



# COUNTY OF YOLO

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Dolly Parton's Imagination Library Expands in Yolo County**

(Woodland, CA) - Parents and guardians can register their children ages 0-5 living in Yolo County for Dolly Parton's Imagination Library. Imagination Library is a book-gifting program that mails a new, free, age-appropriate book each month directly to the homes of registered children from the time they are born to their fifth birthday.

Inspired by her father's inability to read and write, Dolly Parton started Imagination Library in 1995 for the children within her home county. Today, her program mails almost 2 million free, high-quality books each month to children worldwide, no matter their family's income.

The United Way Capital Region, Yolo County Library (YCL), and the Yolo County Library Foundation (YCLF) have teamed up to expand this program in our area. As its top funding priority, YCLF provided a \$5,000 grant to support this program, resulting in more than 2,000 books being mailed to children, so they can read something new at home every month.

"By having books in the home and encouraging adults to read to their kids, we're hoping that when they enter kindergarten, they will be ready to read," noted Mark Fink, Yolo County Librarian. "Essentially when children enter school ready for kindergarten it's a good indicator they'll be reading at grade level by the third grade, and that's when you make the shift from learning to read to reading to learn, so I'm glad we're able to expand eligibility for the program for children throughout the County."

There are four ways a parent or guardian can enroll a child:

- Visit [https://yolocountylibrary.org/imagination\\_library](https://yolocountylibrary.org/imagination_library), print and return the completed registration form to any Yolo County Library branch.
- Complete the online form at [https://yolocountylibrary.org/imagination\\_library](https://yolocountylibrary.org/imagination_library).
- Complete the online form at <https://www.yourlocalunitedway.org/post/dolly-partons-imagination-library>
- Email United Way Capital Region: [ImaginationLibrary@UWCCR.org](mailto:ImaginationLibrary@UWCCR.org)

For ideas on how to inspire a love of reading, parents and caregivers can visit Yolo County Library's "Early Learners" webpage: <https://yolocountylibrary.org/learning/early-learners/>

Since 2016, the **Yolo County Library Foundation** has provided financial support to Yolo County Library to effectively provide essential literacy, reading and educational resources, services, and programs throughout the county. YCLF's financial support enables Yolo County Library to provide parents, caregivers, and children with 1) free reading materials in both print and digital formats, 2) books to create home libraries, and 3) early literacy tips and training so families can celebrate reading. Learn more at <https://yclfoundation.org>.

For more information about **Yolo County Library** programs and resources, residents can visit their local library or the Library's website, <https://yolocountylibrary.org>, or connect with Yolo County Library on Facebook [www.facebook.com/yolocountylibrary.org](http://www.facebook.com/yolocountylibrary.org) and Instagram at [@yolocountylibrary](https://www.instagram.com/yolocountylibrary).

For nearly 100 years, **United Way California Capital Region** has brought local people together to make community change happen. With a mission to build stronger, healthier and more compassionate communities, the local United Way starts at square one: helping every family succeed so their community can too. Serving Amador, El Dorado, Placer, Sacramento and Yolo counties, the local United Way is working to meet its 20-year commitment to significantly reduce poverty in the region by helping kids excel in school, investing in families, creating meaningful partnerships and organizing to lift impacted families. For more information or to make a donation, visit <https://YourLocalUnitedWay.org>.

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