

Signpost



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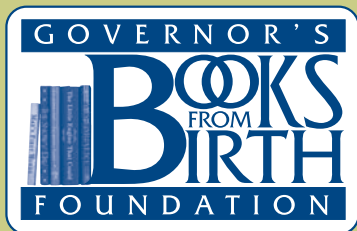
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"I have always believed that books in the home are one of the signposts of a child who will do well in school."

Governor Phil Bredesen

The Power of Partnership

The Governor's Books from Birth Foundation warmly welcomes Wal-Mart to our list of statewide Imagination Library sponsors!

Wal-Mart's generous financial pledge of \$100,000 will go a long way toward providing free books delivered to the home of every child under the age of five in our state. The Governor's Foundation uses donated corporate funds to supplement distressed county grants, and support special community outreach projects, such as providing full Imagination Library book sets to

each and every classroom in the Voluntary Pre-K for All and Head Start programs.

The GBBF also thanks Wal-Mart for generously donating an electric train to circle the base of the IL-themed Christmas tree in the State Capitol Rotunda (see page 8). The train was intended to highlight the famous children's tale given to every child in the Imagination Library as their very first book – *The Little Engine That Could*. □



Two Million Books: A Milestone for Tennessee Children

Think about what a stack of two million books would look like. Now, think about 191,988 little ones who have received those two million books in their earliest years of life and what a difference that will make for education in our state. Tennessee's Imagination Library has just surpassed the two million mark for books distributed to registered children, and that's just since the inception of the Governor's Books from Birth Foundation in 2004! What an amazing accomplishment. With these massive numbers behind us, the story of this program's momentum is unfolding before our very eyes. There is just no telling what 2007 will bring—another two million books! Happy New Year, Tennessee! □

Write Your Senators on Proposed Postal Rate Increases

In March of 2007, the Postal Rate Commission (PRC) for the United States Postal Service (USPS) will decide on newly-proposed rate increases and processing changes. These changes could have a profoundly negative impact on the Imagination Library in Tennessee. The total cost of the program, at just \$27 per child, per year, has been a major contributor to its overall success thus far – any change to that historical cost could have ramifications for some communities.

The proposed changes in USPS policy, if passed, would almost triple the postage rates for the Imagination Library program. All Imagination Library books are in the "non-flat machinable" category. With these changes in USPS policy, IL books would be considered parcels instead of flats, which would disqualify the books from a bar code discount, required for automation, and cause delivery delays, driving the per-book cost of delivery from around \$0.39 to \$1.00. While for-profit businesses will inevitably find ways to pass cost increases on to their customers, non-profit ventures do not have that option.

Members of the Postal Rate Commission are confirmed by the U.S. Senate. Between now and March of 2007 when the PRC will vote on this issue, it is important to contact Tennessee's U.S. Senate delegation (www.senate.gov) and speak out against these proposed changes. □

Send Your IL Donors to the Web!

Many Tennesseans send financial contributions of various amounts to their favorite charitable causes via the Internet. Tap into the generosity of those who support non-profit programs with a focus on children and literacy by making it easy for them to donate to your Imagination Library. Direct them to a new Web-based resource at your disposal – the online contributions page on the GBBF Web site, www.GovernorsFoundation.org.

The Imagination Library is an affordable investment in our children – just \$27 annually provides for the delivery of 12 hardcover books to one child. And, as this cost is split evenly between each county's sponsoring organization and the Governor's Books from Birth Foundation, a \$27 online donation at either the county or statewide level allows two children to receive free books for one year.

Donors can designate funds for either the statewide program (the Governor's Books from Birth Foundation) or their county's Imagination Library. The process is simple:

- Visit www.GovernorsFoundation.org; click on the icon labeled "Make a Contribution."
- Use the pull-down menu to select either the statewide program or a county.
- Choose whether to sponsor two children at \$27, five children at \$67.50, or any amount. Payment options include all commonly-accepted credit cards.
- Donors can also designate a gift as an honorarium or memorial contribution.
- A receipt is emailed to the donor, with thanks and information on the tax-deductible contribution.

