



Montcalm County

Montcalm County Great Start Collaborative

Agenda

6/5/24

11:30am - 1:30pm

Meeting in Person at MAISD 621 New St Stanton

- I. Call to order:
- II. Welcome & Introductions:
- III. Public Comment:
- IV. June Agenda Approval:
- V. April Meeting Minutes Approval:
- VI. Director Report: Cari O'Connor
- VII. New Business:
 - A. Vice Chair Nominations for 2024-2025
 - B. Highlight Presentation: Effects of postpartum, anxiety/depression on early childhood development: Tara Allen, MCN
 - C. DHHS Funding Information: Jessica Higley
- VIII. Old Business:
 - A. Dolly Parton Imagination Library update: Mindy Train
 - B. Early On Local Interagency Coordinating Council (LICC): Cindy DeYoung
 - C. Talking is Teaching Update: Monique Cooper
 - D. September 18th, 2024 Neurodevelopment Trauma Event: Dr Stephanie Grant Event Update
- IX. Committee Reports:
 - A. Executive & Communication: Sue Kearney
 - B. Early Care & Education: Mindy Train
 - C. Family Wellness: Karen Marsman
 - D. Family Leadership: Monique Cooper
- X. Roundtable Updates
- XI. Principals of Collaboration Survey
- XII. Adjournment

Next Meeting Date August 7, 2024 11:30 am – 1:30 pm

Location 621 New St Stanton MI 48888

Advance health equities.

Early Childhood services meet high standards of quality.

Children prenatal to age five and their families thrive.

Visit our website for the most updated calendar information at www.GreatStartMontcalm.org



Montcalm County

Montcalm County Great Start Collaborative

Minutes

4/3/24

I. Call to order:

Jen Peterman called the meeting to order at 11:32 am

II. Welcome & Introductions:

Present: Stephanie Barone, Elizabeth Buskirk, Monique Cooper, Emily Dowd, Liz Ingraham, Dena Kent, Anita McIntyre, Car O'Connor, Jennifer Peterman, Mary Peterson, Nancy Secor, Alison Stout, Drew Train, Mindy Train, Joanna Urban, Kathy Peppin, Christina Wittkopp

III. Public Comment:

There was no public comment

IV. April Agenda Approval:

A motion was made by Emily Dowd and supported by Monique Cooper to approve the agenda of the April 3, 2024, meeting as presented, Motion was carried.

V. February Meeting Minutes Approval:

A motion was made by Elizabeth Buskirk and supported by Drew Train to approve the minutes of the February 7, 2024, meeting as presented, Motion was carried.

VI. Director Report: Cari O'Connor

2023-2024 Preschool applications are being processed and enrollment has started. The Joint recruitment application has gone live and is also available in hard copy! We appreciate your continued support toward getting as many of our little ones into preschool programming! We are looking at operating as many as 30 classrooms in 2024-2025. This would be an increase of 5 classrooms if we can get students enrolled! Thank you for your ongoing support.

First 10 Grant through the State of MI has wrapped up however we will continue to have Montcalm Basics available to support families and have a meeting with Central Montcalm Pre K and Kindergarten educators April 17th to support Kindergarten transition activities and communication between grade levels! We have submitted our final statement of expense.

PREK for All Task Force: Final recommendations and for the PREK for ALL Roadmap document as well as the detailed brief were completed. Inclusion Collective Action plan initiatives, removing income eligibility barriers, bringing back funding for the facilities grant work to increase licensable space, and providing a more streamlined system to support teacher entry into the field are just some of the key elements of the Road Map. Priority enrollment process (our Joint Recruitment process) will ensure that most at risk have priority enrollment, but ALL have the opportunity regardless of income.

MI LEAP: Michelle Richards has been named as director of MiLEAP and Emily Laidlaw is Assistant Director. We are still working through changes in personnel and department processes. Midyear reports have continued to be processed in the same manner. More to come for sure but our plan has been submitted along with budget and we are awaiting approval.

MCGSC Parent Board members are needed. Please contact Cari directly if you have families that you work with that would be interested.

Kindergarten Round Up survey is in process. We look forward to having data to review!

MCGSC Strategic Plan updates and review process will begin starting the June meeting. We are working in alignment with the Community Health Needs Assessment (COREWELL) and Montcalm Human Service Coalition processes that are community wide. More to come for us! MHSC survey: 1349 responses! This will be great data for us to support our process.

Two opportunities to be looking for in the MCGSC umbrella:

- Early Childhood Apprenticeship grant RFP submission in partnership with Wayne RESA & Marquette RESA

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- Co training with Early Childhood Partners: 0-3 focus! We received the grant and will begin the planning stages of this event in Fall of 2024. This event will be open to all 0-3 providers!

Celebrations, Shout Outs, & Thank you!

- GACF continues to partner with us in building a sustainable funding source for DPIL!
- Lots of partners for SWAG bag items for the 2024 Community Baby Shower
- Private donor to support Clifford attendance at CBS in partnership with Public Broadcasting Service (PBS)

VII. New Business:

A. Highlight Presentation/Resource: Helping Hands Dula Resource - Taylor Davis

Presentation attached

B. Highlight Presentation/Resource: Samaritan Health Care - Wendy King

Presentation attached

VIII. Old Business:

A. Dolly Parton Imagination Library update: Mindy Train

1,600 children currently enrolled.

B. Early On Local Interagency Coordinating Council (LICC): Elizabeth Buskirk

Updated report attached

C. Talking is Teaching Update: Monique Cooper

Continuing to do posters when requested and creating posters and activity calendars for the books that we pass out throughout the community. Please reach out if you need any resources.

