

## **FREE BOOKS, FAMILY FUN, AND A FANTASTIC PROGRAM ARE COMING TO PIERCE AND PEPIN COUNTIES AUGUST 7**

**[Ellsworth, WI]** - Pierce Pepin Cooperative Services (PPCS) is bringing Dolly Parton's Imagination Library to Pierce and Pepin counties. Open to all children from birth to age five living in Pierce or Pepin County, registered children receive an age-appropriate book each month free of charge. PPCS is working with local libraries to introduce the program and will host two family-friendly launch parties for Pierce Pepin Imagination Library on Saturday, August 7. Pepin Public Library has provided extensive help in planning the launch parties. The first launch party will be from 10 a.m. to noon in Ellsworth at the PPCS office, W7725 US Highway 10; the second launch party will be from 2-4 p.m. at the city park in Pepin. Activities will include coloring, Touch-A-Truck, a "celebrity" book reading, face painting, treats, and more! Both PPCS and Pepin Public Library are excited for this amazing program to be brought to life in their communities.

"Dolly Parton's Imagination Library is a wonderful resource that has served families in our community in previous years, and we are so excited to be able to provide this opportunity to sign up families for this program. Studies have shown that having access to books in a household increases a child's success in school and in life," said Christy Rundquist, the director of Pepin Public Library. "Early literacy starts at home with just the simple acts of talking, singing, reading, and writing. The library encourages families to stop by and sign up, play some games, check out the special vehicles, listen to our celebrity readers and so much more."

"Our cooperative principles emphasize commitment to community, as well as education," said Liz Gunderson, PPCS' communications coordinator. "The Pierce Pepin Imagination Library will support the development of the youngest members of our communities, and we're really excited to bring this excellent program to Pierce and Pepin counties." Pierce Pepin Imagination Library is funded through Pierce Pepin Cares, the charitable foundation of Pierce Pepin Cooperative Services.

People interested in learning more about Dolly Parton's Imagination Library can contact Liz Gunderson at [lgunderson@piercepepin.coop](mailto:lgunderson@piercepepin.coop) or visit <https://imaginationlibrary.com>.

### **About Dolly Parton's Imagination Library**

Since launching in 1995, Dolly Parton's Imagination Library has become the preeminent early childhood book gifting program in the world. The flagship program of The Dollywood Foundation has mailed well over 100 million free books in Australia, Canada, The Republic of Ireland, United Kingdom and the United States. The Imagination Library mails more than 1.4 million high-quality, age-appropriate books each month to registered children from birth to age five. Dolly envisioned creating a lifelong love of reading, inspiring them to dream. The impact of the program has been widely researched and results suggest positive increases in key early childhood literacy metrics. Penguin Random House is the exclusive publisher for Dolly Parton's Imagination Library. For more information, please visit [imaginationlibrary.com](https://imaginationlibrary.com).



*(Left to right): Christy Rundquist, Pepin Public Library director, Liz Gunderson, PPCS communications coordinator and Claire Gosse, PPCS marketing and communications intern are eager to help families get signed up for the Pierce Pepin Imagination Library.*