

Montcalm County Dolly Parton Imagination Library



Annual Report 2025

Our Mission:

The mission of the Montcalm County Dolly Parton Imagination Library is to develop the love of reading in all children in our community 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 Area ISD 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 12 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.

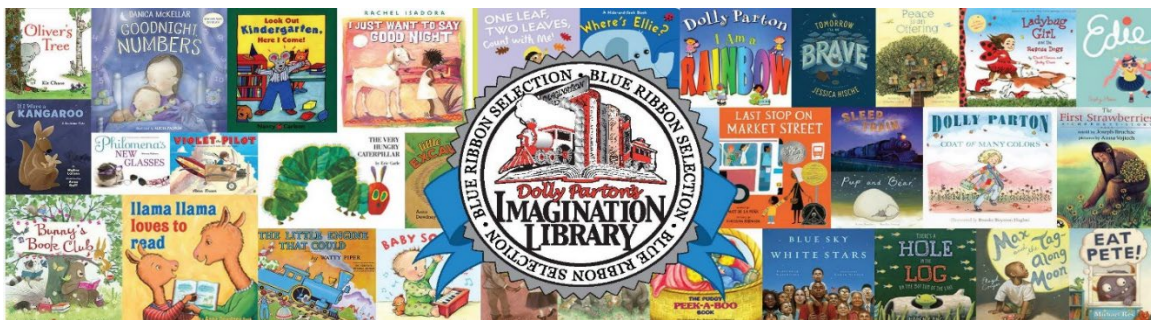


For more information about the Montcalm County Dolly Parton Imagination Library or Montcalm County Great Start Collaborative, visit our website at www.GreatStartMontcalm.org or Facebook: www.facebook.com/montcalmimaginationlibrary and www.facebook.com/greatstartmontcalmcounty



Table of Contents

Montcalm County Dolly Parton Imagination Library Sponsors	3
Overview	4
Registration Data/Information	5
Registration by City	6
Registration by District	6
Montcalm County Dolly Parton Imagination Library Expenses	7
Montcalm County Dolly Parton Imagination Library Income	8
Montcalm County Dolly Parton Imagination Library Endowment	9
Parent Survey Results	10
Words from Participating Parents	11
Contribution Form	12
Montcalm County Dolly Parton Imagination Library Poster	13



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
- Greenville Flooring & Mattress
- 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
- Lakeview Lion's Club
- 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 2025 Montcalm County Dolly Parton Imagination Library

Highlights:

- 21,600 free Imagination Library books were mailed to Montcalm County preschool children in 2025.
 - Welcome Book-603
 - Graduation Book- 353
 - Regular- 20,644
 - Number of children served- 2,341
- Since our inception in 2013, Montcalm County DPIL has mailed 168,935 books.
 - Welcome Book- 6,036
 - Graduation Book- 3,153
 - Regular- 160,038
 - Number of children served- 7,303
- 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 in 2026 has increased to \$36.00 per child, per year, or \$3.00 per month. This low cost of \$3.00 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 1,375 books per month, almost \$50,000 needs to be raised annually through grants, donations and fundraisers, to serve children presently registered.

For the 2024-2025 school year, state funds (32p6) were used to support DPIL in Montcalm County. This is the second and final year that we have been able to utilize this funding option legislated by the State of Michigan. However, the State Legislature eliminated Section 32p funding September 30, 2025. With the funding cut Montcalm County Great Start Collaborative had to eliminate programs and adjust the number of children being served through Montcalm County DPIL, to serve children birth to age three.

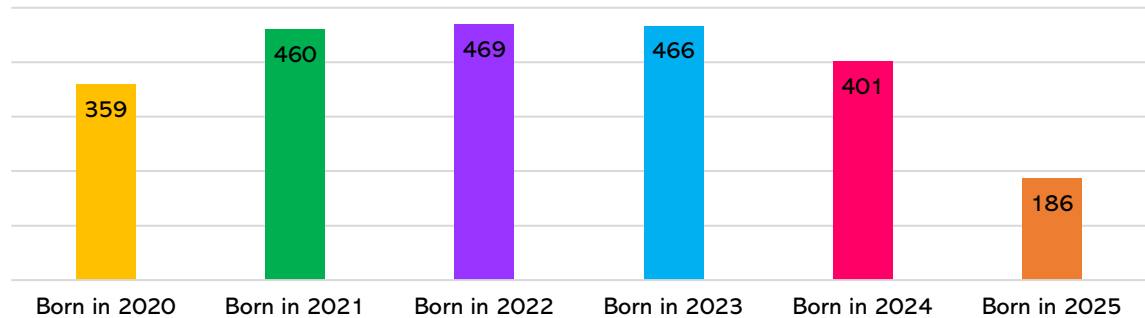
Each year, we face the challenge of obtaining the funding needed for this program to continue. We are continuing our partnership with Greenville Area Community Foundation to create a long-term sustainability plan to ensure this community gift could continue for future generations.