IX. Committee Reports:

A. Executive & Communication: Jennifer Peterman

Reviewed April's agenda, workplan, and GSRP 2024-2025 information

B. Early Care & Education: Mindy Train

Did not meeting in March, no report to share

C. Family Wellness: Monique Cooper

Toothfair event - 21 families with a combined of 38 children attended, the annual Tooth Fairy Event hosted by MCGSC, which was held on Saturday, February 10th, at the Sheridan Community Center. The focus was to help improve the dental well-being of families in Montcalm County, by supporting them in providing them with the resources and materials to be successful. Each child and adult that attended received a bag of goodies that included, dental resources, a toothbrush, floss, and toothpaste Families participated in activities that included, how to brush and floss as well as which foods are healthy for our bodies

Baby Shower – prepping for upcoming baby shower community event on May 18th at the MACC in partner with Family Fun Day. Will be proving 130 expecting and new moms with a shower gift.

D. Family Leadership: Monique Cooper

Upcoming Family Coalition meeting

- April 8th, topic will be Establishing Rules and Boundaries for your Home
- May 13th, topic will be Dinner ideas
- June 10th, kick off to summer held at Carson City Park/Splash Pad

X. Roundtable Updates

- Liz Ingraham - Race to end stigma 5k run/walk on May 3rd at 5 pm, see flyer for additional information.
- Dean Kent- MMDHD has Adult RSV vaccinee available for 60+
- Allison Stout – MMDHD has family planning package of condoms available for free and available at the front entrance to take.
- Joanna Urban – 4H sign up deadline is April 15th
- Emily Dowd – Greenville family medicine drug take back day April 20th.
- Monique Cooper – Getting ready to put together summer bags, looks for resources to fill them, roughly 600 bags we put together and distribute throughout the county at summer festivals, first event is end of May
 - sharing for Sue Kearney - Sue Kearney-
 - Strengthening families through child abuse prevention month is in April
 - Family Fun Day is May 18th

XI. Principals of Collaboration Survey

Any questions for Helping Hands Dula

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- Great presentation
- Hoping for positive results

Feedback on Samaritan Health Care

- The county needs you
- Very vital to the health of our population

Future highlight presentation ideas

- Effects of postpartum, anxiety/depression on early childhood development
- Programs to support struggling families/children of addiction

Lunch ideas

- Pasta or salad
- Sandwich bar
- Taco bar

XII. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 12:57 pm

Minutes recorded by Mindy Train

Next Meeting Date June 5th, 2024 11:30 am – 1:30 pm Location 621 New St Stanton MI 48888

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MAISD Early On LICC Report: May 30, 2024

REFER today for any infant or toddler you have concerns about! ANYONE can refer.

Go to: www.1800Earlyon.org or call 1-800-EarlyOn

Comparison Referral Data

	2017-18 Referrals	2018-19 Referrals	2019-20 Referrals	2020-21 Referrals	2021-22 Referrals	2022-2023 Referrals	2023-2024 Referrals
July	16	30	35	20	28	9	23
August	27	40	33	16	26	38	28
September	24	13	25	24	30	27	18
October	17	24	19	32	24	19	27
November	12	17	12	11	34	33	21
December	8	17	21	18	14	20	18
January	15	22	35	30	32	26	33
February	29	35	34	23	28	23	32
March	26	26	25	25	38	29	28
April	31	34	14	31	26	28	28
May	17	32	10	22	24	27	24*
June	24	25	16	24	33	23	
TOTAL	229	315	279	266	337	302	

*As of May 29, 2024

As of May 29, 2024 Montcalm Area ISD Early On has:

- **25 Children in Referral**
- **142 Children enrolled and receiving Early On Services.**
- **34 of 142 (24%) students receiving Early On are ALSO receiving special education services (Michigan Mandated Special Education MMSE).**

Outreach and Early On Video: [Early On Video Link](#)

We will be doing a push to reach out to agencies and physician offices when the new Early On logo and promotional materials come out in the fall of 2024. We attended the Baby Shower and Family Fun day at the MACC in May. We plan to tag along with the GSC at the Montcalm County Fair in June.

Staff Appreciation:

We solicited appreciations from our families to let the Early On staff know how much they are appreciated. We received 33 responses from families with heartwarming stories of Early On’s impact in children’s lives.

Parent Surveys:

MAISD sent out a survey and received 15 responses. Results were very positive with parents reporting that they feel they receive quality home visits, have clear communication, and have a voice in their child’s IFSP.

The State of Michigan Early On also sends out a yearly survey every spring. This information is sent to Wayne State University to be analyzed. We receive the feedback in February of the next year. In February 2024 we received data from the survey completed in April/May of 2023. We received the following information:

