

# 2021 IMPACT REPORT

*Inspire a love of reading*



Greene County Public Library  
**FOUNDATION**



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# *What an Amazing Community*

This year is the first time we're presenting this impact report to you. Dolly Parton's Imagination Library has made an impact on Greene County's children and their families from the very beginning but when we were wrapping up 2021, we saw the numbers, listened to some incredible stories from families, and realized we needed to share all of it with you.

The success of Dolly Parton's Imagination Library is possible because of many of you – folks across Greene County who tell others about the Imagination Library, who sign up their children to receive books, individual donors and sponsors who are committed to their family, friends, and neighbors – our community – to make sure our children have every opportunity to be successful and live their best life.

You'll see the impact the program has had since we launched it in 2013, how that impact has grown and spread throughout the state and, this past year, how the Imagination Library continues to change lives for the better.

And then there's *Rolling Stone Magazine*... (read on, dear patron)

Please take a few minutes to read about the impact we've had on our community's children. We'd like you to pause, take a deep breath, and realize what an amazing community we have because of you; that when it matters, we stand together and do what's right and good.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, we thank you for your continued interest and commitment to all our children in Greene County.

**Brian Lusardi**

Board Chair

**Karl Colón**

Executive Director, Greene County Public Library



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## YOUNG READER HIGHLIGHT



### She's well on her way

**"Dolly Parton's Imagination Library has inculcated a sense of imagination, wonder, and bonding in our child from her first month of birth. She will be 5 soon and will have her own library of 60 books. She is hooked to reading."**

– Daivee Patel

# *Big Vision, Big Heart, and Rolling Stone*

Early in 2013, Karl Colón and Kay Webster, the Library's former Youth Services Coordinator, worked with the Foundation Board and cooked up a plan to bring Dolly Parton's Imagination Library to Greene County. We mixed Kay's *Passion and Commitment* to pre-literacy with Karl's *Vision and Determination* to engage our community.

The program required \$100,000 to launch. By late summer, we had raised \$40,000. Karl realized we were missing a key ingredient in the recipe for success. In September, Karl met Terry Burns at the Beavercreek Popcorn Festival. Terry had recently moved to Greene County as the new president of Kettering Health's Soin Medical Center.

As Karl tells it, Terry recognized him. "You're the Dolly guy from Rotary, right?" he asked. Terry had been to a Rotary Club meeting where Karl presented our plan for the program. His next question was, "Why haven't you launched the program?" Terry's urgency was borne out of his experience at his previous job. He had already seen the Imagination Library lift a community.



## **"Literacy outcomes ARE health outcomes."**

– Terry Burns, President,  
Kettering Medical Center  
System at Kettering Health  
Network

Karl told him we were \$40,000 into raising the \$100,000 we needed. Terry didn't hesitate. "Send me a bill and get going," he said. A month later we were able to launch a program that has expanded throughout Ohio.

Afterward, Karl asked Terry why he was willing to contribute such a meaningful gift. Terry replied, "Literacy outcomes ARE health outcomes." They go together. Children who develop a love of reading early, grow up to be adults who are better informed and active with their health.

With Terry adding the final ingredients of *Heart and Urgency* to our recipe, we launched the program. And thanks to many of you, we've been cooking and serving up books and opportunities for Greene County families ever since!





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## Books for kids, thanks to Dolly, Greene County Public Library

By Megan Bachman

Published: December 12, 2013

Greene County Library Director Karl Colón and Youth Services Coordinator Kay Webster helped to launch the Dolly Parton Imagination Library locally last month. All children under five can sign up to receive a free book mailed to their home each month as part of the program. Some of the books being sent are in the foreground.

(Photo by Megan Bachman)



# RollingStone

HOME > MUSIC > COUNTRY MUSIC

MARCH 8, 2021 2:14PM ET

## Turning Pages: Inside Dolly Parton's Imagination Library

In March of 2021, Rolling Stone magazine wrote a feature article on Dolly Parton's Imagination Library. Of more than 6,000 US-based partners, Jeff Conyers, Dollywood Foundation president, chose us to represent the voice of their affiliates.

## PROGRAM IMPACT

# *Thousands of Our Children Fueled by Their Imaginations*

The Imagination Library started having a direct impact from its launch in November 2013. Four years later we had more than 5,000 Greene County children enrolled in the program. Annual new enrollments have remained above 5,000 every year since then.



ENROLLED  
**5,205**

## I Think I Can, I Think I Can, I Think I Can!

Approximately 1,000 children graduate from Dolly Parton's Imagination Library every year – all told, our collective efforts have impacted more than 14,000 local children!

