



Celebrating 30 Years of Imagination Library!

Since **1995**, Dolly Parton's Imagination Library delivers a free high-quality home library to children from birth to age five. West Virginia boasts statewide availability of the DPIL early literacy program and continues to grow!

In **2025**, we are focusing on expanding service throughout underserved communities, developing our foster care partnerships, and working with the USPS to redistribute returned and undelivered books to children in hospitals, pediatric clinics, and language learning centers.



📍 612,000 books were mailed to the children of West Virginia in 2024!

In partnership with the Dollywood Foundation, the **June Harless Center for Rural Education Research and Development at Marshall University** manages the statewide program and facilitates funding partnerships to sustain the purchase and delivery of books to its actively enrolled 51,000 children at a cost of \$31.00 per child per year.

As of 2025, postage costs have risen by \$5.00 per child per year, creating a \$250,000 funding gap as we approach fiscal year 2025-2026 together.



 **56% of eligible age children are enrolled statewide in [Dolly Parton's Imagination Library](#), receiving a monthly book delivered to their home, addressed to their name, and signed "Love, Dolly."**

Over the course of their five-year enrollment, each child's personal home library is comprised of 60 professionally selected books designed to inspire learning, develop interpersonal skills and self-awareness, promote school readiness, and nurture family engagement for a lifetime of success! The collection starts with *"The Little Engine That Could"* welcome book. *"Look Out Kindergarten, Here I Come!"* is the final graduation book mailed the month of the child's fifth birthday with a personalized, congratulatory, inspiring note from Dolly.

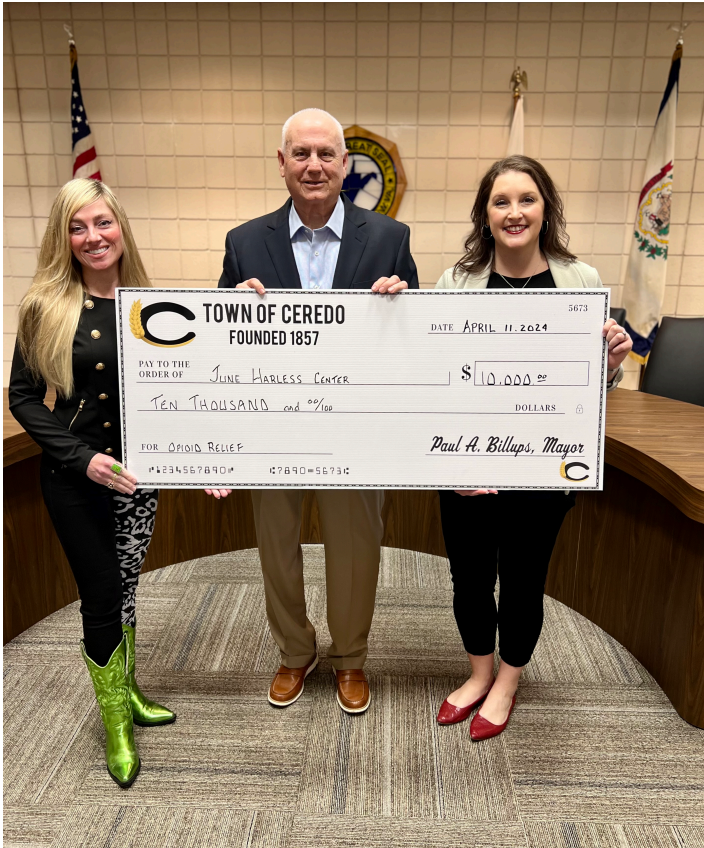


Mason receives his welcome book!
James and Jojo enjoy their favorite Imagination Library book together!

Measurable depth and positive impact

The goal of DPIL of West Virginia is to provide every child access to high-quality developmentally appropriate literary material, leveling the playing field for early education and long-term success. As a result of the program, schools receive a better prepared kindergartener. Studies have shown that by 3rd grade, DPIL graduates outperform their non-DPIL peers in academic testing. Statistics also reflect higher graduation rates which positively impacts economic and workforce development, and even substance use prevention.

 **Opioid prevention funds presented to DPIL of WV for the children of Wayne County**



State Director, Dolly Parton's Imagination Library of WV, Jamie Lima; Town of Ceredo Mayor, Paul Billups; and Executive Director, Marshall University's June Harless Center, Dr. Tarabeth Heineman.



Blue Ribbon Book Committee 2025 Literary Selections

Each year, Dolly Parton's Imagination Library Blue Ribbon Book Committee, a panel of early childhood literacy experts, specially selects which titles will be included in the year's collection. Check out the new list for 2025!