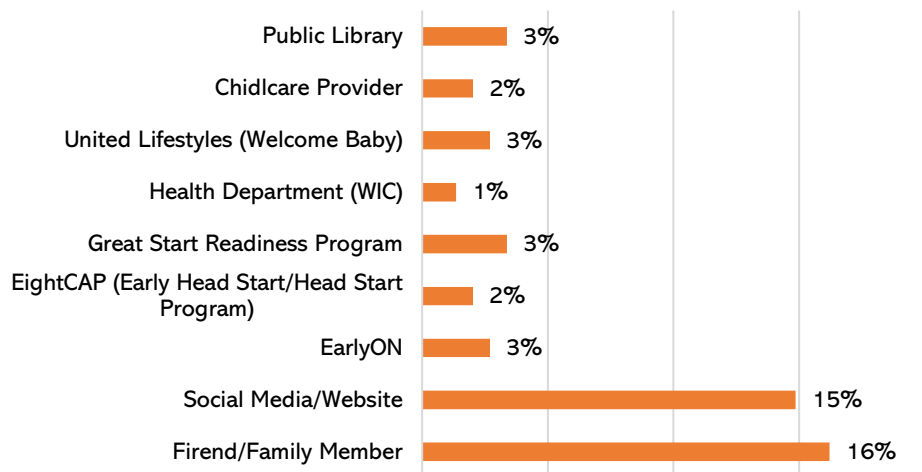
2025 Registration Data/Information

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.

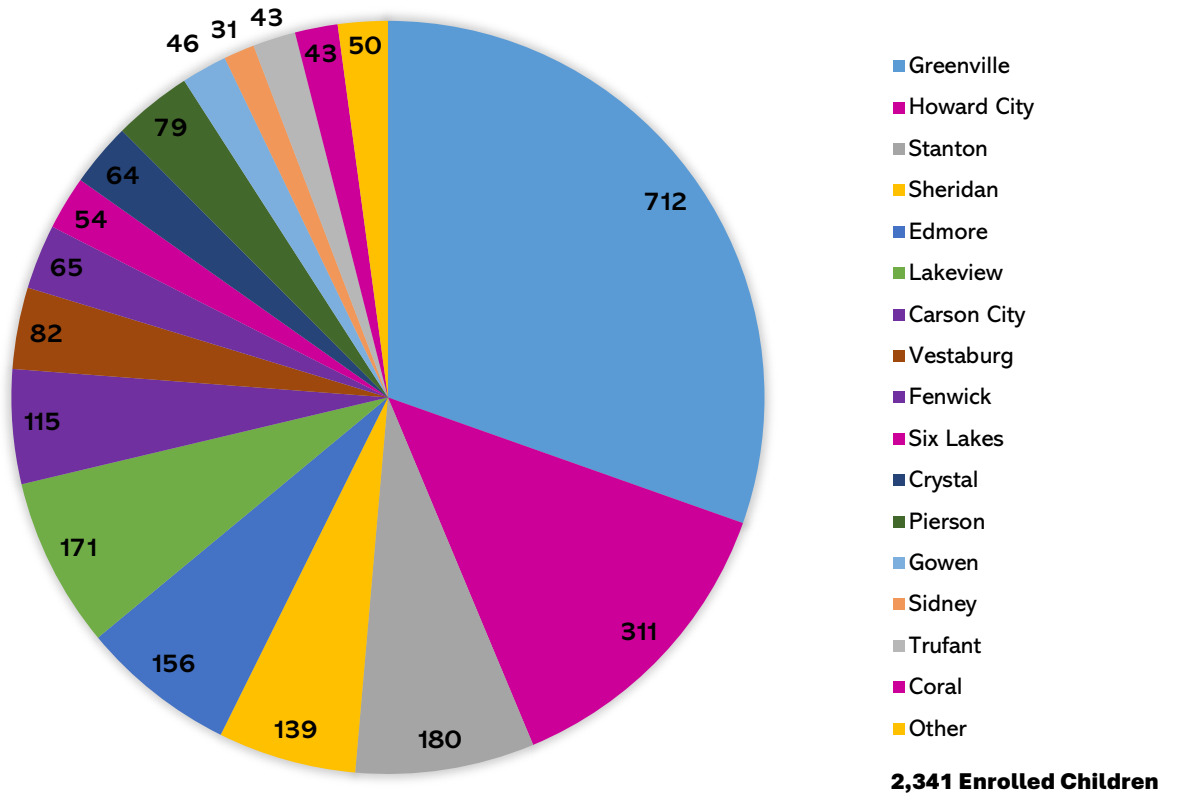
1. *Number of children registered by birth year for 2025: 2,341*



