

Media Advisory

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Celebrating the first anniversary of Dolly Parton's Imagination Library Day in Kansas

TOPEKA, KANSAS – On the [first anniversary of Imagination Library of Kansas Day](#), proclaimed by Governor Kelly on August 14, 2023, the Kansas Children's Cabinet is pleased to announce that over 75,000 children (birth to 5 years) are now receiving free Imagination Library books every month, representing 39% of the total number of children eligible statewide. This represents a 43% increase in program enrollment since the statewide rollout last summer. We credit the boost in program awareness to Dolly Parton's 2023 visit and the dedicated work of our Local Imagination Library partners across the state.

The Kansas Children's Cabinet is pleased to announce the formation of the Imagination Library of Kansas 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization designed to ensure sustainability and continued growth of the program, while affirming the importance of access to early childhood literature for families in Kansas. The Imagination Library of Kansas will serve as a fundraising entity and will foster partnerships with the private sector.

At their initial organizational meeting, DiAnne Owen Graham, Wichita, was elected Chair. LeEtta Felter, Olathe, was elected vice-chair and Monica Murnan, Pittsburg, was elected Secretary-Treasurer.

"Kansas is taking a big step forward with the establishment of the Imagination Library of Kansas by committing to the future of literacy in our state," said DiAnne Owen Graham, Board Chair of the Imagination Library of Kansas. "We could not be more proud to partner with the legendary Dolly Parton following her inspirational visit to Kansas in 2023 to ensure every child in Kansas can enroll in this transformative program. We look forward to helping the next generation of Kansans develop a lifelong love of learning."

"Together we can gift a love of reading that will last a lifetime," says Dolly Parton.

The Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund will continue to operate as the official state partner by supporting Local Imagination Library partners to promote enrollment and ensure programmatic coverage across every zip code in Kansas.

For more information on how to engage with the Imagination Library of Kansas, visit kschildrenscabinet.org/imaginationlibrary or contact us at ILKS@ku.edu.

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kschildrenscabinet.org/imaginationlibrary

