

Montgomery County Imagination Library annual report





Photos taken before COVID-19

We are thrilled to celebrate the two-year anniversary of the launch of the Montgomery County Imagination Library. This initiative, first started by Montgomery County and Dayton Children’s Hospital in partnership with the Ohio Governor’s Imagination Library, provides free books to local children five years old and younger, through a partnership with Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library. We are happy to announce that nearly 17,000 children have signed up for the Imagination Library program. This number represents nearly 42% of children ages 0 to 5 in Montgomery County!

The program would not be possible without community partners and funders who value literacy as a foundation for academic and life-long success. This year, through the support of the Greater Dayton Area Hospital Association, we were able to expand our services, as birthing hospitals invite new parents to sign babies up for the program at birth. We are also thankful to our partner organizations including the Gem City Market, Preschool Promise, The Hope Center for Families, and many others agencies that help us get the word out about this incredible program.

We also want to thank the Dolly Parton Imagination Library and the Ohio Governor’s Imagination, Library, with a special thank you to Ohio First Lady Fran DeWine for her ongoing leadership and commitment to this program.

Finally, Imagination Library would not be a success without parents and caregivers who have not only signed up for the program but who are regularly reading these incredible books to children. Together we are working to improve outcomes for children!

Sincerely,

Debbie Feldman

Deborah A. Feldman
President and CEO
 Dayton Children’s Hospital

Carolyn Rice

Carolyn Rice
Commissioner
 Montgomery County

our success in numbers!



13,912 children
 are receiving
 books each month



228,166 books
 have been mailed
 to kids to date



3,751 kids
 have graduated
 from the program



90 percent
 of a child’s brain
 development occurs
 in the first five years
 of their life.

Storybook Trail

As part of the Storybook Trail network, Montgomery County Imagination Library partnered with Sycamore State Park to be the home of a trail featuring Daniel Finds a Poem by Micha Archer. The Ohio Department of Natural Resources has several Storybook Trails throughout the state. Learn more here: <https://ohiodnr.gov/wps/portal/gov/odnr/>.



Montgomery County Imagination Library expands to birthing hospitals

A major initiative in 2021 was to partner with the birthing hospitals in Montgomery County to sign-up babies at birth for the Imagination Library. Our thanks to Kettering Health and Premier Health for their work in signing up patients at their birthing units.

“Kettering Health’s mission is to improve the quality of life of the people in the communities we serve through health care and education. Imagination Library not only supports the future of our community promoting literacy and a love for reading, but also promotes family interaction and bonding”

– Michelle Beebe, MPH, BSN, CCE, Manager,
Childbirth Education and Perinatal Outreach, Kettering Health

check out this great Facebook message we received!



Zellie 7, Brosie 9 and Mike 2 reading “Eat Pete” by Michael Rex, with their Dad, Gilbert Chonje



Fran DeWine visiting
Soin Medical Center



This program would not be possible without the foundational support from the Dollywood Foundation and the Ohio Governor's Imagination Library.

Montgomery County Imagination Library steering committee

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|------------------|---|
| Amanda Musser | Premier Health |
| Amy Anyanwu | Montgomery County Educational Services Center |
| Andrea White | Ohio House of Representatives |
| Ashtyn Liddy | Dayton Children's Hospital |
| Carolyn Rice | Montgomery County Commission |
| Elizabeth Lolli | Dayton Public Schools |
| Geraldine Pegues | Montgomery County |
| Hope Cypryla | Miami Valley Child Development Centers |
| Hope Vuto | Preschool Promise |
| Jeff Levine | Community Volunteer |

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|-------------------|---|
| Jessica Saunders | Dayton Children's |
| Karlos Marshall | Dayton Metro Library |
| Kelly Geers | Montgomery County |
| Lee Ann Bradfield | Montgomery County |
| Lindsay Maxam | Junior League of Dayton/The Tait Foundation |
| Michelle Beebe | Kettering Health |
| Tess Little | Altrusa Club of Dayton |
| Tracy Sibbing | United Way of Greater Dayton |
| Willis Blackshear | Ohio House of Representatives |

a special thank you to our local funders!



Please note that some photos were taken before COVID-19