

FOSTERING A LOVE OF READING

The time you spend reading with a child opens their mind to faraway places, exciting adventures and sets them on the path to early literacy and lifelong learning. Since 2012, United Way of Central Illinois has been sharing the love of reading with children throughout our community.

What is Imagination Library?

It began in 1996 when Dolly Parton launched an initiative to benefit the children of her home county in Tennessee. Her dream was to foster a love of reading among preschoolers and their families. She wanted to ensure every child would have access to high quality books, regardless of their family's income. This initiative is now a national and global program managed by the Dollywood Foundation and brought to our area by United Way of Central Illinois. Since 2012, we've provided more than 130,000 books to children in Sangamon County.

How does it work?

Children in Sangamon County can enroll in the program from the day they are born. Once they're signed up, they receive a new, age-appropriate book with engagement activities through the mail each month until their fifth birthday. Every child in Sangamon County is eligible. However, the number of children enrolled each year is limited by the amount of funding available. Which is why your help is critical.

How Can You Help?

As little as \$25 can help provide a full year of books, one each month, to a child in our community. Your gift of reading helps improve community literacy, creates stronger families, a stronger economy, and provides a lifetime of opportunity for our children.



Visit www.SpringfieldUnitedWay.org
or text "DPIL" to 71777 to make your gift today.

