

Montgomery County Imagination Library annual report 2023



We are excited to celebrate the fourth anniversary of the Montgomery County Imagination Library. This initiative, initially started by Montgomery County and Dayton Children's Hospital in partnership with Dolly Parton's Imagination Library of Ohio, provides free books to local children five years old and younger. We are thrilled that more than 20,000 children are actively enrolled in the Imagination Library program. This number represents 64% of children ages zero to five 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, we were excited to have children in our community who graduated from the program, celebrated and honored at a wonderful community event.

We are thrilled to partner with organizations, including the Gem City Market, Preschool Promise, the Hope Center for Families, the Greater Dayton Area Hospital Association and many others, to spread the word about this incredible program.

We want to thank the Dolly Parton Imagination Library, Dolly Parton's Imagination Library of Ohio, our funders and partners for making this program available to children in Montgomery County. A special thank you also goes to First Lady Fran DeWine for her ongoing commitment to this program.

The program's success is also thanks to the dedication of parents and caregivers who not only signed up for the program but who read these wonderful books regularly to their children. Together, we are making a significant impact on improving outcomes for children.

Sincerely,

Deborah A. Feldman

President and CEO
Dayton Children's Hospital

Carolyn Rice

Commissioner
Montgomery County



"Both of my children have been signed up with Imagination Library since birth. We make it a part of our nightly routine; they grab a book, and we end our night reading one of their favorites. There is joy and excitement of getting a brand-new book every month, and I love that the books are tailored by age."

- Mekayla

20,091 children
receive books
each month



638,499 books
mailed to kids
to date



11,342 kids have
graduated from
the program



Home Run to Graduation Day!

Imagination Library Day at the Dayton Dragons' stadium was a huge success. The Dayton Dragons expressed their support for literacy and our Montgomery County Imagination Library program by celebrating local children who graduated from the initiative. As of December 2023, an astonishing 11,342 children graduated from the program, marking a significant milestone in our program. We are excited to continue promoting our love for reading and connecting the children and families in our community to books.



Children who recently turned five years old that graduated from the program were recognized and celebrated during the game

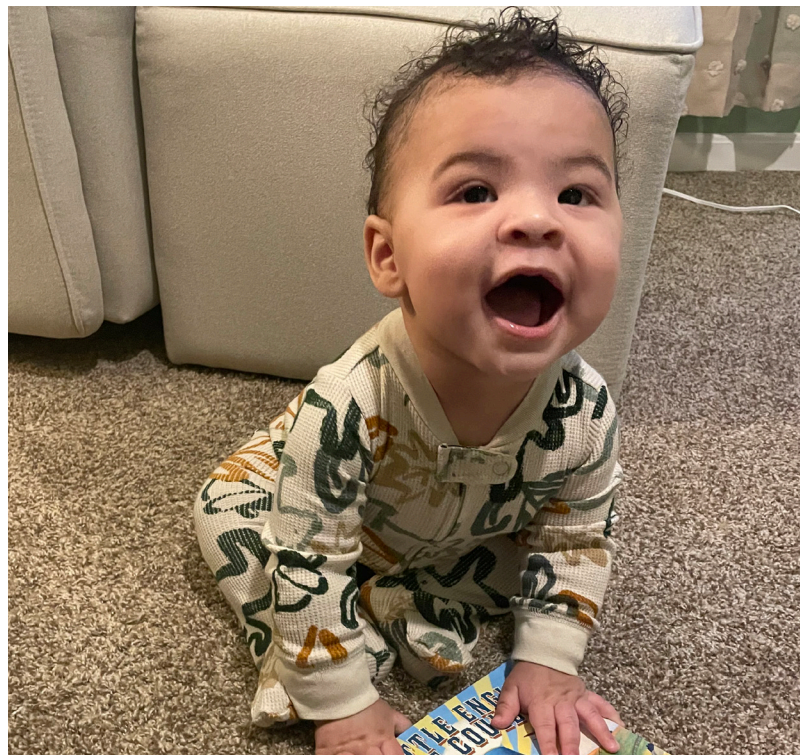


Partnership - Altrusa Club of Dayton!

We're thrilled to celebrate our partnership with the dedicated volunteers of the Altrusa Club of Dayton, who engage in a variety of service projects with a strong emphasis on literacy. The Montgomery County Imagination Library program showcases our collective efforts in distributing books to various locations throughout Montgomery County. This partnership ensures that the joy of reading reaches those in need. Over the past year, Altrusa has played a crucial role in distributing over 3,800 books to organizations dedicated to supporting our families, making a huge contribution to our mission of promoting literacy within our community.

Kylo ready to take on reading as a newborn

Kylo has already been receiving his books after enrolling after birth. Kylo's parents, Alicia and Gary, are extremely grateful for the program. Kylo's mother states, "Building my son's book collection was a priority before he was even born. I loved reading books with my parents when I was little and want him to have those fond memories. It was so exciting when his first book arrived and even brought a little tear to my eye... it was the first mail addressed to him! This is such a great program and I'm glad my son was enrolled."



First Lady Fran DeWine champions literacy

Ohio First Lady Fran DeWine and Wright-Patterson Air Force Base (WPAFB) leadership announced a groundbreaking partnership between Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library of Ohio and WPAFB. WPAFB, the largest single-site employer in Ohio, is committed to promoting early childhood literacy by encouraging the enrollment of 35,000 military, civilian, and contractor families associated with the base in the Imagination Library program. This collaboration, one of the first with military installation in the country, aims to provide free books to military-connected families and serve as a model for other bases nationwide. WPAFB is located in Greene and Montgomery counties.



This program would not be possible without the foundational support from the Dollywood Foundation and Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library of Ohio.

Montgomery County Imagination Library steering committee

Amber Cristofaro	Dayton Metro Library
Amy Anyanwu	Montgomery County Educational Service Center
Andrea White	Ohio House of Representatives
Ashtyn Liddy	Dayton Children’s Hospital
Carolyn Rice	Montgomery County Commission
Hope Cypryla	Miami Valley Child Development Centers
Jeff Levine	Community Volunteer
Jessica Jenkins	Montgomery County Human Services Planning & Development
Jessica Salem	Dayton Children’s Hospital
Kelly Geers	Montgomery County Educational Services Center

Laura Engel	United Way of Greater Dayton
Lauren Williams	Junior League of Dayton
Lee Ann Bradfield	Montgomery County Office of Strategic Initiatives
Lindsay Maxam	The Tait Foundation
Maleka James	Dayton Children’s Hospital
Michelle Beebe	Kettering Health
Shelly Davies	Preschool Promise
Stacy Schweikhart	Learn to Earn
Terri Gulker	Premier Health
Tess Little	Altrusa Club of Dayton
Willis Blackshear Jr.	Ohio House of Representatives

a special thank you to our local funders!

