



In 2000, Dolly Parton made available across the USA an exciting new effort: *Dolly Parton's Imagination Library*. Dolly's vision was to foster a love of reading among preschool children and their families by providing them with the gift of a specially selected book each month. By mailing high quality, age-appropriate books directly to their homes, she encouraged children to be excited about books and to feel the magic that books can create. Moreover, she could insure that every child would have books, regardless of their family's income.

Since the initial program launch in the United States, Dolly Parton's Imagination Library has mailed over 60,000,000 books. Currently over 1600 local communities provide the Imagination Library to over 825,000 children each and every month. Statistics and independent reports have shown Dolly Parton's Imagination Library drastically improves early childhood literacy for children enrolled in the program. Further studies have shown improved scores during early literacy testing.

In October, 2013 Dolly Parton's Imagination Library was launched in Saline County by the early childhood collaboration: Partners in Early Childhood Education (PIECE). In January of 2015, the administration of the program was taken over by the Salina Area United Way (SAUW). Due to the strong connection between early childhood literacy and the likelihood of high school graduation, it is obvious that this is a program that fits into the mission and goals of SAUW.

Saline County Dolly Parton Imagination Library by-the-numbers:

- 1741 children currently enrolled
 - 518 "graduated"
- Mailed over 22,000 books to Saline County Children
 - Cost: \$25 per child per year