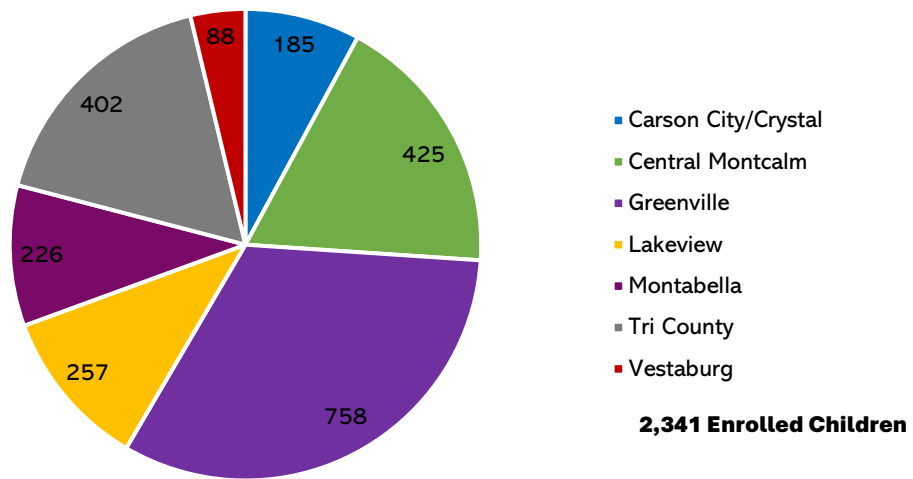
2. *Number of eligible children age birth-4 years of age based on 2024 Kids Count: 3,556.*
3. **We have 66% of the eligible children enrolled in Montcalm County Dolly Parton Imagination Library.**
 - o Number of Children enrolled is determined by the amount of funding we have to support Montcalm County 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 partners with Early Head Start, Early On, Alpha Family Services, 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 12/29/2025

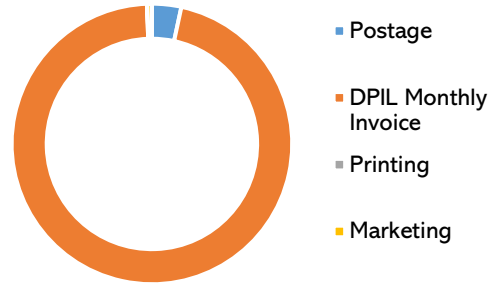


Number of Children Enrolled by School District
Data Pulled 12/29/2025



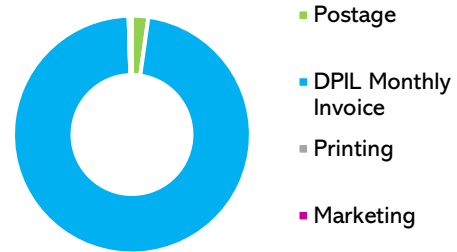
**2013-2025 Montcalm County Dolly Parton
Imagination Library Expenses to Date**

Postage for Returned Books	\$11,243	3%
DPIL Monthly Invoice	\$314,058	96%
Printing	\$119	0%
Marketing	\$1,639	1%
Total	\$326,885	100%



