

NONPROFIT NOMINATION FORM

As an eligible* member of Elk Rapids Area 100 Women Who Care, I nominate the following nonprofit organization to be considered for the group's next collective donation. I understand that the following information is true to the best of my knowledge and that the donation will be used in Antrim County.

*I have made my \$100 donation for the *previous* meeting's recipient.

THIS FORM MUST BE SUBMITTED AT LEAST 7 DAYS PRIOR TO THE MEETING.

I also agree to make a 5 minute presentation using the information provided below at the group's next meeting.

Email *

nmuhlig@charter.net

MY NAME

Nancy Muhlig

ORGANIZATION NAME *

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library Grand Traverse Region

ORGANIZATION WEBSITE AND/OR FACEBOOK PAGE *

dpil-gtregion.org

MISSION/PURPOSE OF THE ORGANIZATION *

To foster a love of reading and lifelong learning by providing high quality, age-appropriate books to children from birth to age 5 in the Grand Traverse Region, at no cost to families.

WHEN WAS THE ORGANIZATION ESTABLISHED? *

2016

SERVICE AREA THE ORGANIZATION SERVES (MUST INCLUDE ANTRIM COUNTY) *

Antrim, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska and Leelanau Counties

ANNUAL ORGANIZATION BUDGET AND PRIMARY FUNDING SOURCES *

\$125,000

WHAT COMMUNITY NEED WOULD OUR DONATION HELP MEET? *

Our region’s children face tremendous literacy challenges. In the Grand Traverse Region less than half (44%) of young children start kindergarten ready to learn. The other half enter school at a tremendous disadvantage. Although low literacy affects all economic groups, children from low-income families are at greater risk. These early literacy deficits persist; just 48% of our region’s third graders are proficient readers. Children who aren’t competent readers by third grade are four times more likely to drop out of high school and at greater risk for substance abuse, violence, and incarceration. But it doesn’t have to be this way. Rather than remediating a problem – which is so costly to the child, and to the community – we can address the literacy challenge in early childhood – in a positive and proactive way.

Research reveals three essential ingredients for raising readers:

- Parents – are a child’s first and most important teacher; reading aloud with young children is the single most important thing they can do to prepare their child for kindergarten.
- Start early – infancy is the most critical period for brain development.
- Books – fill homes with age-appropriate books, the more the better.

The Imagination Library is a unique, award-winning book gifting program that supports literacy development from birth to age 5. The program works by mailing age-appropriate books to registered children every month, from birth until their fifth birthday, at no cost to their families. It is evidence-based. Children who participate are read to more often; learn to enjoy books and develop skills they need to succeed when they start kindergarten.

Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library GTR (DPIL GTR) is a local community partner of the Dollywood Foundation, serving children and families in Antrim, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska and Leelanau counties. Currently, 4,001 children across these four counties are receiving Imagination Library books each month.

The Imagination Library started in Antrim County in the fall of 2023. The generous gift you made to DPIL GTR at that time enabled the launch of the program and has been instrumental in supporting the children currently registered. In just two and a half years, enrollment in Antrim County has grown from 0 to some 500 children today. Your gift was foundational. We simply couldn’t have done it without you!

With your continuing support, funds will be available to ensure that we can reach and enroll Antrim children who are not yet experiencing the joys and learning the Imagination Library offers as well as supporting babies yet to be born.

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PROVIDE A DESCRIPTION OF HOW OUR GIFT WOULD BE UTILIZED. INCLUDE A SPECIFIC DOLLAR ESTIMATE AND TIMING OF IMPLEMENTATION. *

This new request, if awarded, would support Antrim children who are not currently enrolled in the Imagination Library including newborns who will arrive in 2027.

Our current financial commitment to enrolled children in Antrim County is just under \$34,000. We are confident that we can fulfill that commitment but it leaves us with very little to pay for books for the preschoolers, toddlers, infants (and babies yet to be born) who are not yet participating in the program. Our goal is to reach 80% of the Antrim children who are not currently enrolled. There are two groups to be included.

1. In Antrim County, there are approximately 180 births per year. If we reach eighty percent of the babies born in 2027 that is 144 newborns. The cost of providing Imagination Library books to a newborn for five years is \$156. Total cost: $\$156 \times 144 = \$22,464$.

2. There are an estimated 385 children (infants, toddlers and preschoolers) in Antrim today who are not registered. If we reach 80% of them, that is 308 children. Because children are registered at any point between 0 and age 5, the average cost of providing monthly books to these children is approximately \$73 per child. Total cost: $= \$73 \times 308 = \$22,484$.

The total needed to provide monthly books for these two groups of children until they graduate on their fifth birthday is \$44,948.

With regard to timing, babies are born every day! And, Antrim preschoolers and toddlers are ready to start receiving books. So, funds will begin to be used immediately.

MY RELATIONSHIP/EXPERIENCE WITH THIS ORGANIZATION *

I started in March of 2024 as Antrim County's Registration Chair for Dolly Parton's Imagination Library. Thanks to our many volunteers, we go to events all over the county to register children. We also help publicize the program by posting flyers with registration information in businesses throughout our Antrim area. We are always on the lookout for more ways to inform families about this incredible program and gladly accept suggestions and recommendations. Personally, helping children is my mission and passion!

OPTIONAL ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

You may provide one additional document that helps support your request. Just email the document to pegamsus1@comcast.net being sure to identify it as supporting a specific nomination, and it will be attached to this Nonprofit Nomination Form for viewing by our members on our website.

In the interest of brevity, please limit document length to two pages. Longer documents may not be posted.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Please complete information below that will be used for communication and funding purposes. It does NOT have to be included in your presentation.

ORGANIZATION'S TAX ID/501(c)3 NUMBER *

84-3584288

ORGANIZATION'S CONTACT PERSON *

Betsy Moore

CONTACT PERSON'S EMAIL ADDRESS *

emoore9706@gmail.com

ORGANIZATION'S STREET ADDRESS *

PO Box 4441

ORGANIZATION'S CITY *

Traverse City

ORGANIZATION'S ZIP CODE *

48685

ORGANIZATION'S PHONE NUMBER *

574-276-8923

INITIAL SUBMISSION DATE *

MM DD YYYY

08 / 12 / 2026

REVISION DATE (Please provide this date for every revision you make. Use the "Initial Submission Date" above if this is your Initial Submission.) *

MM DD YYYY

08 / 12 / 2026

FORM SUBMISSION

Submit form by pressing the "Submit" button below.

Any questions, email pegasmus1@comcast.net

THANK YOU FOR YOUR NOMINATION!

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