

## Today a Reader, Tomorrow a Leader

Reading with young children is proven to make a big difference to their future success. Children who grow up with books in their home do better in school and life, and the number of books in the home directly impacts their future achievements.

**One study found that in low-income neighborhoods there is only one book for every 300 children!**



Through Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, kids in Stark County can receive a free book every month until they're five years old!

Children involved in this program will have 60 books in their personal library by the age of 5!

Inspired by her father's inability to read and write, Dolly Parton started the Imagination Library in her home county. So far, this program has gifted more than 130 million books since 1995.



Ohio First Lady DeWine saw the impact of the Imagination Library and wanted every child across Ohio to have that same opportunity. In 2019, she established the Ohio Governor's Imagination Library, that matches funds to offset the cost of the program for local Imagination Library affiliates.



Imagine if there was a way to level the playing field for all children.

**Would you help?**

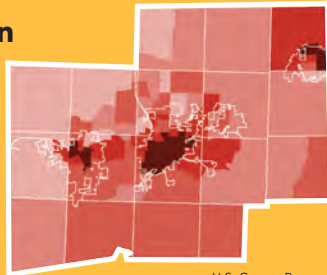
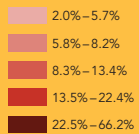


**1 in 4** children in Stark County live in poverty.

In the struggle to provide necessities like food, housing and paying bills, parents with low incomes have less home stability, less time to read to their children, and little to no funds for personal libraries.

Books provide opportunities for children to dream more, learn more, and be more!

### Poverty Rate in Stark County



U.S. Census Bureau  
American Community Survey, 2017



In fact, a child who grows up impoverished is **SIX times more likely to drop out of high school.**

Let's give them a fair start.

## Will you help?

United Way of Greater Stark County, Stark Library, and other area libraries are proud to invest in our children's futures by putting books in the hands of children right here in our own community.



After the city of Cincinnati began their partnership with Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, **Kindergarten Readiness assessments rose from 42.9% to 58.3%** among participating children in just three years.



We believe investing in our youth will have a lasting impact in our community.

**Together, let's build a solid foundation today for a brighter tomorrow.**