**2025 Montcalm County Dolly Parton
Imagination Library Expenses**

Postage for Returned Books	\$1,766	3%
DPIL Monthly Invoice	\$49,100	97%
Printing	\$0	0%
Marketing	\$0	0%
Total	\$46,266	100%



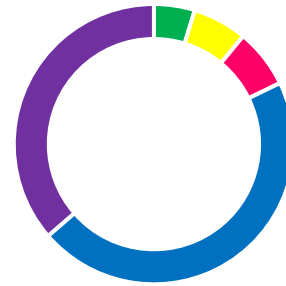
Explanatory Notes for 2025:

- ❖ 97% of all funds were used to purchase the 21,600 Imagination Library books that were mailed out in 2025. The local cost is \$2.30 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 were provided to Montcalm County families throughout 2025 via, Playgroup, Welcome Baby and various MCGSC family coalition activities.*
- ❖ **Marketing:** In previous years we have purchased brochures, bookmarks, and stickers to promote at community events, this year we pushed marketing on our Social Media pages and at community events.



2013-2025 MCDPIL Income to Date

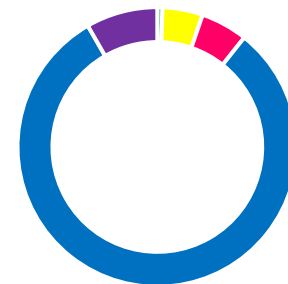
Individual Donors	\$17,845	5%
Business Donors	\$23,769	6%
Non-Profit Donors	\$25,841	7%
Grants	\$173,445	46%
Schools	\$137,687	36%
Total Income	\$378,587	100%



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

2025 MCDPIL Income

Individual Donors	\$246	1%
Business Donors	\$1,901	5%
Non-Profit Donors	\$2,215	5%
Grants	\$33,073	81%
Schools	\$3,382	8%
Total Income	\$40,817	100%



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

Explanatory Notes for 2025:

- ❖ **Individual Donors** - Revenue that comes from direct donations by individuals
- ❖ **Grants** - Income that came because of written grants.
- ❖ **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 \$50,000 to serve current children registered, if we are serving 2,340 children.**
- ❖ **32p6** – funding legislated by the State of Michigan to support cost of book distribution.



Montcalm County Dolly Parton Imagination Library Endowment Fund

Greenville Area Community Foundation

Statement Summary 01/2025-12/2025

Historic Gifts or Corpus	\$45,038
Available to Spend this Year	\$0.00
Beginning Fund Balance-	\$55,783.01
Contributions	\$1,275
Pledges	\$0
Interest and Dividend Income	\$1,520.38
Appreciation of Assets	\$10,125.47
Interfund Gifts	\$0
Total Revenue	\$12,920.85
Grants Authorized	\$0
Administrative Fees	(\$664.10)
Total Expenses	(\$664.10)
Ending Balance 12/31/25	\$68,039.76

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 GACF fund to financially support monthly billing for DPIL book services.

Montcalm County Dolly Parton Imagination Library



\$32
GIVES 1 KID
12 BOOKS
FOR 1 YEAR

\$128
GIVES 1 KID
48 BOOKS
FOR 4 YEARS



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

Parent Survey 2025 Results:

Table 1 below shows that 53% of parents reported that Montcalm County Dolly Parton Imagination Library increased their children’s interest in reading or looking at books by “a lot.” 57% of parents reported an increase in the amount of time parents have spent with their child.