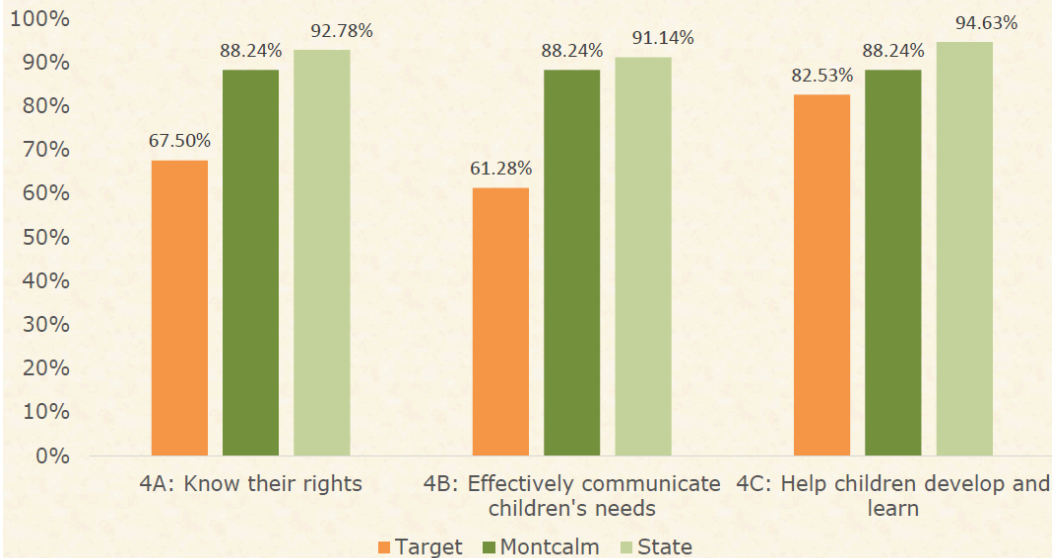
Response Rates for Family Survey

	Montcalm			State		
<i>Federal Fiscal Year</i>	<i>FFY2020</i>	<i>FFY2021</i>	<i>FFY2022</i>	<i>FFY2020</i>	<i>FFY2021</i>	<i>FFY2022</i>
<i>Survey Year (Spring/Summer)</i>	<i>2021</i>	<i>2022</i>	<i>2023</i>	<i>2021</i>	<i>2022</i>	<i>2023</i>
Number of families surveyed*	78	89	85	6,505	7,640	8,432
Number of families responding	20	25	18	2,280	2,325	2,652
Response Rate	25.64%	28.09%	21.18%	35.05%	30.43%	31.45%

FFY2022 Targets and Results: Service Area and State

	Summary Statement 1 substantially increased			Summary Statement 2 within age expectations		
	Target	Results	Met	Target	Results	Met
Montcalm(N=97)						
3A: Social-emotional	75.39%	87.50%	Yes	52.44%	64.95%	Yes
3B: Knowledge and skill	77.88%	94.12%	Yes	45.94%	60.82%	Yes
3C: Appropriate behaviors	78.44%	88.89%	Yes	47.30%	64.95%	Yes

FFY2022 Targets and Results for Indicator 4: Service Area and State



Professional Development:

Professional development has been completed for the 23-24 school year. We focused on Early Literacy Essentials for Birth to 3, Picky eating resources and built data systems.

For 24-25 school year, we are proposing to focus on Trauma in children birth to 3, Alternative and Augmentative Communication (AAC) in the birth to 3 population and continuing to dig into data for continuous improvement.

Playgroups:

We had a great year! We had great attendance. We plan to maintain the locations and times during the 24-25 school year.

Summer playgroups are starting in June. See flier below.



Check us out on Social Media 



Montcalm Co. Playgroup
Private group



MAISD Early On

Follow us on Social Media to learn how to make a referral and get information about your child's development.

- Need more developmental wheels, Early On pamphlets or other materials? Email Elizabeth Buskirk at ebuskirk@maisd.com
- Interested in having an Early On staff member come speak to your organization? Email Cindy DeYoung at cdeyoung@maisd.com

Free Playgroup Opportunity in Montcalm Co. for Parents and Children!

Summer 2024



Any family with children birth to four years old living in Montcalm Area Intermediate School District are welcome to attend playgroup.

Call for registration or for more information: 616-225-6146

Highlights

- *Try new activities with your child that will stimulate your child's development!
- *Learn songs and read books (receive a copy of each book to keep)!
- *Interact with other parents and children!
- *Learn strategies to use at home and have access to Early Childhood Professionals to ask questions.



Morning

10:00am-11:30am

June 11th: Eureka Township

9322 SW Greenville Rd.
Greenville, MI 48838

July 16th: Stanton Veterans Park + Touch a Truck

710 N State St.
Stanton, MI 48888

August 20th: Ensley Park

518 E Shaw St,
Howard City, MI

Evening

5:00pm-6:00pm

June 13th: Playgroup Visits the Farm

7212 Kendaville Rd.
Lakeview, MI (Across from Farm
Country Cheese House)

July 18th: Spencer Township Park + Splash Pad

14960 Meddler Ave.
Gowen, MI 49326

August 22nd: West Park + Carson City Splash Pad

11877 E Carson City Rd,
Carson City, MI

Montcalm County Dolly Parton Imagination Library

**Celebrates 10 Years of Service to Our
Community!**



Annual Report 2023

Our Mission:

The mission of the Montcalm County Dolly Parton Imagination Library is to develop the love of reading in all children of this county, by providing an age-appropriate book each month to every child from birth to four years old.

Our Vision:

Imagine the benefits to children and to society if all Montcalm County preschoolers arrived at school loving books and reading.

The Montcalm County Dolly Parton Imagination Library premier early childhood book gifting program!

Montcalm County Dolly Parton Imagination Library Looks Great at 10 Years Old!

The Montcalm County Great Start Collaborative (MCGSC) is a partnership of community leaders, business owners, charitable and faith-based organizations, health and human service agencies, educators, and parents that come together for the purpose of:

- Promoting awareness and advocating for early childhood issues.
- Address factors that influence school readiness.
- Planning and coordinating community services.

The MCGSC is committed to developing a seamless system that utilizes community resources and supports to help families gain access to tools needed to provide a healthy start for all children.



