



## Dolly Parton Imagination Library - Early Literacy Initiative

The Virgin Islands Children's Museum Dolly Parton's Imagination Library initiative is a book gifting program that mails high-quality books to children from birth until they begin school, at no cost to the recipients.

The program has been in existence nationally since 1995, and has received numerous awards, including the Good Housekeeping Seal of Approval, the Best Practices award from the Library of Congress Literacy Awards and recognition in Reading Psychology. Over 40 research studies have demonstrated positive outcomes including improved attitudes towards and skills in reading, richer home literacy environments, and positive views of the program regardless of participant demographics.

The Virgin Islands Children's Museum is proud to administer this impactful program in the USVI. Currently, we serve over 700 local children through this initiative, and the program continues to grow exponentially.

At this time, the rapid growth of the Dolly Parton Imagination Library (DPIL) in the USVI has led to concerns over the ability to fund it. The books are provided through the DPIL at a very reasonable cost. However, the partners who administer the program, such as the Virgin Islands Children's Museum are still responsible for covering a portion of the costs. Since January 2019, we have seen our costs for the books themselves increase nearly 225%, and we have needed to dedicate increased staff time to program administration as well.

Given the expectation and our absolute desire that this program continue to grow, we are reaching out to community donors for support. The Virgin Islands Children's Museum is proud to administer Dolly Parton's Imagination Library in the territory and we hope you will help us strive to inspire, educate and support young Virgin Islanders with a charitable contribution.