The Governor's Foundation has raised more than \$1,053,000 in pledges and monies for statewide application and \$255,700 on behalf of county sponsoring organizations for their portion of monthly book costs. Donations to the Foundation have gone toward covering the full cost of the books for distressed counties, and special projects such as gifting full sets of Imagination Library books to all State-funded Voluntary Pre-K for All classrooms and local Head Start Centers. □

A PARTNERSHIP WITH DOLLY PARTON'S IMAGINATION LIBRARY

Sponsor Recognition

The Governor's Books from Birth Foundation would like to give special recognition to the following statewide sponsors for their overwhelming support and generosity!



Bridgestone America's Holding Inc.
Caremark Rx, Inc.
Tennessee Board of Regents
Tennessee General Assembly Members
Tennessee Human Resource Agencies
Tennessee Tech University, BusinessMedia Center

We also thank the following community groups and organizations for their support and partnership!

Alcoa Foundation
BellSouth Pioneers Life Member Clubs of Tennessee
Child Care Resource and Referral Centers
Children's Hospital Alliance of Tennessee
Community Action Agencies
County Mayors Association
County School Directors
County Technical Assistance Service
Delta Kappa Gamma Society
Enterprise Rent-a-Car Foundation
Friends of the Tennessee Libraries
Girl Scouts of Tennessee
Head Start Program Directors
Hospital Alliance of Tennessee
Journal Communications
Kiwans Clubs
Lions Clubs
Local Utilities
P-16 Councils/Local Education Foundations
Rotary Clubs
TDH Maternal and Child Health
Tennessee Business Roundtable
Tennessee Board of Regents Schools MTSU and TTU
Tennessee Chamber of Commerce
Tennessee Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
Tennessee County Services Association
Tennessee Dental Association
Tennessee Department of Children's Services
Tennessee Department of Education
Tennessee Department of Health
Tennessee Department of Human Services
Tennessee Department of Labor Division of Adult Education
Tennessee Education Association
Tennessee Library and Archives
Tennessee Hospital Association
Tennessee Library Association
Tennessee Municipal League
Tennessee Parent/Teachers Association
Tennessee Primary Care Association
Trauger, Ney & Tuke Attorneys at Law
United Way
University of Tennessee Extension Services



Reverie on Art (and Volunteerism)

Ah, friends, the Bookworm has had an extraordinary fall adventure, a literal tête-à-tête with the art world from Monet's textured oils at the Musée Marmottan on the edge of Paris to the impish realism of works by our own Imagination Library volunteers at the GBBF Fall Workshop.

Positioned on the Workshop schedule between the rushing river of non-profit business and investment advice from financial expert Becky Harrell and the vast ocean of grant-writing guidance of Dr. Bernard Turner, Susannah Fotopolous divided workshop attendees into groups to discuss and pursue Recruiting, Engaging, and Retaining a Dynamic Volunteer Base. What a creative one she is! Equipped with magic markers and imaginative discussion, each group tackled the first exercise with gusto, collaborating on its own poster-sized drawing of The Perfect Volunteer. Oh, our artist teams were clever, too, sketching roller skates and big hearts and thinking caps, empowering the iconic volunteers with every desirable trait for success!

Not only did the energetic Ms. Fotopolous use art to get our creative juices flowing to define the characteristics of a fundamental not-for-profit need (good volunteers!), but if you think about it—and I know you all will, as you are all readers, writers, and thinkers—art itself is the perfect metaphor for an ever-vivid volunteer organization.

Consider a tableau—one of Claude Monet's Water Lilies series, for example. Remarkable how the creator of Impressionism could so gloriously epitomize nature's beauty in France at the turn of the 20th century—AND the very precepts of a community-run childhood literacy organization in Tennessee nearly 100 years after his death!

Like the Imagination Library, each painting in the Water Lilies series has a deep and lush background—an underlayer, if you will, that anchors the overall image. At first glance, the paintings may even seem to be "mostly" one color. Viewed from very close, it may also seem that the brushstrokes are disjointed (did this man's cataracts indirectly cause one of the most audacious and transformative painting styles in the history of art?)—a rambling mass of repeated markings in random shades on an enormous, wall-sized oeuvre. How could he possibly hope to accomplish a coherent image of separate brushstrokes on so large a canvas?

As it turns out, of course, Claude Monet was no fool, and even after cataract surgery (in 1923 no less!) he continued to paint in the same style, understanding and cherishing each brushstroke in conveying the invaluable role of light sources shining on a given setting in different seasons and at different times of day.

The beauty of the Water Lilies, like the beauty of Tennessee's statewide Imagination Library, is literally stunning when viewed from a vantage point where the purpose and importance of each brushstroke come together as a remarkable, vision-changing whole.

I encourage you all to linger in the gallery for a moment—you deep, lush foundation colors, you distinctive highlights, you splashes of vibrant hues, and bold repeated brushstrokes—and contemplate the work of art you are all creating together, expressing your love of reading and enriching the lives of your fellow citizens. Like Monet's Water Lilies series, a subject that held the artist's loving focus for the last 27 years of his life, the beauty of our community-run Imagination Library is revealed under numerous light sources in different seasons, all important and all worthy of contemplation and admiration.

The Bookworm



From the Desk of Lady A. Bird*

We all know that children and their families are the heart of the Imagination Library. The quality of the books themselves, and of the experiences that families are having as the books arrive each and every month, is extremely high. That being said, I would like to share some statistics that also quantify the impact your efforts are having as we reach more and more children each month.

- In January 2007, over 157,000 children will receive a free book in their mailboxes. This represents almost 42 percent of Tennessee's 375,000 children under age five.
- IL graduates now exceed 34,000, which means that our statewide program has served nearly 192,000 children since the creation of the Governor's Books from Birth Foundation in 2004.
- All 95 Tennessee counties now offer the program, with Scott County at the highest enrollment mark of 98 percent, and Morgan County the second highest at 89 percent, of their eligible populations.
- Seventy counties (or 74 percent of Tennessee's 95 counties) have enrolled 40 percent or more of their children under age five, regardless of their kick-off dates.
- Only six counties have enrolled less than 30 percent of their

children, and a majority of these counties began their programs within the last year.

These are incredible numbers that represent the tireless efforts of the hundreds of volunteers who are committed to this program across our state. And, if the saying is true that "imitation is the greatest form of flattery," then our state has a lot to crow about.

We have had such a surge of interest from other states in Tennessee's statewide IL model that in 2007, Governor Phil Bredesen and Dolly Parton plan to invite all the other states' governors to attend a Symposium in order to learn how to successfully implement their own statewide programs.

We are proud that our state has achieved the first statewide Imagination Library and that individual counties are posting such huge success stories – most especially because it moves Tennessee ever closer to our overall mission of ensuring our children are reading at grade level by the end of their third grade year.

Thank you for all you are doing to help us reach this incredibly important goal.

Sincerely,
Lady A. Bird*
President
Governor's Books from Birth Foundation

*Yes, this is really my new name as I married a Bird on October 7th, 2006.



Dollywood Digest

Dear Friends,

Congratulations to everyone at the Governor's Books from Birth Foundation for hosting another wonderful Fall Workshop. The old adage is true: Time flies when you are having fun. I hope all of you have had as much fun as we have had over the last year.

Our ever-growing numbers are generating lots of new possibilities for the Imagination Library, so let me share our plans with you.

In January, we will begin to pilot a new online registration system. This will be an optional tool – so don't worry, it's not a "have to." The system will allow a family to fill out an online registration form that will be sent to the appropriate contact in the designated community. You will then have an opportunity to allow that registration to be entered into your database. The good news is that you will not have to retype the entry; simply click and let the magic happen.

If all goes well, we should soon be in a position to offer the feature to everyone at the beginning of the second quarter in 2007.

Another challenge has been oversized books. Many of the Library's favorites are large books that will not fit into a standard mailbox. While

the easy decision is to simply remove them from the Imagination Library, I think we all would agree that such a decision compromises the quality of the Library. Thankfully, our volume (approximately 3.2 million books mailed nationwide in 2006) will allow us to reformat these larger books into a size that fits into a standard mailbox, but retains the integrity of the original editions.

Also in 2007, we will offer a new "Reading Tips for Infants" to be included in the book, *Look Look*, bringing us to four titles which now contain age-appropriate reading tips printed inside the body of the book.

In terms of growth, I am delighted to announce that the Imagination Library now provides books to over 320,000 children in 600 communities in 43 states, and the end of 2006 brings the launch of the Imagination Library in Canada. Isn't it great to be able to say Tennessee was the first?! Go us!!

I conclude with a note of optimism. The proposed increase in mailing costs (described on page one of this newsletter) is cause for concern. Nevertheless, I remain hopeful that the many actions we are taking will be successful in modifying the impact of these proposals.

