



United Way of Lewis County

Lewis County
Rotary
Foundation



Dolly Parton's Imagination Library Program

March 2021 ~ Progress Report

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library Program championed by United Way of Lewis County and Lewis County Rotary Foundation has raised \$ **105,888** in financial support to date from the local community. A very big acknowledgement and credit goes to the three Rotary Clubs of Lewis County for their partnership and commitment since the beginning as founding sponsors to lift this program up and make it possible. The Rotary Club's passion and commitment for supporting literacy was matched with United Way of Lewis County's drive to improve early childhood education, local kindergarten assessment scores and a desire to increase family engagement. The program is considered world-class for increasing literacy skills in participants and has been shown to help children achieve higher assessment scores than non-participants. The program is an in-demand product fulfilling the needs of our young families and children who praise its local presence and provides a service that does not exist for this age bracket (0-5). The program breaks down all barriers to books (residence geography, income etc.) and is one of the very few programs nationally that provides early learners with books in a long program duration. Because the program is so revered in our community and shared by community resources such as the hospital and other local child-serving providers, there is a need for strong continued financial support from our community members, clubs and businesses to sustain the program, as our marketing and enrollment has been exceptional.

United of Lewis County plans to conduct surveys with families to gauge time spent reading with their registered children as well as observed skill development. Kindergarten readiness assessment scores will also be evaluated for program enrollees vs. non-enrollees beginning at the start of the 2021 school year. This program reaps short and long-term benefits but is not to be undertaken for a quick result; rather, it will require patient and dedicated financial partners.

This program has been extraordinary at filling the community with excitement for reading, instilling young families with values of spending time with their children and its long-term effects, and generating a connected, unified fan base of services who promote and believe in the program's benefits of our local community.



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Stats of Program Progress:

Total Enrolled since November 2019: **2,798**

Current Enrollment: **2,364**

Graduates (Turned 5): **434**

Books Distributed: **26,885**

Geographical Enrollment:

3 – Adna	17 – Ethel	62 – Mossyrock	19 – Salkum
738 – Centralia	11 – Galvin	40 – Napavine	7 – Silver Creek
744 – Chehalis	31 – Glenoma	143 – Onalaska	141 – Toledo
22 – Cinebar	4 – Mineral	19 – Packwood	32 – Vader
15 – Curtis	44 – Morton	35 – Pe Ell	205 – Winlock
4 – Doty		28 – Randle	

Online Registrations: **1,237**

Paper Registrations: **1,127**

Program Benefits:

- Aids in participants achieving higher Kindergarten Assessment scores than those who do not participate
- Enhances home literacy environment (children who have books in the home achieve on average three more years of education than those who do not)
- Increases family engagement time
- Fosters positive attitudes about reading
- Promotes early literacy skills
 - Alphabet knowledge
 - Receptive and expressive vocabulary
 - Phonological awareness and memory
 - Proper handling of a book
 - Letter naming fluency (a strong indicator of risk for reading failure and predictor for future reading, vocabulary, and language development)
 - Upper- and lower-case letter identification