

Library News | Winter 2025

From the Friends of the Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library



About the Imagination Library

Since spring 2024, Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library has been proud to be a partner of the local groups in our counties that bring Dolly Parton's Imagination Library to this community. Dolly Parton's Imagination Library is dedicated to inspiring a love of reading by gifting books free of charge to children from birth to age five, through funding shared by Dolly Parton and local community partners. Today, her program spans five countries and gifts over 3 million free books each month to children around the world.

In our area, the Dolly Parton Imagination Library initiative is funded and run by community organizations in Montgomery County and Floyd County: The Imagination Library of Montgomery County and Christmas for Children Floyd.



General News Cont'd

Through volunteer efforts, these groups have worked hard to ensure the availability and sustainability of the program. MFRL supports their efforts by letting all new cardholders know about the program, distributing information through handouts, our website, and social media, and by talking it up at our storytimes and children's programs. Let's take a brief look at the program and its local impact.

In 1995, music legend, humanitarian, and entrepreneur Dolly Parton launched the Imagination Library to benefit the children of her home county just down I-81 in East Tennessee. Dolly's vision was to foster a love of reading among her county's preschool children and their families. By mailing high quality, age appropriate books directly to their homes, Dolly sparked excitement about books among parents and children and shared the magic that reading together can create. The program hews to the principle that books are for all, regardless of their family's income or circumstances. The first book order in 1995 totaled just over 1,700. Today, Dolly Parton's Imagination Library sends more than three million books per month to children around the world. The Imagination Library also has Bilingual/Spanish books available for children in Spanish speaking households and braille and audio books for children who have visual impairment.

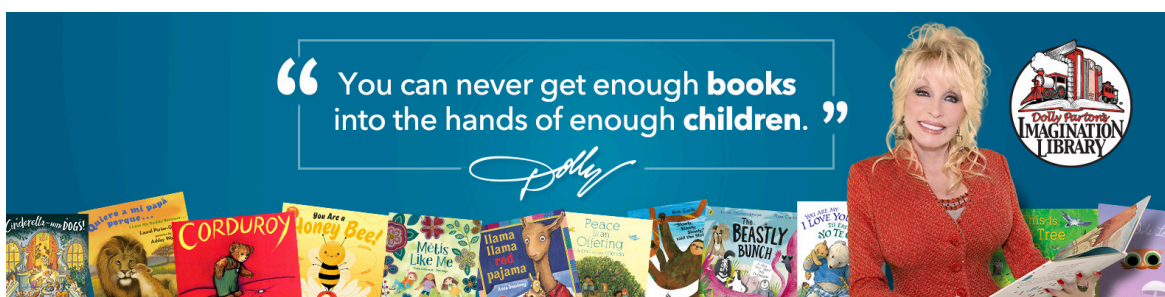
In the year that both counties have had the Imagination Library available, registration has grown. As of 2025, there are over 2,200 preschoolers enrolled in Montgomery and Floyd Counties -- over 41% of the children aged 0-4 in our area (Census 2000). While this is a great number, we all would love for the number to increase – Dolly has books to send! People can help strengthen and grow the Imagination Library in the community by

- Sharing the availability of the Imagination Library with people you know
- Reaching out to child-serving institutions in day care settings, houses of worship, schools, and other settings
- Supporting the sponsoring groups through volunteering and donations

The Imagination Library reports that recent and ongoing studies suggest that participation in the Imagination Library is positively and significantly associated with higher measures of early language and math development. The entire program, and the selection of each book included, reflect how early childhood literacy experts and Imagination Library leadership take great care in choosing books that meet the different needs of children as they progress from birth to age five. And of course while growing readers, the Imagination Library also grows children who will become library users for a lifetime.

More information and the free signup tool can be found at <https://imaginationlibrary.com/> as well as at MFRL's Dolly page at <https://www.mfml.org/dpil.php> . Donations to support DPIL in our area can be made through [Christmas for Children Floyd](https://christmasforchildrenfloyd.com/) [<https://christmasforchildrenfloyd.com/>] or [Imagination Library of Montgomery County](https://www.imaginationlibrarymcva.org/) [<https://www.imaginationlibrarymcva.org/>] .