For more information about the Montcalm County Dolly Parton Imagination Library or Montcalm County Great Start Collaborative, visit our website at

www.GreatStartMontcalm.org or

Facebook: www.facebook.com/montcalmimaginationlibrary and

www.facebook.com/greatstartmontcalmcounty



Montcalm County Dolly Parton Imagination Library Sponsors

- Bowen Insulation
- Builders Glass of Greenville, INC.
- Bush Rental LLC
- Carson City-Crystal Area Schools
- Carson City Correction Facility Boyer Club
- Central Montcalm Community Foundation
- Central Montcalm Public Schools
- Crystal Lions Club
- Danish Sisterhood Society
- Department of Health Human Services Montcalm County
- Edmore Lions Club
- Edmore Women's Club
- EightCAP, INC.
- Entrican Gleaners
- First United Methodist Church of Greenville
- Greenville Area Community Foundation
- Greenville Area Youth Advisory Club
- Greenville Family Dental
- Grenville Lions Club
- Greenville Public Schools
- Greenville Rotary Club
- Heart of West Michigan United Way
- Isabella Bank
- Lakeview Area Community Fund
- Lakeview Community Schools
- Lakeview Family Chiropractors
- L'Image Salon
- Martin Eye Care
- McDonalds of Greenville
- Mersen USA GS Corp- Greenville
- Montabella Community Schools
- Michigan One Community Credit Union
- Montcalm Area Intermediate School District
- Montcalm Care Network
- Montcalm County Great Start Collaborative
- Montcalm County Mom Prom
- Montcalm County Republicans
- Montcalm Wind
- Ninety Degree Nutrition
- Panhandle Area Community Fund
- Our Saviors Lutheran Church of Edmore
- Sidney State Bank
- Stanton Lions Club
- Our Saviors Lutheran Church of Edmore
- Sidney State Bank
- Stanton Lions Club
- Stanton Women's Club
- Target Foundation
- Tri County Area Schools
- Tri County Electric People Fund
- Turk Lake Restaurant and Bar
- United Way of Montcalm and Ionia County
- Vestaburg Community Schools
- We Care for Kids Council
- Wells Photography
- Many Individual Sponsors

**THANK
YOU!**



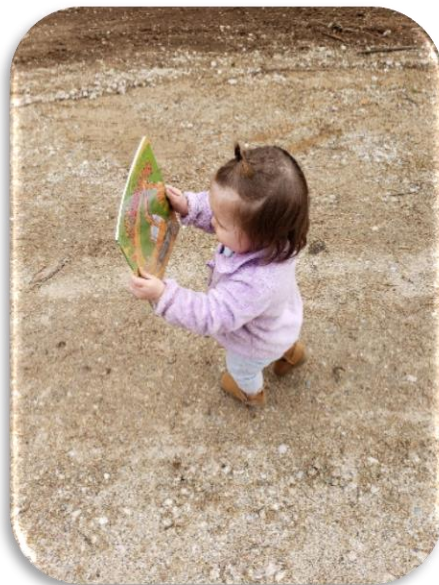
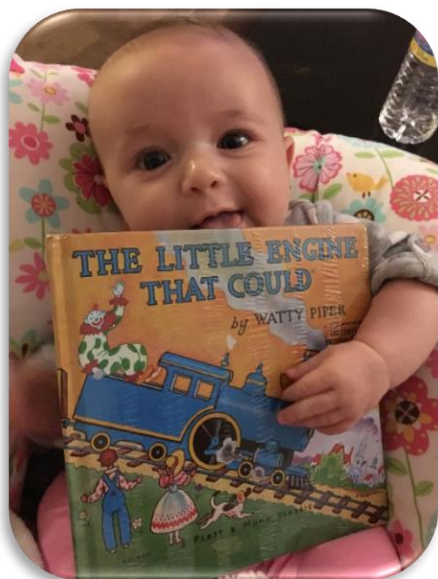
Overview of 2023 Montcalm County Dolly Parton Imagination Library

Highlights:

- 16,487 free Imagination Library books were mailed to Montcalm County preschool children in 2023.
 - Welcome Book- 755
 - Graduation Book- 349
 - Regular- 15,383
 - Number of children served- 1,886
- Since our inception in 2013, the MC DPIL has mailed 127,337 books.
 - Welcome Book- 4,639
 - Graduation Book- 2,315
 - Regular- 120,383
 - Number of children served- 5,844
- According to research, children are now attending preschool better prepared to learn, because they were provided high quality, age-appropriate books during their first years. Parents stated that their child is more prepared to enter preschool, because of their Montcalm County Dolly Parton Imagination Library experience.

Challenges:

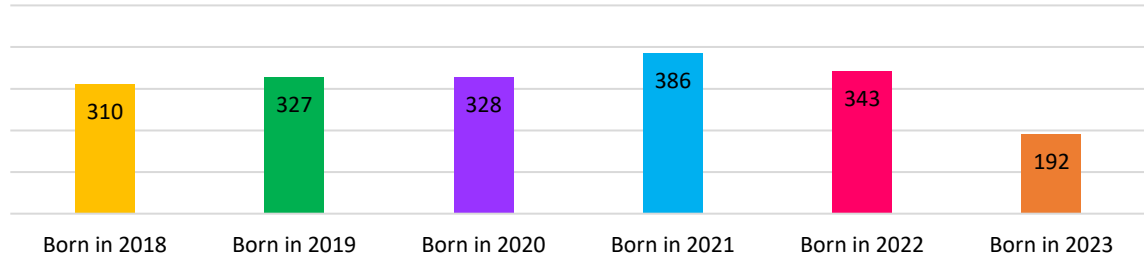
Long term, stable funding is a challenge. The price of the books is \$27.00 per child, per year, or \$2.25 per month. This low cost of \$2.25 per book includes postage and handling. DPIL in Montcalm County is a gift from the community and historically not supported by any one organization or any form of funding, state or federal entities. However, since we mail approximately 1,300 books per month, almost \$35,100 needs to be raised annually through grants, donations and fundraisers, to serve children presently registered. For the 2023-24 school year, state funds (32p6) were used to support DPIL in Montcalm County. This is thought to be a one-time funding option legislated by the State of Michigan. Each year, we face the challenge to obtain funding needed for this program to continue. We are continuing our partnership with Greenville Area Community Foundation to create a long-term sustainability plan to ensure this community gift could continue for future generations.



