives a book a month to well over 1 million children.

"Of course, I have not done this alone. The real heroes of our story are the thousands of local organizations who have embraced my dream and made it their own. They raise millions of dollars each year and wake up every day with a passion to make sure their kids have every opportunity to succeed.

"It's been quite a journey, but we have so much more left to do. I would love for your community to join our family so please take the time to explore our website. Let's share this dream that all children should grow up in a home full of books.

"The first step is always the hardest, but you'll never know unless you try."

Dream More, Learn More, Care More, Be More









## **Dolly Parton's Imagination Library**

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library is a book gifting program that mails free books to children from birth to age five in participating communities within the United States, United Kingdom, Canada, and Australia.



Provide the gift of literacy for all children, birth to age five



Inspire children to love books and reading



Support parents and communities in fostering a child's success

## Together, making a difference.

Since 1995, Dolly Parton's Imagination Library has delivered more than 90 million books to children in more than 2,000 local communities worldwide.

With the support of local funders, coordination by partners and encouragement from community leaders and organizations, parents and educators spread the love of reading and engage children in the most fundamental skill necessary to succeed in life.

#### **Invest In Early Literacy**

- 1. Ninety percent of physical brain development occurs in the first three years of life, when a baby forms over 1 million new neural connections per second.
- 2. When a young child enters kindergarten ready for school, there is an 82% chance that the child will master basic skills by age 11, compared with a 45% chance for children who are not school-ready.
- 3. Later in life, at-risk children who do not receive highquality early childhood experiences are 25% more likely to drop out of school, 40% more likely to become teen parents and 60% less likely to attend college.
- 4. Investment in high-quality early childhood programs for at-risk children from birth to age five delivers a 7–10% annual return on investment through improved education, health, social and economic outcomes, increased productivity and the reduced need for social spending.

The presence of books in the home supports the child's academic, social, and emotional development. Children develop a special bond with their parents and caregivers by reading together. The Imagination Library puts books into the hands and hearts of children across the world at no cost to the family.

**Challenge:** Children who are read to early in life are better prepared for school. Dolly Parton's Imagination Library has been shown to significantly increase the time parents and caregivers spend reading to their children each week.

#### **Key Stakeholders**



Policymakers and Funders have significant influence in directing resources and catalyzing partnerships to adopt, scale, and take full advantage of opportunities with the Imagination Library.

Parents and Caregivers are a child's first teacher and set the course for developing their child's love of books and reading. Reading to their child from birth to age five improves their future reading ability and academic success.

Educators and Community Leaders validate the impact and continued progress as young students develop reading skills. Reducing the literacy gap in the early years allows teachers a better start in developing lifelong learners.

Affiliates and Community Partners offer the connection point, driving local awareness, enrolling local children, and paying the wholesale cost of the books and mailing each month.

## **Engaging Affiliates & Community Partners**

Improving early childhood literacy with Dolly Parton's Imagination Library creates opportunities for children to thrive so that they succeed in school and help their communities grow and prosper. Dolly Parton's Imagination Library makes it accessible for local communities to regularly communicate with large numbers of children and families, providing a high-quality and age-appropriate library of books at a low cost per child per month through a flexible, highly scalable model.



Affordable, high quality and turnkey



Parents love it and read more with their child



Research confirms the impact on early literacy

### **Become an Imagination Library Partner**

A community and its affiliate organization make the program accessible to all birth to age five children in their local area.

The Dollywood Foundation manages the system to deliver the books to the home. From the rigorous review of books by the selection committee to providing the Book Order System and overseeing the mailing of a book to each child every month from birth to age five, the Imagination Library supports the local community and affiliates every step of the process.

## **Community Partners:**

- Pay the wholesale cost of books and mailing for children in selected coverage
- Promote the Program and Build Awareness
- Register Children to Participate
- ✓ Enter Information into Book Order System

Over twenty years ago, Dolly Parton created the Imagination Library to inspire a love of reading in children of her home county in East Tennessee. In 2000, the program was expanded to serve any community with local partner support and, today, Dolly Parton's Imagination Library reaches more than 1 million children across the world with a new, age-appropriate book each month.

"You can never get enough books into the hands of enough children."



#### PRIMARY ROLES

- Enrolls local children ages o-5 in selected coverage area
- Pays \$2.10 per child per month towards wholesale books & mailing costs
- Promotes program locally to drive enrollment and/ or funding

#### PRIMARY ROLES

- \* Covers all overhead and admin expenses at no cost to Local Champion partners
- Provides BOS database and support
- Coordinates Blue Ribbon Book Selection Committee
- Coordinates monthly book order and fulfillment



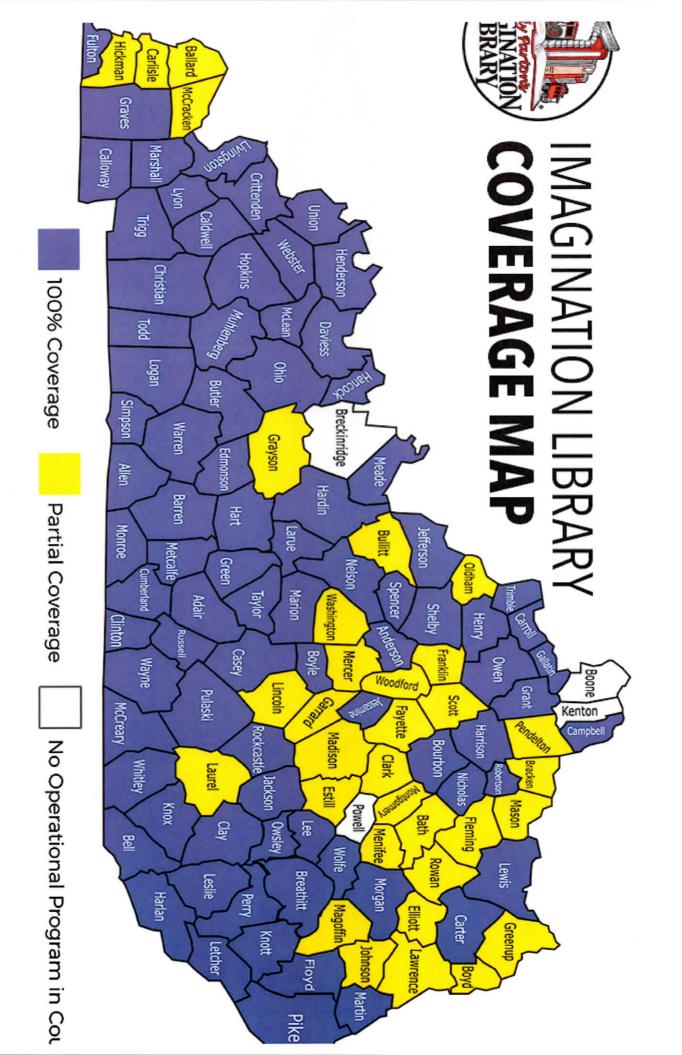
Library Program Today!



Contact us by visiting the website to reach your regional director, to complete the online Start-A-Program form and to learn more about how it works.

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library is active in almost all 50 states and other countries around the world.

Let us help you get started in your community.



# Coming soon to Powell County:





1. Open camera on phone...center QR code on the screen...touch the screen...

IMAGINATIONLIBRARY.COM site will open

- 2. Click CHECK AVAILABILITY
- 3. Fill in information
- 4. Click NEW PROGRAM ALERT



5. Fill in information and you will be notified when the program is ready to go!

INFORMATION BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE POWELL COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY