

READING IS MAGICAL!

The impact of a child's participation in the Imagination Library is lifelong. Children who have access to quality age-appropriate literature and are read to on a regular basis have a substantial advantage over peers who have not had the same opportunity.

- Laura Detweiler
Preschool Step Up to Quality Manager
and former Early Literacy Coordinator
Marion City Schools

I'm grateful for the opportunities the Imagination Library has provided to our families to foster early childhood literacy – what a promising step in building a stronger community! Looking forward to continuing to see the fruits of this program.

- Jackie Quach
Marion Community pediatrician

We couldn't be more appreciative of this program and the encouragement it provides to our parents to read more often to their children. When parents read to their children, they are not only providing much-needed connections but also teaching them early literacy skills, assisting the child in developing early reading skills, language development, imagination skills, and a love for reading.

- Shelly Mabrey
Ohio Heartland CAC Head Start
Family Engagement Director

Marion Public Health is grateful to have had the opportunity to help children access the Dolly Parton Imagination Library books and begin to build their libraries. We hear stories often about how much our WIC children love their books. This is a great way for us, as a community, to help our children get excited about books and learning early.

Jessica Woods
Marion Public Health WIC Director

Books play a vital role in infant development, fostering cognitive, emotional, and social growth in profound ways.

- Jennifer Valentine, LSW
MAPP Executive Director

I think the Dolly Parton Imagination Library is a great program. When that first book comes in the mail it is ohhh so exciting. It starts that family bonding with these new families. To be able to pick up a book at any given time and create this special time. As children get older it instills this lifelong love for reading and learning. You can just see the impact of these books as the child asks over and over to read the same book. We are so lucky to have the opportunity to start this journey with these families whether it is their first baby or their last.

- Shannon Pressley, HUC
OhioHealth Marion General Hospital

After Graduation...

Starting in the fall of 2023, Marion Public Library celebrated the graduates of the Dolly Parton Imagination Library program by inviting them to stop by the Library to pick up their graduation certificate along with a couple of gifts in a Swoop bag. This offers a great opportunity to make sure the reading habit and access to an unlimited supply of books continues. During this visit, a Library staff member checks to see that the graduate also has a Library card.



MarionLibrary.org/ImaginationLibrary

Celebrating 5 YEARS in Marion County!

MarionLibrary.org/Celebrate5

Marion Public Library serves as the local program partner for Dolly Parton's Imagination Library of Ohio for Marion County. Since 2020, our team has worked diligently to increase program awareness, build enrollment, and plan for a sustainable future. Library staff facilitate database entry functions, write grants for local funding, create and implement marketing campaigns, and participate in local events.

Since the arrival of Imagination Library in our community:

4,473 Children have been impacted by the Marion County Imagination Library.



2,457 Children are currently enrolled and receiving a book each month, delivered right to their home.



103,540 Books were provided to Marion County children, empowering families to read together.



2,016 Children celebrated their fifth birthday and graduated from Marion's Imagination Library.



Marion County funds 50% and The State of Ohio matches the other 50% needed to pay for the books and delivery.



More than \$163,803 in donations and grants were secured to keep the program FREE for families.



The impact of Dolly Parton's Imagination Library

Early literacy plays an important role in the future success of a child. Through Marion County Imagination Library, families are spending more time together, which creates an emotionally supportive environment and fosters skills that lead to a child's success throughout school and in life.

Shared reading:

- Reading prepares children for kindergarten
- Reading strengthens vocabulary and language skills
- Reading cultivates a love of lifelong learning
- Reading models appropriate behaviors
- Reading teaches stress management
- Reading fosters empathy and compassion
- Reading develops communication skills

MarionLibrary.org/ImaginationLibrary

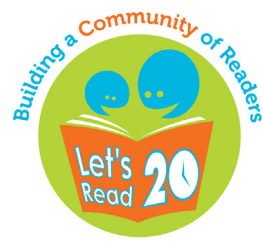
Thank You, Marion County!

Marion County Imagination Library would like to thank the community for helping us take on this literacy challenge. When we started in early 2020, we had to cancel our kickoff event and the great things we wanted to celebrate in our partnership with the Dolly Parton Imagination Library of Ohio. Therefore we are thrilled to be able to celebrate the five year anniversary this year!

Our registration numbers grew from 354 books delivered the first month to 1,115 books in January of 2021. Each year we saw steady increases in numbers. The challenge was cultivating the funds to pay for the books. Dolly Parton Imagination Library of Ohio pays for 50% of the costs of delivering books, Marion Public Library has to come up with the other 50%. Our Marion community comes through again. We have seen generosity from many different service organizations, church groups, grant requests, and generous individuals who gave to our fund at Marion Community Foundation on a regular basis.