Thanks again for all you do. Stay tuned – there is much more to follow.

David Dotson
Executive Director
The Dollywood Foundation
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Imagination Library Week in Tennessee – 2006 a Great Success!

Tennessee's first Imagination Library Week was a huge success for county programs – almost 11,000 children were registered in the month around Imagination Library Week, thanks to the efforts of county sponsoring organizations as well as volunteers with BellSouth Pioneers Life Members and Delta Kappa Gamma Society. Here are just a few of the fabulous Imagination Library Week events held in September 2006.



State

Governor Phil Bredesen signed a proclamation permanently designating the third week in September as Imagination Library Week in Tennessee. Pre-schoolers from Nashville's Eastwood Christian Children's Center helped the Governor put pen to paper.

Blount County

To inform their readers about Imagination Library Week, the *Maryville Daily Times* printed this photo of Shay McDonell, only 20 hours old, having her first Imagination Library book read to her by her parents, Greg and Chrissy, at Blount Memorial Hospital. Adorable! (photo credit: Joy Kimbrough & *Maryville Daily Times*)



Campbell County

The sorority known as Beta Phi Chapter adopted the Campbell County Imagination Library as a project this year. In addition to donating \$500, the gals held a registration drive at their local Dollar General during IL Week. Also, three teens working on their 2006 FCCLA Outstanding Teens project through Family Career and Community Leaders of America visited two local daycares to sign up children and read Imagination Library books.

Davidson, Williamson, Sumner Counties

Janet Ivey of PBS' *Janet's Planet* volunteered her very recognizable space-woman theatrics – and rocket car – to read to children on behalf of Books from Birth of Middle Tennessee at public libraries in all three counties. Delta Kappa Gamma Society was a strong partner to BFBMT for increasing registrations in the entire tri-county area.

Hamblen County

Tish Jones of HC*EXCELL, Hamblen County's IL sponsoring organization, made a gift of returned books and bookend sets to all three of the county's Special Education Pre-K classrooms as part of Imagination Library Week. There are currently 14,000 children attending 138 Special Ed Pre-K classes throughout Tennessee.

Knox County

Knox County Imagination Library hosted a *Little Engine That Could* puppet show and a program on Ben Franklin's life and experiments that explained how to improve reading habits. The week concluded with the "Grand Finale Strollerthon" at Lakeshore Park, with proceeds from a \$5 entry fee benefiting the county IL. Event sponsors included Babies R Us, Bruegger's, Comcast and the *Knoxville News-Sentinel*, who helped provide stroller-walkers with a post-race party, race prizes and drawings.

Lewis County

The library at Lewis County Elementary School hosted "Imagination Library Night," where high school students from the health science classes added excitement to the evening by reading and acting out characters from select Imagination Library books.



Lincoln County

Lincoln County started a new annual Imagination Library Week tradition – the Celebrity Basketball Challenge, a healthy competition between Fayetteville City Schools and Lincoln County Schools, as well as Fayetteville Public Utilities and Lincoln Healthcare Systems. A \$5 admission fee and concession sales brought in \$2,100 for the IL of Lincoln County, but the greatest success was the seed planted for next year's Imagination Library Week – the teams are already clamoring to be included again!

Loudon County

Loudon County held a READ-IN at area daycare centers and preschools, with celebrity readers sharing Imagination Library stories, including Claiborne Gayden of the Governor's Books from Birth Foundation. They also hosted Dining for Books Day, where Gerald's Smokehouse offered ten percent of all lunch proceeds to benefit Loudon County's IL. In addition to a \$500 donation, Tellico Village Kiwanis Club also placed collection jars at area businesses during IL Week.



Madison County

Governor Phil Bredesen read to children from the Wee Care Pre-School and the Le Bonheur Early Intervention and Development Program, in Rotary Park as part of Jackson-Madison County's Imagination Library Week. The Old Hickory Rotary Club also hosted a miniature golf fundraising tournament.



McNairy County

McNairy County Books from Birth hosted the 2006 Books for Kids Festival at Selmer City Park, featuring train rides, games, clowns, puppets, balloons, and reading circles with Mother Goose, Clifford the Dog and the Cat in the Hat. Area singers and musicians performed, and Miss

Tennessee Teen USA was on hand to visit with children. A \$5 admission fee benefited the Imagination Library.