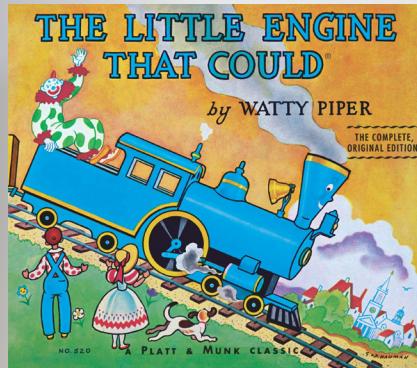
*All data as of April 2022*

GRADUATED  
**9,030**

TOTAL  
**14,235**



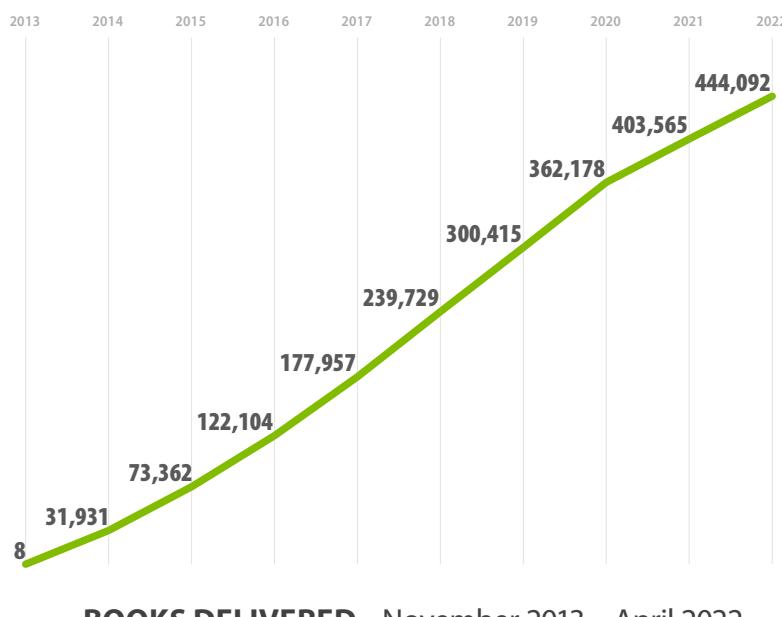
The first book that a child receives when they graduate from the Imagination Library is The Little Engine That Could, by Watty Piper. It's a perfect story to let our children know they're ready for Kindergarten!





## From Mailbox to Bookshelf

Parents tell us so many inspiring and heartwarming stories about the ways that their children's 'Dolly books' make a difference. And though it may seem a small detail, one of the comments we hear often is how excited their child is when the mail comes. They get mail, in their name, from Dolly Parton!



## YOUNG READER HIGHLIGHT



### Three's a Charm

"We have a 2-year-old and 5-month-old twins who have all received books from their first month! In this house we can't find enough good things to say about Dolly Parton's Imagination Library and all the benefits it gives to growing babies and their families"

– Caitlyn Frazier

## PROGRAM IMPACT

# *Strengthening Families for Generations to Come*

This story goes much further than 5,000 of our children receiving books every month. Children whose family reads with them have a real advantage by the time they start kindergarten.

## The Impact is Simple, Real, and Powerful

The Imagination Library now runs in all 88 of Ohio's counties with a statewide enrollment of 39.8% of all age-eligible children.\*

Through your amazing support and vision, here in Greene County 57% of all age-eligible children have signed up and we are currently the fourth highest enrolled county in the state.

**Enrollment percentage  
among all  
88 counties in Ohio**

**39.8%**

The difference means that – without your direct support in contributing to our children's success – over 1,500 Greene County children would be missing out on the amazing growth and development opportunities that the Imagination Library provides! Your partnership can be directly related to their reaching kindergarten ready to succeed – with solid social foundations and core literacy skills they'll use as they grow!