As for your help in getting registrations -- after months and months of registration numbers hovering at 69%, in January of 2025 our registrations reach 2,457. Today, 70% of all children eligible to receive books (3,535) are registered in the program!!

- Gary Branson, Director Marion Public Library



Ongoing supporters:

Marion County Imagination Library would like to thank the community and especially these financial supporters:

- Dr. Dalsukh A. and Dr. Ila Madia
- Anonymous
- Marion Rotary Club members
- 100 Women Who Care members
- Dayspring Wesleyan Church
- Ray & Charlotte Baldauf Charitable Fund
- United Way of North Central Ohio, Inc.
- Mid Ohio Energy Cooperative Community Fund
- Marion Junior Service Guild
- Molly & Larry Geissler
- POET Never Satisfied Grant
- American Legion Club #162
- Stephen J. Chaney Post 7201
- Roger and Janice Vanover
- American Legion Harold L. Bradley Post 584
- Marion Noon Kiwanis Foundation, Inc.
- OhioHealth Marion General Hospital
- Marion Community Foundation

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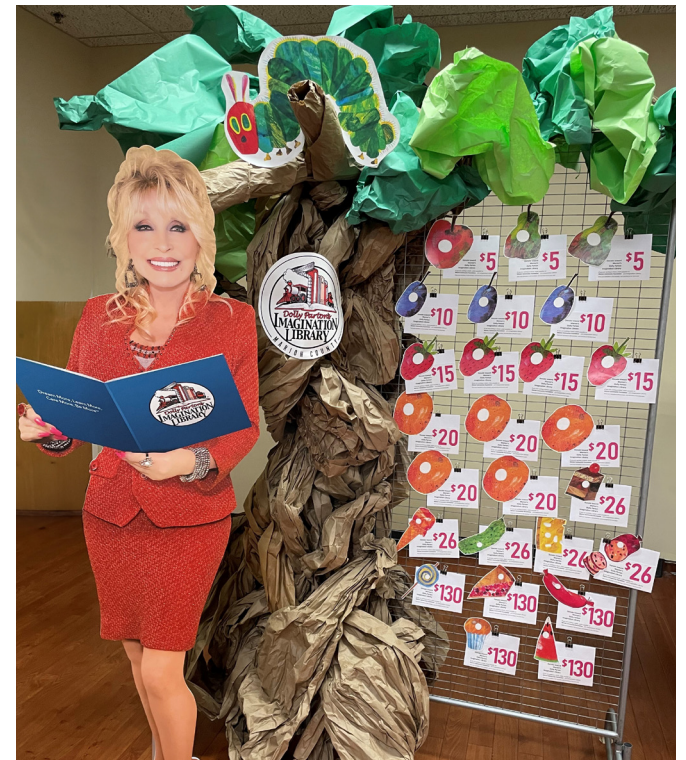
Pay It Forward

Marion County Imagination Library succeeds because of your donations to the Marion Community Foundation fund that pays to have all of the books sent to the children, making it FREE for all children registered. Contrary to some beliefs, Dolly does not pay for all of the books. The State of Ohio generously pays 50% of the monthly invoice, and as a community partner with the State of Ohio, Marion Public Library finds community supporters to pay the other 50%.



Stop by the donation display at Marion Public Library where you can help the Hungry Caterpillar feed his love for literacy.

Your donation matters to the longevity of the program in Marion County. To celebrate our 5 year success consider donating to support local literacy.



YOUR DONATION OF **\$26** supports a child receiving 12 books in 1 year

YOUR DONATION OF **\$130** supports a child receiving 60 books in 5 years



Make your tax deductible donation:

Online: <https://marioncommunityfoundation.org/imagination-library>
 Check: MADE OUT TO MARION COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
 c/o Imagination Library
 mail/drop off to 504 South State Street, Marion Ohio 43302
 Corporate donations encouraged and appreciated.



Journey of a book

How three nonprofits work together to deliver 410,000+ books each month

A caregiver enrolls their child at OhIoImaginationLibrary.org.



The Dollywood Foundation provides access to books for \$2.20 each, thanks to Dolly Parton's generosity.



A child's first book arrives approximately 8 weeks later. Then a monthly book will be delivered until a child's fifth birthday at no cost to families.

Local Program Partner Marion Public Library covers the other \$1.10 per book mailed in their assigned county. This structure ensures the program remains free to all families in Ohio.

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library of Ohio receives funding from the Ohio General Assembly and various donors to provide a monthly match of \$1.10 per book mailed each month in Ohio.

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