Program Overview

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library is the flagship program of The Dollywood Foundation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit Tennessee organization. The Imagination Library is dedicated to inspiring a love of reading by gifting FREE books to children from birth to age five. The program is made possible through funding shared by Dolly Parton herself, and local Program Partners in the United States, Canada, United Kingdom, Australia, and the Republic of Ireland.

Inspired by her father's inability to read and write, Dolly started the Imagination Library in 1995 to serve the children of her hometown in Sevier County, Tennessee. Today, her program spans five countries and gifts over 3 million free, high-quality, age-appropriate books each month to children around the world. There is never a charge to families who participate in the program and it is open to all children under the age of five in geographic areas with operating programs.

These books are customized with the child's name and sent directly to their home from Dolly, creating a special gifting experience that makes reading exciting and lets the child know they are cherished.

"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 millions of 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. 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..."

Dolly

Scan Me

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ImaginationLibrary.com

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library Books

Each year, our esteemed Blue Ribbon Book Selection Committee, a specially selected panel of early childhood literacy experts, is responsible for reviewing hundreds of potential titles for inclusion in Dolly Parton's Imagination Library.

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 millions of books to children in thousands of local communities in five countries. 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.

Why 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 high- quality 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.

Having books in the home is crucial for a child's academic, social, and emotional development. Reading together fosters a unique bond between children and their parents or caregivers. The Imagination Library extends this impact globally by providing books to children worldwide, free of charge, nurturing their minds and hearts.

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Key Stakeholders

The true heroes of Dolly Parton's Imagination Library

Funders & Policymakers

Funders & Policymakers have significant influence in allocating resources, catalyzing partnerships, and maximizing the potential of the Imagination Library to scale and capitalize on opportunities.

Parents & Caregivers

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 a child from birth to age five improves their future reading ability and academic success.

Community Leaders

Community Leaders ensure the impact and ongoing progress of young students as they develop reading skills is crucial. By reducing the literacy gap in the early years, teachers can effectively lay the foundation for creating lifelong learners.

Local Program Partners

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

Statewide Program Partners

Statewide Program Partners oversee support for Imagination Library volunteers, staff, and supporters to drive enrollment and provide universal access to high-quality, age-appropriate books across their state.

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BOOK LABEL Sponsorships

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library of Nevada County

Dolly Parton is investing in young children and hopes you will too!

Your organization can help **Dolly Parton's Imagination Library of Nevada County** put age-appropriate, high-quality books into the hands and homes of children from birth to age five in our community. It costs approximately $3,500/month ($15.50 per child, per year) to grow and maintain the program. Your organization can sponsor one month of postage and be recognized on the book label.

Your organization name is listed here!

BOOK LABEL SPONSORSHIP

One-Month Sponsorship:

$1,000

for 1 month with your Organization Name listed on the label as recognition for your dedication to Nevada County's children

Scan the QR code to give today or for more information about supporting Dolly Parton's Imagination Library of Nevada County.