Karim Khan, MFRL Library Director



General News Cont'd

2025 Garden Tour – Save the Date!

The 29th Annual Garden Tour will be held **Saturday, July 12th from 9am to 5pm**. The event will take place rain or shine. Mark your calendars now!

The 2025 Garden Tour features seven lovely gardens, all within Blacksburg. Check out photos and locations of this year's gardens at our website:

<https://mfrlfriends.org/wp/garden-tour/>.

Paintings of the 2024 New River Valley Garden Tour will be on display at the Blacksburg Library from May 2025 until August 2025. Ticket sales for the 2025 Garden Tour will begin Sunday, June 1st.

Ellen Hall, Garden Tour Committee



Photo of [D] Davis Garden

Join Friends of the MFRL and Become an Advocate for Your Local Library!

We are a nonprofit, volunteer organization comprised of book and library lovers who donate their time and funds to support our local libraries. Our Friends group funds the Summer Reading Programs, special children's programs, author talks, our annual garden tour, scholarships for library staff and needs not met in the normal operating budget.

How you can help:

- Join Friends using our membership form at the end of the newsletter or [online](#)!
- Volunteer for one of our committees
- Donate books for our book sales
- Purchase books at our big book sale events and at our continuous book sales in every library

As a member you will be able to shop early at all book sales events! Encourage others to join us and to shop at our continuous book sales!

Linda Greaver, Membership Committee for Montgomery County Friends of the Library

Thank You

Many Thanks to the following members for their exceptional generosity. Friends of the Library are deeply appreciative of the following members for their **additional cash gifts above and beyond membership dues for 2024.**

\$10 - \$49

Lisa Belden
Frieda Bostian
Brian Britt
Susan Caceci
Mary Sue Dohoney
Beverly Fleming
Eugene Gardner
Soumik Ghosh
Ellen Hall
Connie Heindel
Margaret Laing
Ignatio Moore
Bruce Pencek

Robert Torgerson
Herbert Williams
Mary Jane Zody

\$50 – \$99

Paula and Tom Alston
Thomas Dunkenberger
Stephen and Janice Freeland
Fred Mignone
Cecelia Powell

\$100 - \$199

Susan Anderson
Cynthia Chappelka
Richard Gilbert

Ed, Missy and Hollis Oakes
Patricia Polentz
Catherine Snyder
Marilyn Spencer

\$200 - \$499

Kenneth Eriksson
Virginia Williams

\$500 - \$999

Patricia Monroe
Carolyn Rude – in memory of Don Rude
Spencer and Dale Winfrey

\$1,000 - \$1,999

Thomas and Maureen Patton

Calendar

Community Input Meeting

Blacksburg

Sun, March 2nd

Book Launch! Nannie Berger Hairston An Oral History

Christiansburg

Sat, March 1st

Community Input Meeting

Meadowbrook

Tues, March 4th

Planning a Productive Food Garden

Floyd

Sun, March 2nd

Evening Music Therapy for Adults with Developmental Disabilities

Blacksburg

Thurs, March 13th

Free Income Tax Prep with VITA

Christiansburg

Sat, March 8th

American Red Cross Blood Drive

Meadowbrook

Sat, March 15th

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance

Floyd

Tues, March 11th

For more information on events, please visit the library's website at www.mfpl.org and find the "Calendars" tab.

Fill out form online, then print:

2025 MONTGOMERY COUNTY FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY MEMBERSHIP FORM

Membership year is January-December.

Dues received October 2024– December 2024 are good through 2025

New Renewal Date

First Name Last Name

Address City

Zip Code Email

Phone

Suggested Membership Contribution:

\$15 Individual \$20 Family Donation: \$

Contributions are tax deductible.

Make checks payable to:

Friends of MFRL

(Montgomery Floyd Regional Library)

Mail to:

125 Sheltman Street

Christiansburg, VA 24073

or bring to your nearest library branch.

We need your help with Friends Activities. Check below for volunteer opportunities.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Membership Drive | <input type="checkbox"/> Book Sales |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Socials – bring refreshments | <input type="checkbox"/> Garden Tour |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hospitality Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> Membership Committee |

At which library do you wish to volunteer?

- Blacksburg Christiansburg Meadowbrook



<https://mfrlfriends.org/wp/join-us/>