

District 6290 Grants Committee
District and Global Grants
Approved November 13, 2018 for Rotary Years 2018-2019

DG-2

Cadillac

District Local Grant

Grant Title: Dolly Parton Imagination Library Program

Amount Awarded: \$2,500

The Dolly Parton Imagination Library is a universal service available to all families with children birth to five years in the area served by the Wexford Missaukee Intermediate School District, which includes Wexford, Missaukee and Osceola Counties. The program provides a book in the mail each month to children birth to 5 years, whose parents choose to sign up. The program is available at no cost to families and entirely funded by contributions by individuals, businesses and with additional philanthropy through foundation support. In the last 12 months we have:

*Distributed over 24,900 books

*Served an average of 2,081 children per month, and a total of 4,046 children since the local Dolly Parton Imagination Library began in June 2013

*Distributed a total of 107,529 books to local children since June 2013

This is an ongoing project of the Great Start Collaborative (GSC). The Wexford Missaukee ISD is the fiduciary of the GSC, which exists under state law to coordinate, promote, and enhance the local early childhood system of supports and resources to families with children birth to age 8. GSC staff, along with parent volunteers, provide day-to-day maintenance and support for the program.

The National Dolly Pardon Foundation provide book selection, purchasing and mailing of the high quality, age-appropriate books The Cadillac Area Community Foundation holds all funds for the project and is the entity to which any funds would be directed on behalf of the Wexford Missaukee Imagination Library. The GSC and the Cadillac Area Chamber of Commerce have established a committee of businesses and individuals who guide fund raising and are strong community promoters and supporters of the project.

The cost for a child to receive a free book each month for 12 months is \$25. The \$5,000 matched grant will serve 200 kids for a year or would put approximately 40 kids through the program for all 5 years, equaling 2,400 books total sent out.