Meigs County

The *Athens Daily Post-Athenian* featured four teens working toward membership in the Governor's League of Extraordinary Teens, who kicked off IL Week for the county by starting to gather their registrations and fundraising dollars in order to earn this honorable achievement.



Putnam County

In a nod to the Little Engine, Putnam County Library set up an elaborate model train display to encourage parents of eligible children to visit the public library and sign up for the Imagination Library.

Scott County

Scott County Imagination Library and Big Brothers Big Sisters co-hosted the Broaden Your World by Reading Carnival, sponsored by the Oneida Kiwanis Club. The event provided fun and games for children of all ages, and encouraged parents to sign up their children for the IL.

Shelby County

About 300 free books were distributed to children along a parade route of the Orange Mound Parade, where Mayor AC Wharton rode on a float to promote Shelby County Books from Birth.

Washington, Unicoi, Carter Counties

Volunteers with Delta Kappa Gamma Society organized and staffed registration tables for parents and children outside several Dollar General locations in this three-county area.

Wayne County

The Cat in the Hat made appearances at all three Wayne County libraries to entertain children and encourage parents to enroll their children in the Imagination Library. Delta Kappa Gamma Society volunteers assisted parents with enrollment forms at each library site.

Weakley County

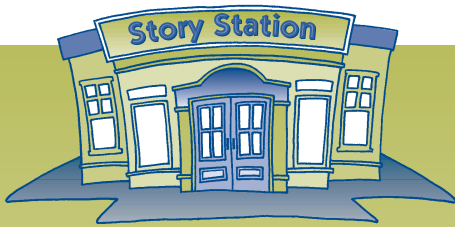
Children currently enrolled in the Imagination Library, new enrollees and veterans of the Weakley County Reading Railroad enjoyed cakes, cookies, ice cream and inflatable jump houses at Whistle Stop Sunday at the Martin Recreational Complex.

West Tennessee

As part of IL Week, the BellSouth Pioneers Life Members presented \$100 donations – raised entirely through sales of their original cookbooks – to 12 West Tennessee counties in need of funding support.

Wilson County

Lebanon, Mt. Juliet, Watertown and Wilson County mayors read to children after issuing a public proclamation for September as Imagination Library Month. Wilson Books from Birth also hosted Reading in the Grove where seven community representatives read to children at different locations in Fiddler's Grove. □



Once upon a time...

There was a careful planner named Frieda Foresight. Frieda loved planning things ahead of time. Her walls were filled with calendars and event schedules and celebration weeks! Frieda never missed a friend's birthday or found herself scrambling at the last minute to bake brownies for an office party. Here are some of Frieda's notes for 2007 that you may find useful for fundraising and registration events or media coverage!

January

January 8: World Literary Day

February

February 12-18: Random Acts of Kindness Week

March

March 1: World Book Day
 March 2: National Education Association's Read Across America Day, (Dr. Seuss' birthday)

April

April 1: April Fool's Day
 April 2: International Children's Book Day (Hans Christian Andersen's birthday)
 April 15-21: National Library Week and National Volunteer Week
 April 21-28: Newspapers in Education "Reading Week"
 April 20-22: National Youth Service Days
 April 22-28: Week of the Young Child

May

May 5: National Join Hands Day
 May 8: National Teacher Day

June

Friday, June 1: International Children's Day (and the day Tennessee became a state in 1792!)
 June 6: Child Health Day

July

July is National Hot Dog Month
 July 15: National Ice Cream Day

August

August 3: National Watermelon Day

September

September 6: Read A Book Day
 September 8: International Literacy Day
 September 16-22: Imagination Library Week in Tn.

October

October 5: World Teachers' Day
 October 5-7: National Storytelling Festival in Jonesborough, TN
 October 14-20: Teen Read Week
 October 16: School Librarians' Day
 October 27: Make a Difference Day

November

November 1: National Family Literacy Day
 November 12-18: Children's Book Week and American Education Week
 November 17 (always the Saturday before Thanksgiving): National Family Volunteer Day, kicking off National Family Week
 November 20: Children's Day

December

December 4: National Cookie Day

...and for those of you with really big daytimers like Frieda: 2003 – 2012 is actually the United Nations' Literacy Decade, spearheaded by UNESCO with "Literacy as Freedom" as the theme.

...Frieda recommends googling each of these events online for information and inspiration to help your communities read happily ever after!