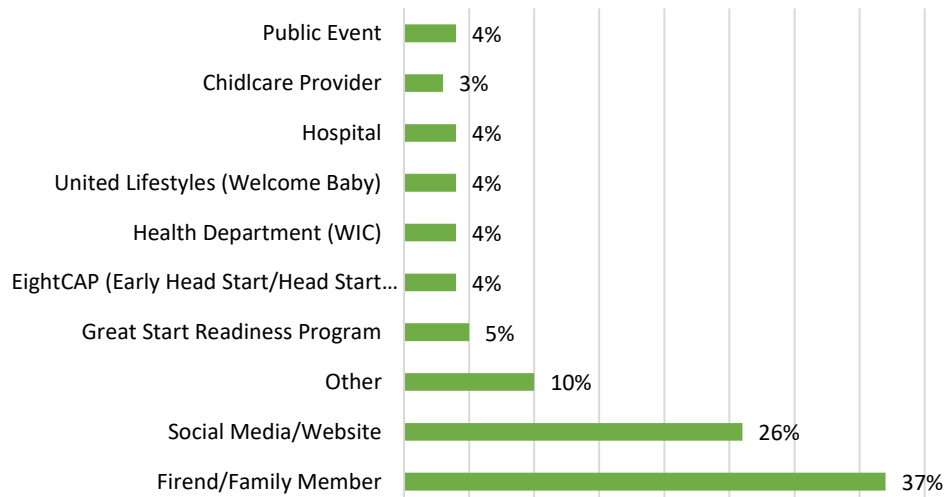
2023 Registration Data/Information

Children are being registered and graduating from the Montcalm County Dolly Parton Imagination Library on an ongoing manner. The number of registered children receiving books varies from month to month. Finding ways to reach and register children in the birth-to-age-four age group is a constant effort, conducted primarily by volunteer MCGSC board members, birth to five parents, community service providers, and MCGSC Family Coalition members.

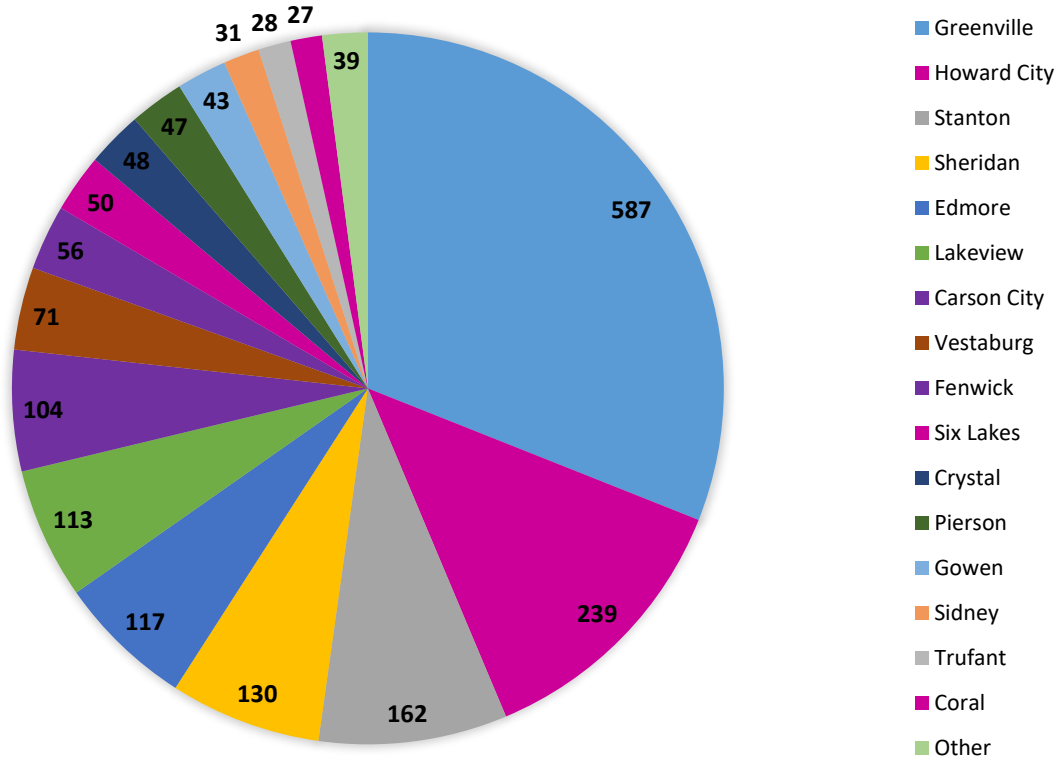
1. *Number of children registered by birth year for 2023: 1,886*



2. *Number of eligible children age birth-4 years of age based on 2022 Kids Count: 3,602.*
3. **We have 52% of the eligible children, enrolled in Montcalm County Dolly Parton Imagination Library.**
 - Number of Children enrolled is determined by the amount of funding we have to support Montcalm County Dolly Parton Imagination Library.
4. *Registration Brochure Holder locations:* The Montcalm County Dolly Parton Imagination Library maintains registration brochure holders throughout the county.
5. We continue to collaborate with Corewell Health United Hospital, to put together Welcome Baby packets that include registration forms for the Montcalm County Dolly Parton Imagination Library. With their partnership, we hope to build readers from birth! We also partner with Early On and Welcome Baby to support registrations.
6. During a recent survey with parents, they were asked about how they found out about Dolly Parton Imagination Library, most of them have heard about Montcalm County Dolly Parton Imagination Library through a friend or family member! Word of mouth and friends and family continue to be the top recruiter for DPIL participation.

