



Message from the CEO

Finally, spring is here, and the sun is shining. I am hopeful we will move out of our monsoon season soon! I would like to take a moment to thank everyone I have encountered in the Fairfield County community. You all have been so welcoming and willing to help me as I have stepped into the role of CEO. I am truly humbled by how many of you care about the community and those that need our help/support.

I have tried to meet as many individuals as I can these first few months but realize I haven't met everyone. So, with that, I would like to introduce myself for those I haven't met in person as of yet. I have been a social worker 20 plus years, leading several nonprofit agencies ensuring impact and reach. I am a passionate advocate for those who are struggling and promise to do all I can to ensure continued funding of the wonderful partner agencies in our community in their quest to alleviate these struggles.

Not only do we fund partner agencies, but we also operate two of our own programs; Dolly Parton's Imagination Library (DPIL) and our VITA/TCE Free Tax Program. Our amazing part-time tax program staff and volunteers completed approximately 1300 tax returns for the 2025 season! Currently, we are providing approximately 5600 children in Fairfield County with monthly book deliveries through the DPIL Program in an attempt to improve early childhood reading literacy. I would like to encourage you to consider a donation to DPIL if your child or grandchild has benefitted from the program. This will allow us to continue serving the children of Fairfield County in the future.

I am excited to announce we have a new website design and would love for you to check it out. We've tried to make it easier for individuals to donate, find information about our programs and programs operated by our funded/partner agencies.

I look forward to working with all of you in the upcoming months and invite you to reach out to me at any time with questions or ideas.

-Melissa Dever, CEO

Did You Know?

The United Way of Fairfield County partly funds and operates the Dolly Parton's Imagination Library Program in Fairfield County.

Half of the funding for this program is provided by the United Way of Fairfield County, and the other half is provided by the Governor's Office! If your business or organization is interested in sponsoring Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, please reach out to Deb Allen at dallen@uwayfairfieldco.org.

The total cost to provide 1 book each month to a child is about \$31, which means that with the Governor's donation match, a \$31 donation today can provide books to TWO children for an entire year!

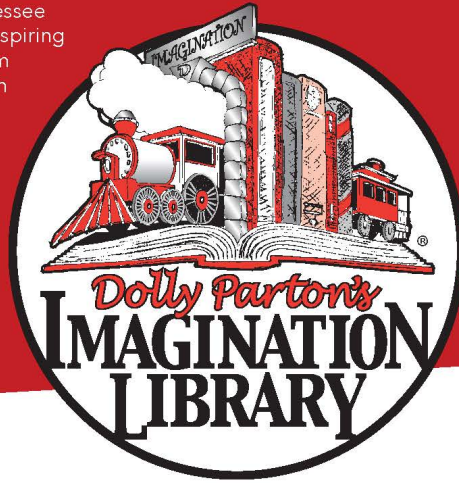


[Donate to Dolly Parton's Imagination Library](#)

Local Program Partners

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."



Supporting Dolly Parton's Imagination Library is a powerful way to make a lasting impact on the lives of the children and families in your community.

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library partners with local communities to gift one free, age-appropriate, high-quality book each month to children from birth to age five.

These books are personalized with the child's name and mailed directly to their home to create a gifting experience that makes books exciting and shows the child someone is thinking of them.



Scan Me

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“We know that sustainable community change requires the engagement of community members, and the Imagination Library has been our vehicle to initiate this collaborative approach to ensure a life-long love of reading and learning for our community's youngest generation.”

- Virginia Carmody, Executive Director,
Literacy Coalition of Onondaga County

ImaginationLibrary.com

Local Program Partners

“The True Heroes of my Imagination Library” - *Dolly*

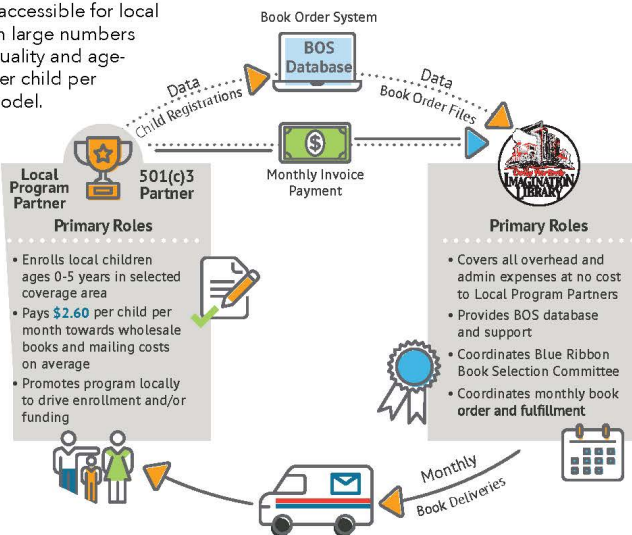
Improving early childhood literacy with Dolly Parton's Imagination Library creates opportunities for children to thrive so that they succeed in school and help their communities grow and prosper.

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.

Local Program Partners make the program accessible to all birth to age five children in their local area.

Local Program Partners:

- ✓ Pays the wholesale cost of books and mailing for children in selected coverage area
- ✓ Promotes the Program and Builds Awareness
- ✓ Registers Children to Participate
- ✓ Enters Information into the Book Order System



DOLLYWOOD
FOUNDATION



The Dollywood Foundation's support teams help Local Program Partners every step of the way. From managing the Book Order System, ordering and processing books, and providing marketing, finance and customer support. Let us help you get started in your community and become part of "Team Dolly"!

Want to Start A Local Imagination Library Program in Your Community Today?

Visit our website and complete the Start-A-Program online form and a team member will be in touch with you soon!

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ImaginationLibrary.com

[More Information About Dolly Parton's Imagination Library](#)

Upcoming Events

Day of Action

The United Way Day of



United Way Day of Action 2025



FRIDAY, JUNE 20TH

9AM - 12PM

FOUNTAIN SQUARE
DOWNTOWN LANCASTER



Action is coming up soon on **Friday, June 20th!** This event will be a great opportunity to bring your young ones downtown and enjoy some games, activities, and more!

If your organization would like to participate by bringing a game or activity, please contact Garrett Davis at gdavis@uwayfairfieldco.org by Friday, June 13th!

BRING YOUR KIDS OUT FOR A DAY OF FUN ACTIVITIES AND SWEET TREATS!

FREE T-SHIRTS WHILE SUPPLIES LAST!



NATIONWIDE
CHILDREN'S®

When your child needs a hospital, everything matters.



The Savings Bank.
SmartBanking. for a better future

SAVE THE DATE!

Community Care Day
& Campaign Kickoff
September 4th, 2025



Save the Date

11.
08.
25.

United Way 5k
and 2 Mile Walk

[Website](#)

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