



**“You can never get enough books into the hands of enough children.”  
-Dolly Parton**

- Imagination Library sends Hartford children ages birth to age five a new, age-appropriate book each month for FREE.
- 90 percent of a child’s brain development occurs in the first five years of their life.
- If a child signs up when they are born, they receive a total of 60 free books by their fifth birthday - plus monthly tips to help them grow into lifelong readers.
- There is absolutely no cost or obligation to the family!

## DOLLY PARTON'S IMAGINATION LIBRARY: IMPACT TO DATE\* IN HARTFORD

**Dolly Parton's Imagination Library is a free subscription program that provides one book per month to Hartford children from birth to age five.**

The books are delivered directly to a child’s home to help build their home libraries. Since August 2020, the program has enrolled more than **6,295 Hartford children** who have collectively received more than **50,000 books**.

Research shows that the earliest years of life can set the stage for physical development, mental health and academic success. Children are more likely to achieve milestones when they participate in consistent, enriching learning experiences, eat healthy food and have time for active play. Yet, for many children in our community, these opportunities are out of reach.

United Way is proud to support quality programs for children ages birth to five that help ensure they meet critical developmental milestones while also increasing their early literacy skills.



\* as of October 2022.

**Parent Testimonial:**

Jennifer Hernandez registered her two sons Gabriel (2) and Michael (4) 6 months ago.

We met this family at the Community Health Center. When asked how they are enjoying the Dolly Parton's Imagination Library program, Jennifer reached into her bag to show two brightly colored books that she says had just arrived in the mail. She handed them to Gabriel and Michael, who brimmed with excitement, first pointing to their names on the mailing labels of the books, before opening them to show their favorite parts of the stories.

"I carry Imagination Library books with me in situations like this, in a pediatric waiting room, since they are guaranteed to hold their attention. I have noticed their interest in books increase since they began receiving books from the Imagination Library program."



**HIGHLIGHTS:**



**6,295 children in Hartford** have been registered\*



More than **70 percent of Hartford children (0-5)** are currently enrolled in Dolly Parton's Imagination Library\*



More than **50,000 books** have been distributed\*

**PROJECTIONS:**



We will enroll **100 percent of Hartford children under 5 (7,500)** by June 2023.



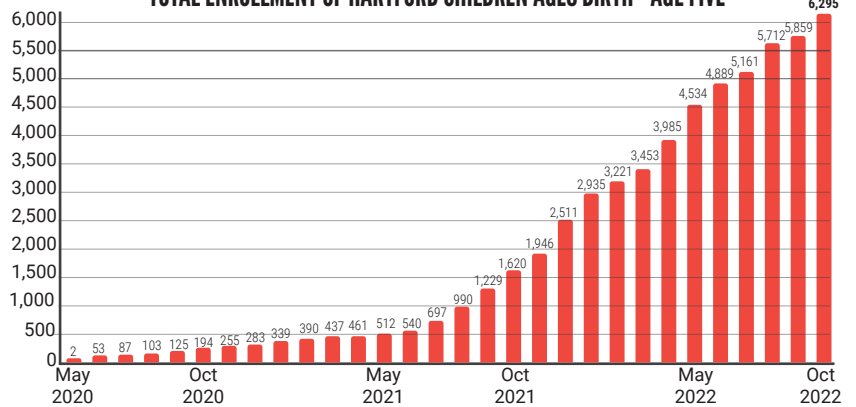
The program operating cost will soon become **\$16,000 per month**.



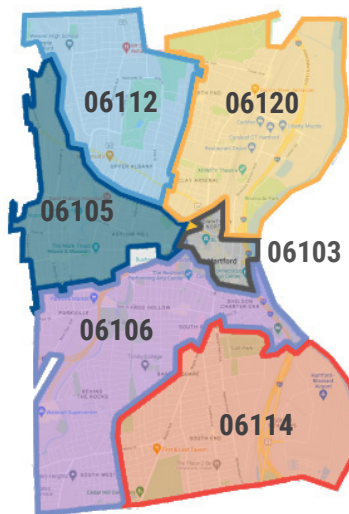
Sustaining the program at 100 percent will cost around **\$200,000 a year**.

*\*as of October 2022.*

**TOTAL ENROLLMENT OF HARTFORD CHILDREN AGES BIRTH - AGE FIVE**



**REGISTRATIONS BY ZIP CODE**



Neighborhoods	Children Enrolled	Percent Enrolled
Blue Hills, Upper Albany, western half of North East	552	40%
North Meadows, Clay Arsenal, eastern half of North East	814	68%
West End, Asylum Hill	784	81%
Down Town	53	161%
Parkville, Frog Hallow, Sheldon Charter Oak, Behind the Rocks, South West, South Groom Part of Barry Square	1,835	96%
South End, South Meadows, most of Barry Square	1,215	67%
<b>Total:</b>	<b>5,326*</b>	<b>74%</b>

\*5,326 children enrolled, 968 children graduated from the program.