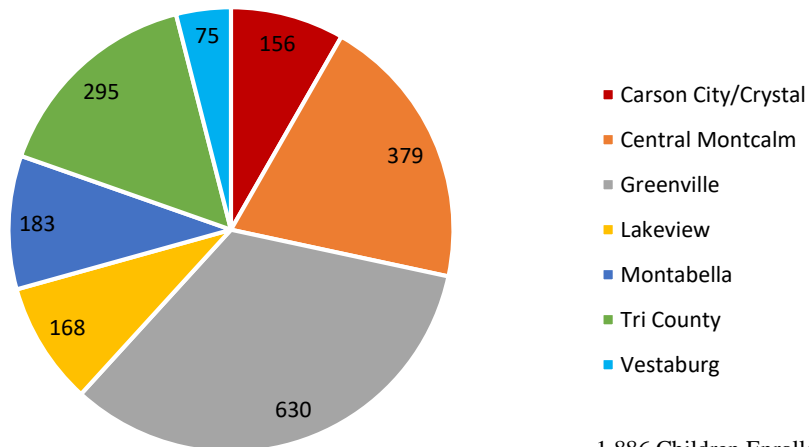


Number of Children Enrolled by Location
Data Pulled 12/29/2023



1,886 Children Enrolled

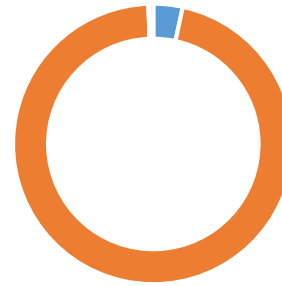
Number of Children Enrolled by School District
Data Pulled 12/29/2023



1,886 Children Enrolled

**2013-2023 Montcalm County Dolly Parton
Imagination Library Expenses to Date**

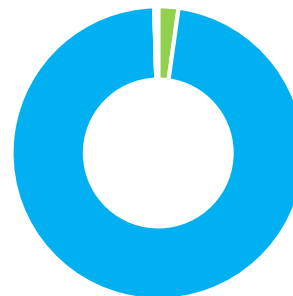
Postage	\$9,477	3%
DPIL Monthly Invoice	\$269,558	96%
Printing	\$119	0%
Marketing	\$1,465	0%
Total	\$280,619	100%



- Postage
- DPIL Monthly Invoice
- Printing
- Marketing

**2023 Montcalm County Dolly Parton Imagination
Library Expenses**

Postage	\$825	2%
DPIL Monthly Invoice	\$36,179	98%
Printing	\$0	0%
Marketing	\$166	0%
Total	\$37,170	100%



- Postage
- DPIL Monthly Invoice
- Printing
- Marketing

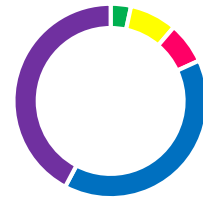
Explanatory Notes for 2023:

- ❖ 96% of all funds were used to purchase the 16,487 Imagination Library books that were mailed out in 2023. The local cost is \$2.25 per book, which covers the book, postage, and handling. This low cost is possible because of matching funds from the Governor’s Books from Birth Foundation and by special arrangements with publishers made by the Dollywood Foundation.
- ❖ *Undelivered Books/Postage: Books that are unable to be mailed to the address located on the book or forwarded to a current address are sent back to the post office and held until we can pick up the undelivered books. When picked up, the US Post Office requires that we pay for the return postage. These returned books are provided to Montcalm County families throughout the year via, Playgroup, Welcome Baby and various MCGSC family coalition activities.*
- ❖ **Marketing:** In previous years we have purchased brochures, bookmarks, and stickers to promote at county community events, this past year we ran ads in our local newspaper (Daily News Paper), promoting Montcalm County Dolly Parton Imagination Library program and thanking our donors for their ongoing support for 10 year of DPIL service to our birth to 5 children.



2013-2023 MC DPIL Income to Date

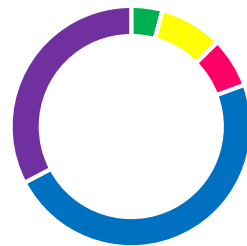
Individual Donors	\$16,734	5%
Business Donors	\$21,868	7%
Non-Profit Donors	\$21,266	7%
Grants	\$127,545	41%
Schools	\$125,644	40%
Total Income	\$313,057	100%



■ Individual Donors ■ Business Donors
■ Non-profit Donors ■ Grants
■ Schools

2023 MC DPIL Income

Individual Donors	\$7,348	23%
Business Donors	\$27	0%
Non-Profit Donors	\$2,060	6%
Grants	\$14,420	45%
Schools	\$8,443	26%
Total Income	\$25,380	100%