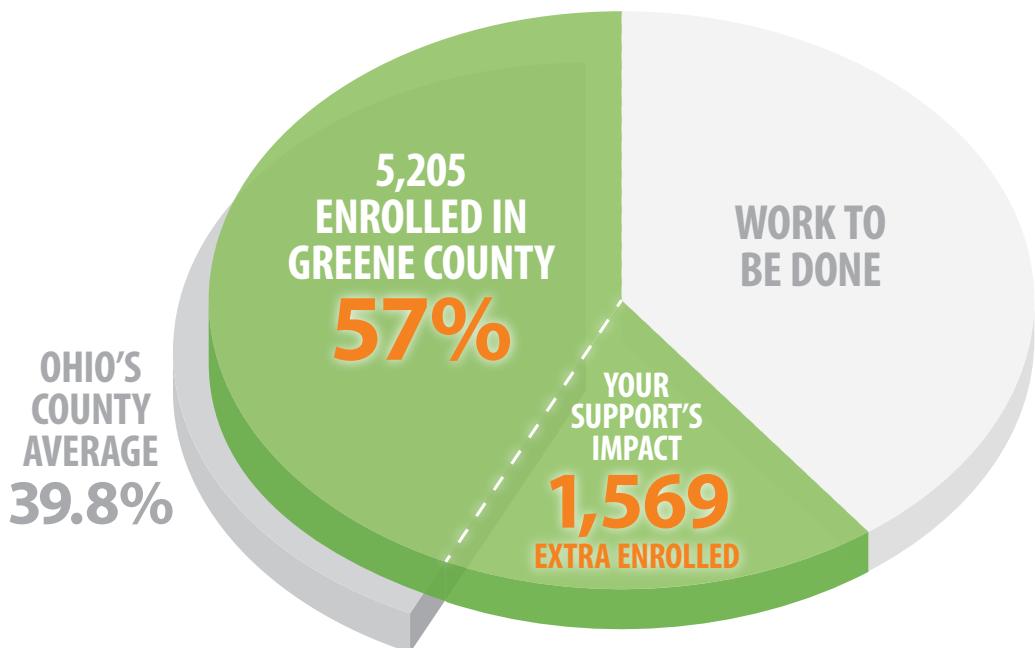
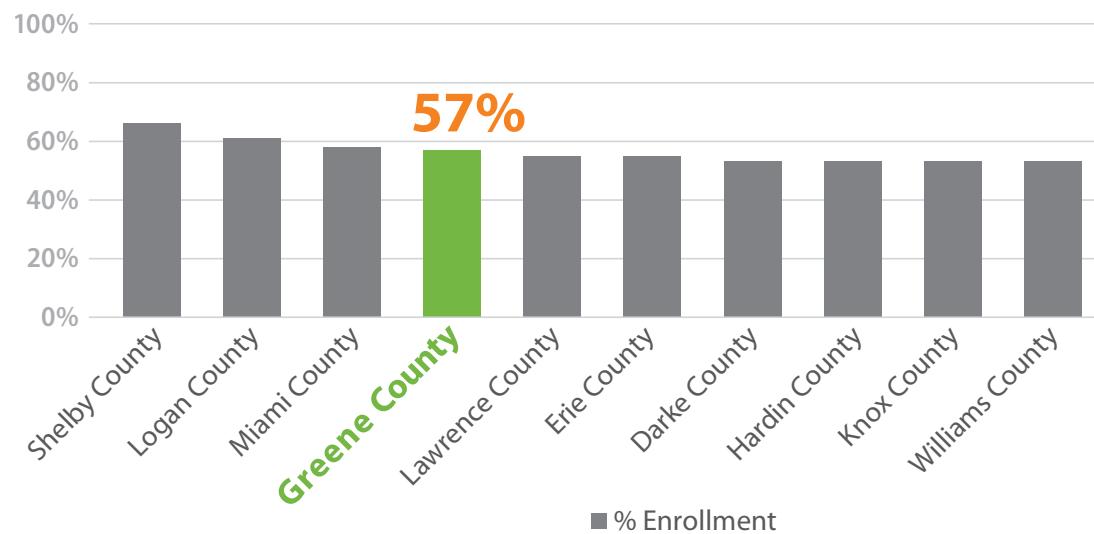
\*Source: Ohio enrollment data provided by The Dollywood Foundation, 2022





## Greene County: Top 5 Highest Enrollment Percentage in Ohio

% Enrollment Top 10 Ohio Counties



Your above-and-beyond support means we're sending more Greene County children into kindergarten with a big learning advantage!

## PROGRAM IMPACT

# *Strengthening Families for Generations to Come*

### Wow Factor

Families who participate in the program experience a deeper connection with their children as they grow.

Over the course of a three-year study\* of families enrolled in the Imagination Library parents reported big changes in their children's behavior – and demonstrates how the Imagination Library is much more than a pre-literacy program. It helps build meaningful, lasting relationships.



\*Source: Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center (2015-17)

PARENT SURVEY ITEM	INCREASED
Child brings books to parent to read	<b>81.7%</b>
Interest and enthusiasm	<b>87.9%</b>
Length of time reading	<b>79.6%</b>
Parent reads with child	<b>87.6%</b>



## Kids Who Read, Succeed!

Want to learn more about DPIL impact? Visit our website at  
**[greenelibraryfoundation.org](http://greenelibraryfoundation.org)**

# Foresight and Extraordinary Commitment

We would not be here without the ongoing commitment from United Way of the Greater Dayton Area and Kettering Health. Both organizations have the distinction of funding the Imagination Library in Greene County from the beginning.

United Way has been our largest donor every year. Kettering Health, in addition to their financial contributions, have been true visionaries, establishing a policy at Soin Medical Center to enroll every baby born there in Dolly Parton's Imagination Library.



United Way of the  
Greater Dayton Area



## YOUNG READER HIGHLIGHT

### It's a Win-Win.

"My youngest loves getting new books each month. Dolly Parton's Imagination Library adds diversity to our collection and makes my baby feel special so it's an overall win in our household!"

– Yvonne Pida



# Raise a Glass TO READING

## We Raised a Fine Glass for a Fine Program

In October, we held the seventh annual Raise a Glass to Reading fundraiser at Caesar Creek Vineyards. More than 200 people joined us for delicious food catered by Sweets Boutique and a glass of locally grown and produced wine from CCV. It was a beautiful evening with even better guests!



We count on our event sponsors to make the event a success and this year was no different. We owe special thanks to this year's sponsors: Anderson-Williamson Insurance who provided the food, Rotary Club of Xenia, and our media sponsor, WYSO 91.3FM.



*Sweets Boutique*



### See You Next Year!

GCPL Executive Director Karl Colón with Caesar Creek Vineyards Master Vintner Chad Edwards





**The Greene County Public Library Foundation**

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10.22



Greene County Public Library  
**FOUNDATION**