

Seven years ago, the Heartland United Way initiated Dolly Parton's Imagination Library so that every enrolled child from 0-5 years old in Hall, Hamilton, Howard and Merrick Counties would have the opportunity to have a library of their own before entering kindergarten.

Every month, children enrolled in the Imagination Library Program receive a free book in the mail until their fifth birthday.



The first book every child receives is ***"The Little Engine That Could"*** and the last book every child receives is ***"Look Out Kindergarten, Here I Come!"***

With generous support from community donors, this program has remained free without a waitlist for an average of 3,200 enrolled children per year in our four- county area. The program costs the United Way \$30 per year for each child enrolled in the program.

With the generous Rotary Foundation Grant, the Imagination Library 53 children received a free book each month in the mail. The Heartland United Way served 4057 enrolled children in 2020 in the Imagination Library program.

The program is effective as reported by parents in surveys:

- 70.5% of parents reported reading to their child more often
- 26% of parents reported the printed reading suggestions were very useful
- 40.3% state they read 3-5 times per week
- 99.6% reported they would recommend program

Thank you for your support! Karen

