



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library Launches in Collier County

Naples, FL – July 17, 2019 – The United Way of Collier County (UWCC) is launching a Dolly Parton's Imagination Library in Collier County. Dolly Parton's Imagination Library is an early childhood book gifting program, that mails free, high-quality, age-appropriate books to children from birth until age five, no matter their family's income.

The Golden Gate City (34116 zip code) community has been selected as the pilot neighborhood for the program's launch. The UWCC has partnered with Grace Place for Children and Families and the Golden Gate Library, part of the Collier County Public Library system, as founding partners for the program.

"It is an honor to bring such an amazing program to Collier County," said Spencer Smith, Director of Programs for the United Way of Collier County. "We are working hard to ensure a successful launch in Golden Gate, with plans already in motion to bring the gift of reading to the rest of Collier County residents."

A kickoff registration event will be held at Grace Place for Children and Families (located at 4300 21st Avenue SW, Naples, FL 34116) on August 3, 2019, from 10 am to noon. The event is free and open to the public and will feature guest readers, activities, and a musical performance by country music artist, and Dolly Parton protégé, Trey Taylor. Children ages zero to five from the 34116 zip code will have the opportunity to register at the event.

Community partners also participating in the event include Blue Zones Project, Collier County Sheriff's Office, Greater Naples Fire Rescue District, Humane Society of Naples, Naples Botanical Gardens, and Nicklaus Children's Hospital.

For more information on how to register, or how to donate to the program, visit uwcollier.org.

About United Way of Collier County

United Way of Collier County invests in and works to create a community where all individuals and families have the opportunity to thrive. We invest financially and educationally to support the asset limited hardworking paycheck to paycheck population in Collier County. A volunteer-driven organization, we connect volunteers in the community and deliver information and referral services. We bring the collective power of people and organizations together partnering with hundreds of volunteers

and local agencies. For more information please call United Way of Collier County at (239) 261-7112 or visit uwcollier.org.

About Grace Place for Children and Families

Grace Place for Children and Families is a nonprofit education center committed to putting faith into action, providing pathways out of poverty by educating children and families. Working with entire families, Grace Place currently enrolls over 850 individuals in its three educational programs. Our nationally recognized Bright Beginnings family literacy program serves preschool children and their parents. School Age programs provide afterschool and college access programming to youth. Grace Place's Adult Education program offers English language, literacy, computer literacy, and citizenship courses. Helping families throughout Collier County combat food insecurity, the Grace Place Food Pantry serves over 220 families each week. Grace Place works extensively with community partners to provide medical and mental health screenings, referrals for other services, and financial literacy classes to the Golden Gate community. Grace Place offers many volunteer opportunities in its literacy programs, mentoring, adult education, and other areas. For more information on Grace Place and its programs, visit graceplacenaples.org to learn more.

About Collier County Public Library

The Collier County Public Library (CCPL), consists of 10 locations, including three regional locations, and seven branches spread throughout Collier County. All Collier County residents and property owners may receive a free library card providing access to all library services, including best value print and electronic resources. We provide diverse programming and events for all ages and encourage the entire family to become library cardholders. All CCPL locations offer public computers with Internet access, wireless printing, photocopying, free Wi-Fi, free library apps for homework help, reading, music and foreign language and 24/7 drop boxes for book and video returns. CCPL's mission is to provide educational environments, facilitate community engagement, and cultivate life-long learning. For more information, visit collierlibrary.org.

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