■ Individual Donors ■ Business Donors
■ Non-profit Donors ■ Grants
■ Schools

Explanatory Notes for 2023:

- ❖ **Individual Donors** - Revenue that comes from direct donations by individuals
- ❖ **Grants Received in 2023** - Income that came because of written grants.
 - Greenville Area Community Foundation Grant
 - Greenville Area Youth Advisory Grant
 - Lakeview Area Community Foundation
 - Tri County Electric People Foundation
- ❖ **Business Donors** - Direct business donations. **Refer to page three, for list of donors.**
- ❖ **Non-Profit Donors** - Community clubs and societies
- ❖ **Schools** - EightCAP, Inc., and all 7 local school districts within the MAISD
- ❖ ***Annual cost for Montcalm County Dolly Parton Imagination Library is \$35,100 to serve current children registered, if we are serving 1,300 children.**
- ❖ **32p6** – funds for first and potentially last time use of funds to support cost of book distribution.



Montcalm County Dolly Parton Imagination Library Endowment Fund

Greenville Area Community Foundation


Statement Summary

Historic Gifts or Corpus	\$11,318
Available to Spend this Year	\$511.14
Beginning Fund Balance-	\$12,476.17
Contributions	\$21,525
Pledges	\$0
Interest and Dividend Income	\$1,699.59
Appreciation of Assets	\$3,564.70
Interfund Gifts	\$0
Total Revenue	\$26,789.29
Grants Authorized	\$0
Administrative Fees	(\$392.40)
Total Expenses	(\$392.40)
Ending Balance 12/31/23	\$38,873.06

Montcalm County Dolly Parton Imagination Library started a partnership with Greenville Area Community Foundation to establish an endowment fund on April 16, 2019, to support Montcalm County Dolly Parton Imagination Library for years to come. We need to transition from ongoing fund raising to a long-term sustainable funding option.


Thank you to Greenville Area Community Foundation for this continued support in establishing Montcalm County Dolly Parton Imagination Library for future generations. Long term funding goal is for the fund to financially support monthly billing for DPIL book services.

Montcalm County Dolly Parton Imagination Library



\$27

GIVES 1 KID
12 BOOKS
FOR 1 YEAR



\$108

GIVES 4 KIDS
48 BOOKS
FOR 1 YEAR

We need your help to continue this wonderful gift to young children in Montcalm County!

Parent Survey 2023 Results:

183 Parents completed the annual Montcalm County Dolly Parton Imagination Library survey

Table 1 below shows that 51% of parents reported that Montcalm County Dolly Parton Imagination Library increased their children’s interest in reading or looking at books by “a lot.” 59% of parents reported an increase in the amount of time parents have spent with their child.

Table 1: Change in Literacy Activity

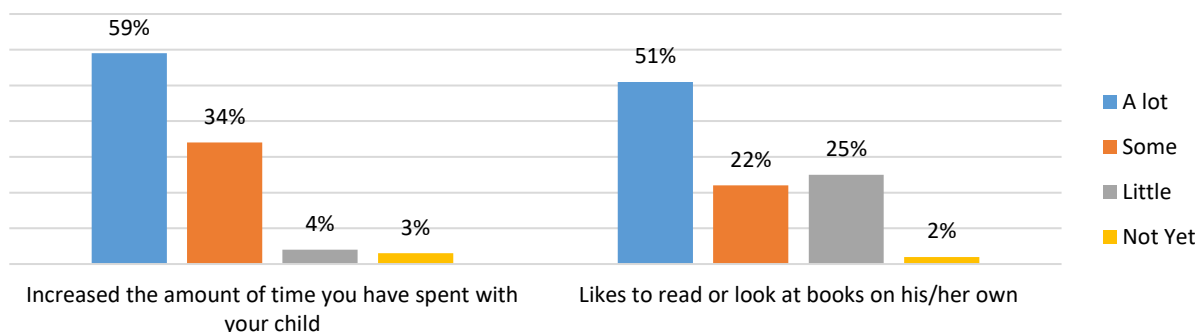
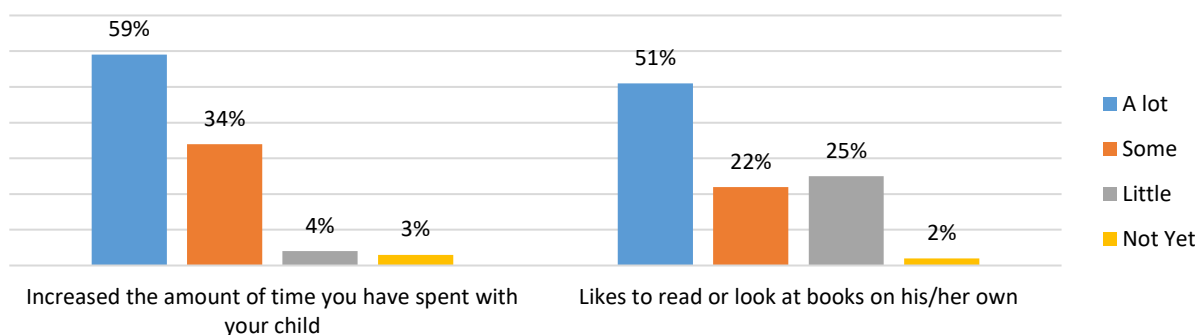


Table 2 shows that children receiving Montcalm County Dolly Parton Imagination Library books are supporting children to learn to read at an early age. According to parents, Montcalm County Dolly Parton Imagination Library participating children have greater general knowledge, have expanded their vocabulary, and become readers that are more fluent. Research tells us that early readers can recognize a larger number of words by sight, which enables them to learn more from and about their environment. Montcalm County Dolly Parton Imagination Library supports our children in this learning process!