2025

BLUE RIBBON SELECTIONS

Titles on this list are subject to change.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
Core Program

The first book a child receives is **The Little Engine That Could™** (customized version)

The month a child turns 5 they will receive **Look Out Kindergarten, Here I Come!** (customized version)

GROUP 6
Children born in 2020

GROUP 5
Children born in 2021

GROUP 4
Children born in 2022

GROUP 3
Children born in 2023

GROUP 2
Children born in 2024

GROUP 1
Children born in 2025

+ Signifies a new book to the program
+ Signifies a bilingual English / Spanish title or Hispanic Content



Penguin
Random House
PENGUIN YOUNG READERS



Penguin
Random House

2025 Booklist USA | 20241122-01

Family Engagement Book Activity Sheets

Monthly [Book Activity Sheets](#) are available to supplement each of the Imagination Library book deliveries! Book activity sheets are curated by literacy specialists to maximize learning and promote family engagement.

 **7% Increase in County Partnerships, YTD!**

Sponsor Spotlight: State-Level Support

- We thank our West Virginia State Legislature for providing half of FY25 DPIL program funding. The remaining funding requires county partnerships, grant writing, corporate sponsorships, private donors, and fundraisers.
- Gratitude to Delta Kappa Gamma chapters for consistent support throughout the counties of WV!
- Thank you, Foundation of the Tri-State, for your annual allocation to the children of Southern West Virginia!
- To our friends, community and all our private donors, your support means so much.

County School Districts

Thank you to our valued County School District partners for their cost share of DPIL services for enrolled Pre-K families. We rely on these continued partnerships for the longevity of DPIL as a statewide program. Let's continue to work together to ensure DPIL remains a priority in our communities!

County Partners



- In **Brooke County**, all children are fully sponsored by Brooke County Public Library and Wellsburg Elks Lodge
- In **Hardy County**, this year's program is fully supported by the Town of Moorefield, Pilgrim's Pride of Moorefield, E.A. Hawse Health, Town of Wardensville, Hardy County Commission, and Summit Community Bank. Thank you for your commitment to the children of Hardy County!
- In **Roane County**, we are grateful to OVP Health Foundation and OVP Health of Spencer for sponsoring all enrolled children this year!
- In **Monongalia County**, we spotlight the United Way of Monongalia and Preston Counties for sharing the total countywide program costs with Marshall University's June Harless Center!
- In **Cabell County**, we thank the Rotary Club of Huntington, City of Huntington Councilmen, Duron Jackson and Todd Sweeney, and Marshall University Libraries for collectively providing 2,500 books to enrolled children!



Nancy and Jim Peterson

We are inspired to share a special sponsorship by Milton Rotarian, Jim Peterson, supporting DPIL enrollment for the August-born children of Ronald McDonald House in memory of his late wife, Nancy, who loved to read to their son during his seven-year successful journey at RMH.

- In **Putnam County**, the Rotary Club sponsored a child's full five-year enrollment.
- In **Randolph County**, we are so grateful to the Mike Ross Family Foundation for sponsoring 65 children's full five-year program enrollments!
- In **Raleigh County**, full program funding is made possible by the City of Beckley and the Beckley Area Foundation.
- In **Wood County**, we thank Daughters of the American Revolution for providing 10 children with full five-year program enrollments in DPIL!

Event Sponsors

Our annual **Dolly Dash 5K Race** for Reading and **Rockin' for Reading** Holiday Benefit Concert "fundraisers" provided **9,250 books** to children this year!



THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!



Autism Services Center

MIKE & TAMMY FARRELL



RICHELLE EDDY WALTERS, REALTOR
REALTY EXCHANGE

MOUNTWEST COMMUNITY COLLEGE AND TECHNICAL CENTER

DR. KATHY D'ANTONI

We have 700 children awaiting sponsorship this fiscal year – that’s \$20,000 to go!
Click Here To Sponsor A Child *Be sure to enter “Imagination Library” in the Fund Designation selection menu!



“You can never get enough books into the hands of enough children.” –
Dolly Parton

With purpose and gratitude,

Jamie Lima

State Director, West Virginia

Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library  

Marshall University June Harless Center

(304) 696.3180

 DollyBooksWV.com

 imaginationlibrary.com



This e-mail and any attachments may contain confidential and privileged information. If you are not the intended recipient, please notify the sender immediately by return e-mail, delete this e-mail and destroy any copies. Any dissemination or use of this information by a person other than the intended recipient is unauthorized and may be illegal.