



The Impact of Dolly Parton's Imagination Library: United Way of the Flint Hills' Report to the Community

Number of Children Enrolled as of December 31, 2015

The United Way of the Flint Hills remains committed to enrolling every child under the age of five in Dolly Parton's Imagination Library. We have partners in all of our communities who actively enroll children at preschools, hospitals, public libraries, and health departments. Families may also download an enrollment form online.

Chase County	31
Coffey County	175
Lyon County	949
Morris County	73
Osage County	146
Woodson County	30
Total Enrollment:	1,404

Since the program's launch, an additional 564 children have graduated from the program.

The Impact of Reading at Home

In 2015, the United Way of the Flint Hills sent an online survey to parents/guardians of children enrolled in the program to determine if the Imagination Library is changing reading behaviors at home. Seventy-two families responded to our survey, which had a return rate of 14%. Of note:

61% of respondents indicated that they are reading more frequently to their children.

76% of respondents indicated that their child(ren)'s interest level in books has increased.

76% of respondents indicated that their children were excited about reading books.

"This has been a wonderful experience for my 3 year old who started the program just after he had turned 1. He loves checking the mail and receiving a new book each month. We never make it until bedtime to read the story, we always have to drop everything so we can read the new book!"

"We greatly appreciate the books we've received so far! I'm a father of two who works all day so each night we pick out two books to read after bath, just before bed. It helps them wind down & it gives us special time together without interruption. They've memorized many of them but still enjoy hearing them time and time again. Thanks so much!"

"Our daughter is thrilled to receive her book in the mailbox! We read it over and over and after about a week she 'reads' it to us! She had a little brother last June and gets equally excited when his books arrive. Some of her favorite books are Imagination Library books. This is such an amazing gift to the children of Lyon County! Thank you SO much!!!"

The Impact on Kindergarten Readiness

During the 2016-17 school year, we will be gathering data from school districts in the communities served by the Imagination Library to see if children who were enrolled in the program were better prepared for kindergarten than their peers who did not receive books. We will be able to track these kids through third grade and beyond.

Unique Opportunities

Every month, approximately fifty books are undelivered due to mail issues or families moving from our service area. We have developed relationships with our post offices to have the books returned to the United Way, and we donate the books to preschools, child care centers, doctor's offices, and Little Free Libraries so that others can enjoy them. Preschools and childcare centers especially appreciate the book donations so they can strengthen the home/school relationship.