The End

Teen Spotlight



Governor Phil Bredesen and the Governor's Books from Birth Foundation hereby commend the following members of the League of Extraordinary Teens for their invaluable logistical and financial contributions to the success of Tennessee's Imagination Library:

Brooke Erin Adams - Franklin Co.
Aaron B. Aguirre - Rutherford Co.
Tye Anderson - Meigs Co.
Amanda Ashburn - Hamilton Co.
Jessica Blagburn - Benton Co.
Kari Brooks - Knox Co.
Alexandra Marie Alina Clifton - Knox Co.
Courtney Combs - Meigs Co.
Ashley Cox - Campbell Co.
Crystal Craig - Benton Co.
Megan Crisp - Meigs Co.
Cassie Crutchfield - Campbell Co.
Freda Cunningham - Fayette County
Grace A. Dainwood - Rutherford Co.
Diane Daugherty - Campbell Co.
Trey Daugherty - Morgan Co.
Amber Davidson - Hamblen Co.
Jill Davis - Meigs Co.
Amanda DeMary - Hamilton Co.
T.J. Fletcher - Coffee Co.
Lisa Gage - Hamilton Co.
Lauren Grandey - Warren Co.

Chesnea Gray - Hamblen Co.
Emily Green - Robertson Co.
Jami Lee Griffith - Benton Co.
Jasmin Hayes - Benton Co.
Jessica Hamilton - Hamilton Co.
Tyler Hamilton - Hamblen Co.
Rachael Hawkins - Knox Co.
Courtney Holder - Campbell Co.
Kristen Holder - Campbell Co.
Lucas S. Hunt - Lawrence Co.
Megan Hurst - Knox Co.
Kirstie Jennings - Meigs Co.
Hollie Johnson - Campbell Co.
Lee Ann Johnson - Campbell Co.
Emily Keefer - Knox Co.
Amanda Keifer - Putnam Co.
Charles Kidd - Lincoln Co.
Abby Kietzman - Hamilton Co.
Danielle Larson - Hamilton Co.
Kinsey Lester - Rutherford Co.
Ronda Lowrance - Hamilton Co.
Carisa Luck - Hamilton Co.
Rebecca Mashburn - Hamilton Co.
Nazumi Matsumoto - Hamblen Co.
Kim May - Hamilton Co.
Cierra McKendrick - Franklin Co.
Brooke Melhorn - Meigs Co.
Brittany Miller - Campbell Co.
Rebecca Mincey - Hamilton Co.
Christen Moseley - Knox County
Julie Marie Murrell - Knox Co.
Stephanie Ann Nemeth - Knox Co.
Carolyn Nguyen - Rutherford Co.

Andrew Nixon - Putnam Co.
Rachel O'Kain - Knox Co.
Heather O'Malley - Hamilton Co.
Anna Parker - Hamblen Co.
Hima Patel - Hamilton Co.
Bea Patrick - Lincoln Co.
Tessa Peel - Lincoln Co.
Ashley Pitts - Lincoln Co.
Courtney Ramsey - Polk Co.
Jason Robertson - Wilson Co.
Sarah Rogers - Knox Co.
Elizabeth Rutherford - Campbell Co.
Mathew Samprit - Polk Co.
Savannah Simpson - Washington Co.
LaShea Singletary - Hamilton Co.
Sara Jane Smith - Morgan Co.
Tabitha Renee Smith - Morgan Co.
Cassie Sons - Franklin Co.
Josh Stidham - Knox Co.
Amber Sutton - Campbell Co.
Jasmine Tharpe - Benton Co.
Heather Tucker - Polk Co.
Whitney Tucker - Polk Co.
Heather Vandiver - Rutherford Co.
Ashton Vincent - Hamilton Co.
Courtney Wagner - Hamblen Co.
Anna M. Walker - Hamilton Co.
Mariah Watson - Knox Co.
Carrie Weems - Hamblen Co.
Kaitlyn West - Rutherford Co.
Jessica White - Hamilton Co.
Megan Whiting - Hamilton Co.
Starr Womble - Polk Co.

Another statewide youth organization is on board to participate in the Governor's League of Extraordinary Teens! **Tennessee's Beta Club**, with between 3,000 and 4,000 members, recently voted to take on the Imagination Library as its statewide project. These members are enthusiastic, ambitious teens who can be a ready source of fundraising and enrollment volunteerism for local Imagination Libraries. Contact information for county sponsoring organizations will soon be provided to local Beta Club sponsors – if you hear from Beta Club members, be sure to engage them in your county's Imagination Library!