Table 1: Change in Literacy Activity

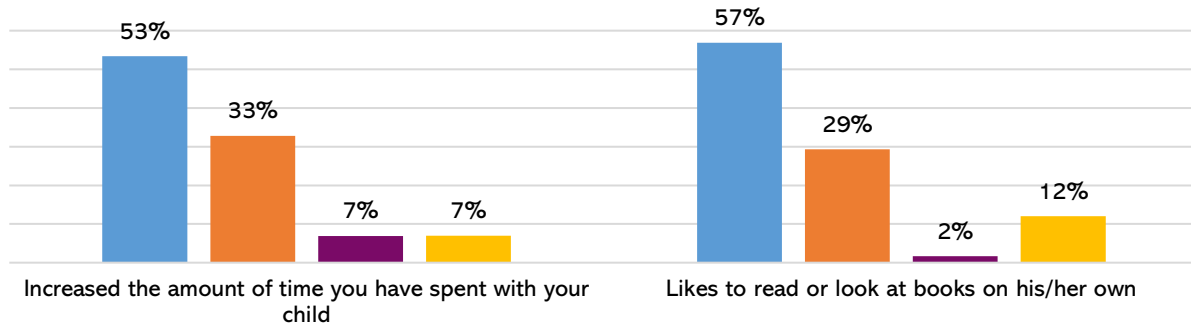
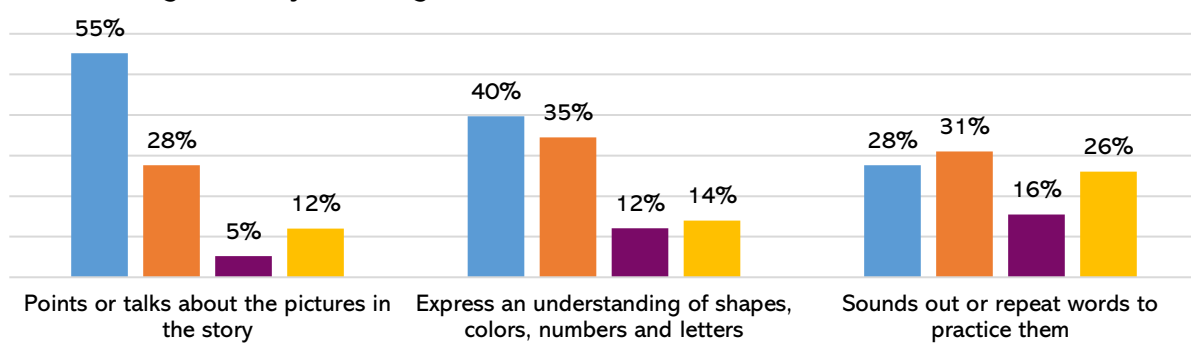


Table 2 shows that children receiving Montcalm County Dolly Parton Imagination Library books are supporting children to learn to read at an early age. According to parents, Montcalm County Dolly Parton Imagination Library participating children have greater general knowledge, have expanded their vocabulary, 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 encourage 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 2025 Montcalm County Imagination Library participants:



The books you send are the best of children's literature and artwork!! Thank you!

DPIL is an amazing program. I am so thankful for getting books. Without the program, my kids would not have the little library that they have

This is an amazing program! We look forward to a book in the mail. It has got us reading more and learning.

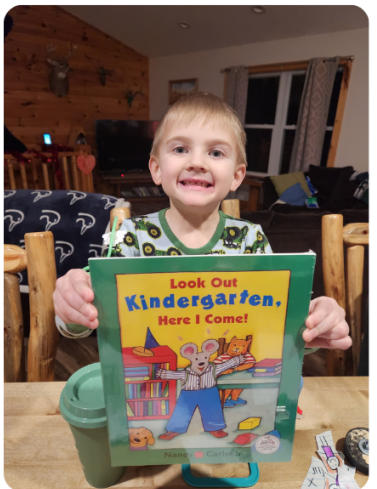
My daughter gets so excited when we give her the new book each month. We read it over and over for days. She's able to flip through them herself, talk gibberish, and point to everything in the pictures.

While my kiddo is not old enough to appreciate the books/ program yet, I, as the parent, thoroughly love it! It is so wonderful to get a new book to add to our collection so we can read it together. It's lovely to be surprised with a new book!



This is such a phenomenal program. Both of our girls LOVE having books in the house to read, and this program provides just that. It's provided new books that have sparked good conversations and teaching moments. We're so grateful!

This program has greatly increased how much we read to our toddler. We often aren't able to make it to the in-person library (both parents work full-time, and transportation is sometimes an issue), so one of the main ways we access books is through the Imagination Library.



My kids always look forward to checking the mail to see if their new book has arrived! When they do, they sprint back to the house and can't wait to unwrap the packaging before eagerly requesting to read it right away! Many of the books from DPIL have become their favorites and are often their first pick. They have greatly helped with his understanding of the alphabet and numbers, learning about animals and hygiene, building their confidence and curiosity, as well as teaching manners and friendship. He often references the books we read from DPIL in everyday situations. This program has been a tremendous blessing and has allowed us to create a shelf of wonderful books that my boys genuinely love to read! Thank you so much for the joy you bring to the children of our community and many others!



