

# Dolly Parton's Imagination Library

Funding Proposal for  
Wayne County



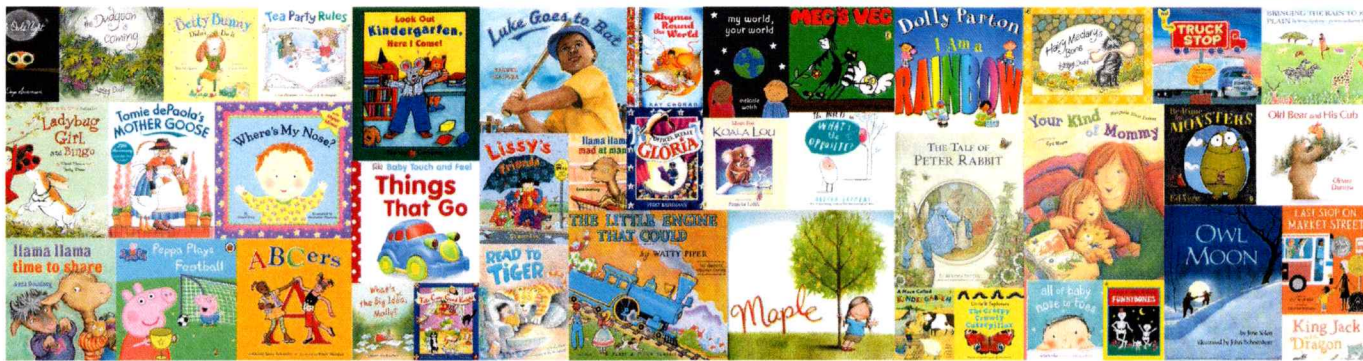
## THE PROGRAM

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library of West Virginia is supported through Marshall University's June Harless Nonprofit Center for Rural Education Research and Development, whose mission is to provide leadership in education in West Virginia. The partnership with Imagination Library promotes early youth literacy and fosters a love of reading among West Virginia's children by delivering high-quality book selections directly to their homes, monthly, at no cost to families.

Our long-term goal is to ensure that every child in West Virginia has access to a developmentally appropriate catalog of books prior to entering school, best preparing them for learning as of kindergarten.

Studies show that early literacy correlates to higher graduation rates, improved workforce entry, economic development, and lower substance abuse rates, all critical for West Virginia.

## BOOK SELECTION



Imagination Library books are specially selected age-appropriate, high-quality titles. These books are delivered to registered children each month from birth to age five. Each one is personalized with the child's name and mailed directly to the child's home. This effort creates a gifting experience making books exciting and shows the child someone is thinking of them. The Blue Ribbon Book Committee is a panel of literacy specialists who select several bilingual English/Spanish titles each year.

The first book a child receives is "The Little Engine That Could™" and the final book received when a child turns five years old, is "Look Out Kindergarten, Here I Come!", both customized with a message from Dolly Parton to the child.

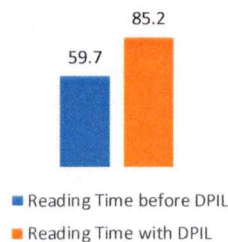
## THE IMPACT

### Children receiving the gift of monthly Dolly Parton's Imagination Library (DPIL) books from birth to age 5 demonstrate significant impacts in three areas:

#### Home Literacy Environment

Families receiving DPIL books for at least 4 months have shown to:

- Increase reading 3 times a week from 59.7% to 85.2%



#### Kindergarten Readiness

Children participating in DPIL have shown a 28.9% increase in readiness for Kindergarten as measured by the Letter Naming Fluency screening tool.

*\*frequently identified as the single best indicator of risk for reading failure and a strong predictor of future grade reading, vocabulary and language*

#### 3rd Grade Reading

Students who participated in DPIL have demonstrated significantly stronger reading skills and scored higher on reading achievement tests over their non-participating peers, consistently from Kindergarten through 3rd Grade (4 years after participating).



WHAT IT COSTS PER CHILD

**\$26 per child/per year**

**\$26**

Provides for the purchase and delivery of 12 books to 1 child for a full year.

**\$130**

Provides the entire Imagination Library series of 60 books to 1 child over 5 years.

# Wayne County Projections

## PROGRAM FUNDING

- Wayne County lacks 50% funding, ongoing, for its enrolled children for the five-year program.
- The June Harless Center is seeking contributions from local county partners to keep the county funded.



FUNDING REQUEST

**With Your Help**  
**The Children of**  
**Wayne County**

will receive a year's worth of books for their home libraries and school preparation.

Thank you for your consideration of supporting this wonderful youth literacy educational program!



CONTACT



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