Learn more about the League of Extraordinary Teens by visiting our Web page at www.GovernorsFoundation.org/teens.

County Corner

Happy Birthday!

October Birthdays

Anderson - Houston
Bledsoe - McMinn
Blount - Rhea
Dyer - Roane

November Birthdays

Cannon - Madison
Campbell - Monroe
Claiborne - Morgan
Dyer - Pickett
Fayette - Union
Loudon - Weakley
Macon - Williamson

December Birthdays

Dickson - Jackson
Fentress - Montgomery
Hamblen - Rutherford
Hardeman - Sevier

January Birthdays

Cheatham - Meigs
Chester - Overton
Cocke - Polk
Coffee - Robertson
Greene - Scott
Knox - VanBuren
Lauderdale

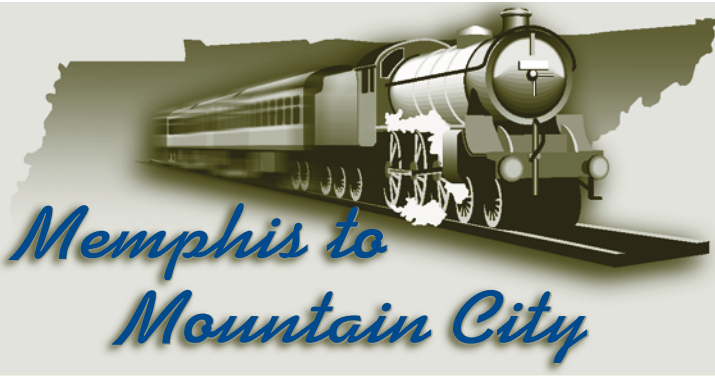
February Birthdays

Giles - Lake
Grainger - Marion
Grundy - McNairy
Henderson - Moore
Henry - White
Humphreys

If we left anyone off this list, we might not have your correct birth date on file! Please be sure to call us at (615) 253-3600 and fill us in so we can include you in the next birthday list!



▲ Cooper Grant Pulliam of Wilson County spends time with his favorite Imagination Library book, *The Little Engine That Could*.



Crockett County

Around 100 people sampled international cuisine at the first annual "East Meets West" fundraising dinner for Crockett County's Imagination Library. The menu included exotic dishes from Lebanon and Italy, and guests were treated to candlelight and white tablecloths, as well as serenades from classical harp, guitar and piano musicians.

Gibson County

Representatives from every school district in Gibson County held a meeting to launch local participation in the Governor's League of Extraordinary Teens. The group brainstormed ideas to get information to high school students who might be interested in the League, including involving school clubs, community service groups, church youth groups or individual teens. In addition to the benefits of League membership offered by the GBBF, local teens would be given opportunities to speak to civic clubs and other organizations to raise funds for the Gibson County IL.

Hamblen County

Tish Jones of HC*EXCELL produced a "Proud Sponsor" Imagination Library cling-on window decal for financial supporters to display at their places of business. During IL Week, the *Morristown Citizen-Tribune* ran a photo of Jones presenting a decal as a thank-you to Ruby Glasscock of Howmet, who recently gave a \$10,000 contribution to Hamblen County's Imagination Library.

Hardin County

Hardin County marked its first birthday by becoming the grateful beneficiary of the sixth annual Taste of Hardin County charity event. Students, teachers, community leaders and businesses participated as both cooks and patrons. Attendees gave \$5 to come and sample a delicious variety of foods, provided in-kind by their friends and neighbors. The Hardin County Imagination Library received a \$4,300 contribution, raised from the event.

Madison County

As part of the annual "Holiday on the Square," Madison County businesses and organizations decorated trees to display on the courthouse square in downtown Jackson for a \$25 entrance fee, with all proceeds benefiting the Jackson-Madison County Imagination Library. The friendly competition where trees are judged on originality, creativity and style concluded with an awards ceremony and block party.

Morgan County

Morgan County mobilized 250 teens to get online and write the Postal Rate Commission (PRC) in opposition to proposed postal rate increases that could

nearly triple the cost of postage on IL books. The teens did their homework – before writing the PRC, they had interviewed family and friends to find a personal connection to someone who actually receives the books.