Table 2: Change in Early Learning Skills



Parents are their child’s first and best teacher; therefore, providing tools to parents that encourages them to talk, read and sing with their child every day is critical. Even parents with poor literacy skills want to raise readers and Montcalm County Dolly Parton Imagination Library helps support them in their efforts to teach their child basics of how to hold a book correctly.

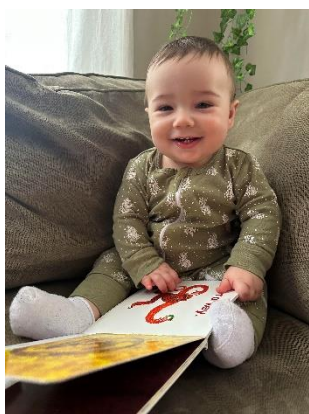
Quotes 2023 Montcalm County Imagination Library participants:



"It has been such a blessing to receive books through the Imagination Library. We look forward to it every month!!! It has helped us engage with our little one and even at only 8 months old, "reading" books with us is his favorite activity!! We can't wait to see his love of reading continue to grow and this program is helping foster that."

"Most of my daughter's favorite and most loved books are from Dolly's library! It's been such an amazing blessing to receive every month!"

"My family and I love this program. I cannot thank you all enough for the time, effort, and money that has been put into this program. My boys (almost 2 and 4) get so excited when we get the books in the mail each month."



"My first is in kindergarten and has become a very good reader, I believe he is because of all our reading before he started school! Our three-year-old can identify small words and knows and can identify all his letters!"

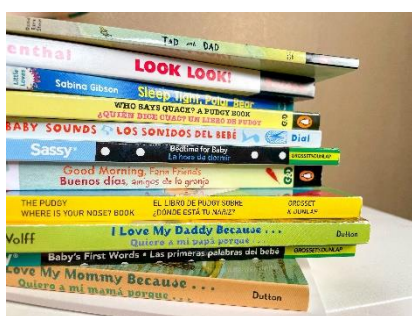
"My son loves getting his book in the mail and he's always excited to read it over and over again! We have "The Little Engine That Could" memorized at this point :) So grateful for this program."

"More than anything, my son is always excited to receive mail, that is actually addressed to him."



"I have a two and three-year-old whom I stay home with every day! We are very excited every time a new book comes in and have to read them right away! Their grandparents loved it so much that she is trying to get it up in their hometown in Central Lake, Michigan! The whole family and I think this is a lovely program to keep kids excited about books."

"My son loves getting these books in the mail! Whenever I come back from grabbing things out of the mailbox and there is a book in there, we open it up and read it right away. He loves helping me try to read them and his vocabulary has greatly improved since we've started receiving the books."



"As a parent, I have absolutely loved the variety of books we've received. Diversity is commonly represented in the books, and many times that have been books I've never heard about. Some of our favorite books have come from this program."

"This is an incredible program. Bringing the gift of reading helps in efforts to continuously improve literacy and is important for our national security and future generations."



DONATE NOW!

**HELP
SUPPORT**
DOLLY'S EFFORT
TO IMPROVE EARLY
CHILDHOOD LITERACY
ACROSS THE WORLD!



Make a tax-deductible donation to encourage the love of reading! Support the Montcalm County Dolly Parton Imagination Library Program!

Dolly Parton Imagination Library is available in Montcalm County, for children ages 0-4. Children will receive a free book in the mail each month until their 5th birthday. This program helps children start their own personal library, and encourages a love of reading. More than any other skill the ability to read helps a child to succeed in school, function in society and have more employment options in the future.

It costs \$27 annually to sponsor a child. There are approximately 3,602 children ages 0-4 in Montcalm County!

By investing, we believe we are building tomorrow's workforce, by building readers. If you are interested in sponsoring a child, making a donation or becoming a program champion please contact: Mindy Train

Donations can be made online at <https://gacfmi.org> or mailed to:

Mindy Train
618 W Main St, Suite C
Stanton, MI 48888
mtrain@maisd.com or 616-225-6150



Montcalm County Great Start Collaborative

Presents



What Is It?

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library will help you read with your child. Each month a new, carefully selected, book will be mailed in your child's name directly to your home. Best of all it is a FREE GIFT! There is no cost or obligation to your family.

Who Is Eligible?

Preschool children ages birth to five who are residents of the Montcalm Area Intermediate School District (MAISD).

What Are My Responsibilities?

1. Be a resident of the MAISD.
2. Submit a registration form, completely filled out by a parent or guardian.
3. Notify the Montcalm County Great Start Collaborative any time your address changes.
4. Read with your child.

When Will I Receive Books?

Eight to ten weeks after your registration form has been received, books will begin arriving at your home and will continue until your child turns four or you move out of the MAISD.



Dolly Parton's Imagination Library Official Registration Form

Privacy Statement: This information will not be used for any purpose other than related to the Imagination Library. PLEASE PRINT

Child Full Name _____

Child Date of Birth ____/____/____ Phone _____

Parent/Guardian Name _____

Child Mailing Address _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

School District Child Resides In _____

Email Address _____

" This child is a resident of Montcalm Area ISD" _____

SIGNATURE OF PARENT/GUARDIAN _____

Sign up your child today!

Enroll online: www.tinyurl.com/montcalmdpil
Or Simply fill out the above form and mail to:



DPIL/Great Start
618 W Main St, STE C
Stanton, MI 48888
(616)225-6150

