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**HORSEHEADS CSD PARTNERS WITH UNITED WAY OF THE SOUTHERN TIER TO PROMOTE
DOLLY PARTON'S IMAGINATION LIBRARY**

Partnership Aims to Expand Early Literacy Opportunities for Local Families

Horseheads Central School District and United Way of the Southern Tier have teamed up to grow enrollment in Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, a program that provides free books to children from birth to age five.

Reading with your child is one of the most important early activities for setting them up for lifelong success. Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, sponsored locally by United Way of the Southern Tier, delivers an age-appropriate book each month, addressed to the child, creating excitement and helping children develop a lifelong enjoyment of reading. All books are provided at no cost to families.

"Early literacy is foundational to everything we do," said Thomas J. Douglas, superintendent of Horseheads Central School District. "Programs like Dolly Parton's Imagination Library strengthen that foundation by giving our youngest learners access to books and the opportunity to build strong reading habits from the very beginning."

"At Horseheads Central School District, we are committed to ensuring that every child not only learns to read but also discovers the joy of reading. Our dedicated staff focuses on building word recognition and language comprehension, yet we recognize that developing strong reading skills is a shared responsibility with families and the community," said Anthony Gill, assistant superintendent of Horseheads Central School District. "Through our partnership with the United Way of the Southern Tier, we are able to support this shared goal. Dolly Parton's Imagination Library helps put books into the hands of pre-school children and their families, fostering a love of reading at home. We are grateful to the United Way for supporting this important work."

Any child under age 5 in Chemung, Schuyler, Steuben, or Yates counties can enroll, regardless of family income. More than half of all young children in the local community receive these books each month.

“In the past year, more than 600 children under age 5 living in the Horseheads District received books through this valuable program,” said Maleaha Smith, president and CEO of United Way of the Southern Tier. “Working with the Pre-K classrooms to reach families who have not yet enrolled their children will advance our shared vision of empowering the next generation of young learners.”

United Way’s chapter of the Imagination Library has reached more than 11,500 local children since it began in Chemung and Steuben counties in 2018. Another 500 children have been served in Schuyler and Yates counties with the rollout of the Imagination Library in those counties in 2024.

To register a child for free books or check availability in your area, [visit the Imagination Library website](#).

For more information about Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library, email [United Way of the Southern Tier](#) or call 607-936-3753.

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