

For Immediate Release

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Dolly Parton continues to inspire love of reading during COVID-19 pandemic

Colorado Springs, CO, Tuesday, March 31, 2020 — With students across the Pikes Peak region home from school during the COVID-19 pandemic, many parents are looking for ways to fill their children's time. They might be looking for educational activities, or even just a source of comfort during this unprecedented time.

Dolly Parton, the internationally recognized singer now known as "The Book Lady," wants to help.

On Thursday, Dolly will launch a 10-week video series called "Goodnight with Dolly." Each week, she will read a book from Dolly Parton's Imagination Library. The books were carefully chosen for their appropriate content at this moment in time.

Dolly introduces the new series in a [video here](#). The first book she will read is "The Little Engine That Could." To tune in each week, visit <https://www.youtube.com/user/imaginationlibrary> at 5 p.m. MDT.

Dolly launched the Imagination Library in 1995, inspired by her father's inability to read and write. It started out as an effort to provide books to children living in her home county in Tennessee, but as of February, has gifted 133,899,247 books to children in the United States, United Kingdom, Canada, Australia and Republic of Ireland. It's the largest non-governmental children's literacy program.

Since Pikes Peak United Way started managing the program in 2012, 419,473 books have been sent out to children in our community. Each month, a book is mailed to registered children from birth through 5 years old. The program is free for participants, and it costs just \$30 to give the gift of reading to a child for a year.

The order on April 1 for May books will continue as normal. The program's supply chain, fulfillment and postal systems are all operational, having been deemed "essential services" by the government.

However, a nationwide screening of the documentary "The Library That Dolly Built" set for Thursday has been delayed. PPUW had planned to host a screening at a local movie theater. The screening has been rescheduled for nationwide release the week of 9/21/20 to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the founding of The Imagination Library.

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About Pikes Peak United Way Pikes Peak United Way works to advance the common good, creating opportunities for a better life for all by focusing on the three key quality of life building blocks - education, income and health. Pikes Peak United Way creates long-lasting community change by addressing the underlying causes that prevent progress in these areas. For more information about Pikes Peak United Way, please visit ppunitedway.org.