Montcalm County Dolly Parton Imagination Library Program

Donor Information (please print)

Name _____

Billing address _____

City, ST, Zip Code _____

Phone _____

Email _____

12
Books

The number of books **1 child** will receive in **1 year**
Total Annual Gift = \$36

120
Books

The number of books **10 children** will receive in **1 year**
Total Annual Gift = \$360

48
Books

The number of books **1 child** will receive in **4 years**
Total Annual Gift = \$144

240
Books

The number of books **20 children** will receive in **1 year**
Total Annual Gift = \$720

Contribution Information

I (we) contributed a total of \$36 \$144 \$360 \$720 other \$ _____

Sponsorship Opportunities

- Legacy Partner (\$1,440): Sponsors 10 children for their entire four-year journey.
- Community Champion (\$700): Provides nearly 233 books to local families.
- Book Label Sponsor (\$450+): Includes your organization's name on the mailing labels of books sent to local children for one month.

I (we) plan to make this contribution in the form of: Cash Check, check number _____

Please make checks payable to: MAISD-DPIL

Sponsor a Specific Child Memorial Contribution Sponsorship Opportunity

Sponsor child's name/In memory of: _____

Acknowledgement Information

Please use the following name(s) in acknowledgements: _____

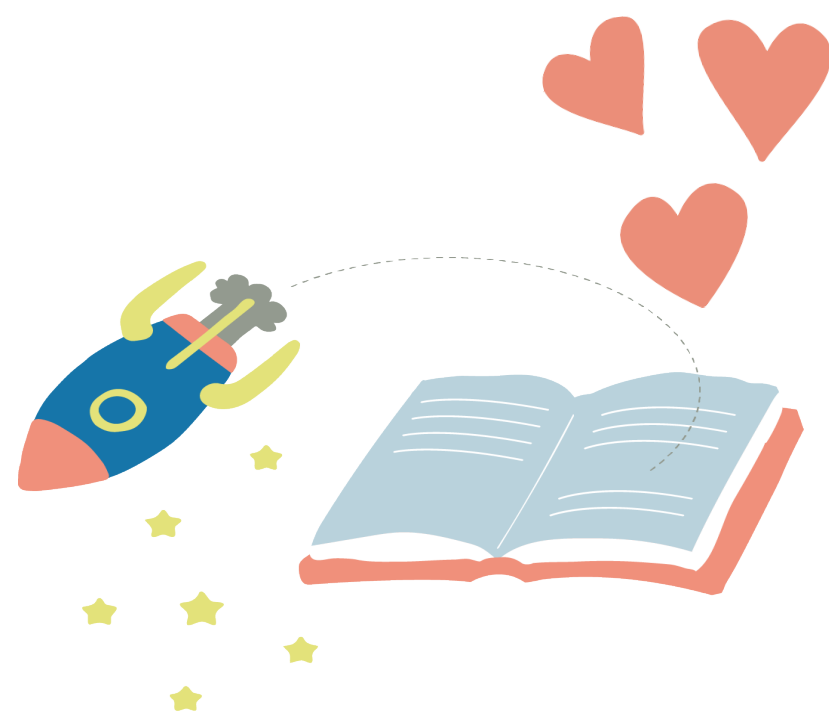
I (we) wish to have our gift remain anonymous.

Please mail form and contribution to: MCGSC-DPIL · 618 W Main St, Ste C · Stanton, MI 48888 or contribution can be made online at gacfmi.org/give-now or scan the QR code

For more information contact
Mindy Train at (616) 225-6150 or mtrain@maisd.com



FREE TO ALL CHILDREN AGES 0-5 IN MAISD



INSPIRING A LOVE OF READING



LET'S TALK ABOUT DOLLY PARTON'S IMAGINATION LIBRARY



MONTHLY FREE BOOK DELIVERIES



HIGH QUALITY, AGE-APPROPRIATE BOOKS

Aa Bb Cc



TALKING IS TEACHING.ORG



TALKING IS TEACHING.

TALK READ SING