Scott County

The Scott County Imagination Library is maintaining a good relationship with local postal workers who carefully deliver IL books to children. They recently presented Certificates of Appreciation to all local postmasters who help Scott County's program by saving the returned books every month for a Kiwanis Club volunteer, who helps find their rightful homes.

Sumner County

Gallatin High School had an Imagination Library float for their Oct. 13 homecoming parade, constructed and sponsored by their FCCLA students who are working on membership in the League of Extraordinary Teens.

Williamson County

The outstanding volunteers that are the BellSouth Pioneers Life Members have taken on the responsibility of serving as postal liaisons for seven of the nine post offices in Williamson County, retrieving returned books and other administrative duties on behalf of Books from Birth of Middle Tennessee.



Wilson County

The first birthday of Wilson Books from Birth was celebrated on Aug. 3 on the county courthouse steps, where all three cities in the county, plus the county mayor, spoke about the program and read to children. Wilson County also tapped into several new opportunities for registering children, including a recent

Obstetrics Open House at University Medical Center, Gladefest in Gladeville, and the Lebanon Special School District's Pre-K Family Night.

State

The Governor's Books from Birth Foundation used donated funds from its statewide corporate sponsors to purchase full sets of Imagination Library books for all 672 pre-K classrooms in Tennessee – 227 of which were newly added to the Voluntary Pre-K for All program by Governor Bredesen this year. 325 Head Start classrooms in 23 counties already have full sets of Imagination Library books and the GBBF provided free book sets to the remaining 593 Head Start classrooms this fall.

GBBF

The Governor's Books from Birth Foundation was one of three finalists this year for the Center for Non-Profit Management's Excellence in Communications Award, sponsored by the *Nashville Business Journal*.

The GBBF was also the beneficiary of a concert starring Wayne Nelson and the Little River Band and various other performers, hosted by the Tennessee chapter of the National Staff Development Council (NSDC) during the NSDC's annual national conference at Opryland Hotel. Approximately \$17,000 was raised for the Foundation through a \$27 admission fee (the total cost of providing books to one enrolled child for a year) paid by each concert attendee to enjoy the "Sounds of the Season." □

<p>Contact Us Governor's Books from Birth Foundation 710 James Robertson Parkway 11th Floor • Nashville, TN 37243 President: Lady (Jackson) Bird</p>	<p>Vice President: Claiborne Gayden Program Director: Trish (Moalla) Crist Communications Director: Mary Beth Davis Main office number: 615.253.3600 or toll-free at 1-866-368-6371</p>	<p>Toll-free Number for registration information: 1-877-99-BOOKS Fax Number: 615.253.1420 www.GovernorsFoundation.org Tell us what you think!</p>
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First Lady Dedicates State Christmas Tree to Tennessee's Imagination Library

Tennessee's statewide Imagination Library was the decorative focal point of a beautiful ten-foot Fraser fir tree adorning the State Capitol's Rotunda in Nashville. First Lady Andrea Conte decided on the theme for the Capitol's interior Christmas tree – promoting awareness and honoring Imagination Library programs in all 95 counties.

"Tennessee children who are already enrolled in the Imagination Library absolutely love their books and can't wait for them to come in the mail," said Andrea Conte, Tennessee's First Lady. "I hope that, by dedicating one of the State's Christmas trees to the Imagination Library this year, even more families were made aware of this wonderful program, and took the steps to register their children."

Ninety-five glass ornaments representing every county's Imagination Library adorned the tree, identifying each county's sponsoring organization for the program, and the total population under age 5 in the county. Other features of the tree included miniature books hanging in 95 hand-woven baskets; gold-printed red sashes bearing the classic line from *The Little Engine That Could*, "I think I can, I think I can...", with three inspiring endings (dream, learn, grow); and a model electric train circling the bottom of the tree, donated by Wal-Mart, a statewide sponsor of the Governor's Books from Birth Foundation. □



Pictured from left to right are: Trish Crist, GBBF Program Director; Byron Trauger, GBBF Board Chairman; Lady A. Bird, GBBF President; Governor Bredesen; the Imagination Library-themed Christmas tree; Laura Baum, GBBF Administrative Assistant; Claiborne Gayden, GBBF Vice-President; Mary Beth Davis, GBBF Communications Director.