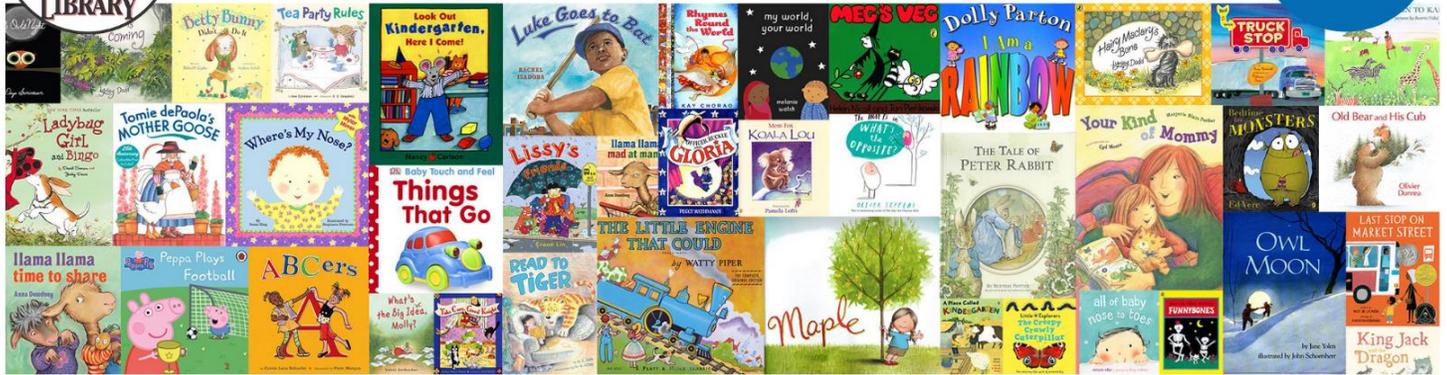


# Sullivan County Imagination Library Newsletter



"A partnership of the Governor's Early Literacy Foundation, the Dollywood Foundation, and the Sullivan County Imagination Library"

## What a Difference a Million Makes!



Sullivan County Imagination Library (SCIL) reached an amazing milestone of sending one million books to children over our 17 years! Eli Nekuri was the lucky

recipient of our millionth book. Sullivan County Imagination Library held a drive-by parade at Eli's house and presented him with the millionth book, *The Little Engine That Could* as well as *How Much is a Million* signed by author David Schwartz. We couldn't have done this without the generous support of our sponsors like you.

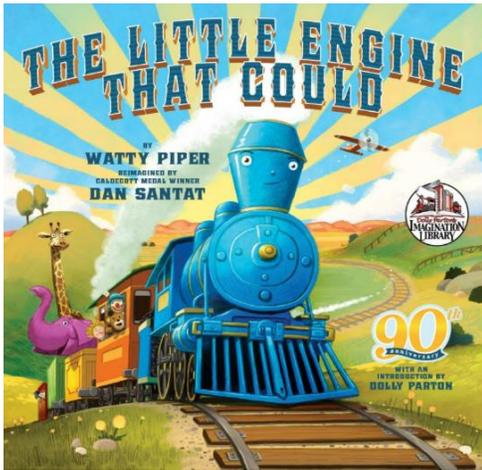
**Did you know?** If you stacked all the books SCIL has sent it would be higher than Mt. Mitchell, the highest peak in the eastern US, which is 6,684 feet. The newsletter banner above shows some of the 2021 Blue Ribbon book selections that are being sent this year.



Parents and children love to share with us how their slice of a million Imagination Library books make a difference in their lives.

- "The book series has benefited my son tremendously in his interest to read and develop vocabulary at a very young age. He started reading books by himself when he turned 4." Jessie Nekuri, mother to millionth book recipient.
- "It was exciting to receive a book every month. Overall, the books helped me read better and encouraged me to learn." Ian, 2012 graduate.
- "It was nice to get a book in the mail. The books helped me learn better in school." Ella, 2015 graduate.
- "Our children have been enrolled in the program since birth. They get so excited when a new book comes in the mail and want to read it immediately! We are especially grateful for the important messages of kindness, inclusion, and life skills that these books share." Wesley and Chrissy Idlette

# The Little Engine That Could



The first book every child receives from SCIL is "The Little Engine That Could." Like "The Little Engine That Could," nothing could stop SCIL from delivering books every month during a year like no other. Although we were unable to hold in-person fundraiser or registration events, we kept the engine on the tracks and found creative solutions like holding a No-Bunco fundraising drive and partnering with all of the Tri-Cities hospitals to register babies at birth to receive Imagination Library books.

Mark your calendars for Saturday, October 16th to attend our Bunco and Brushstrokes combined fundraiser at the Bristol Motor Speedway Bristol Club room (our first in-person fundraiser in two years!).

2:00 pm: Fast-paced Bunco dice game with door prizes

4:00 pm: Catered Barberitos fajita dinner and silent auction.

5:30 pm: Brushstrokes, a guided painting event where you choose from one of three fabulous canvas paintings that you recreate.

Both Bunco and Brushstrokes include dinner. You can do one or both activities. Hope you will join us for a fantastic day of fun activities, all while raising money for Imagination Library books for Sullivan County children.

For more information go to: [www.scimaginationlibrary.org](http://www.scimaginationlibrary.org)

Tickets are available at: [bunco-brushstrokes-2021.eventbrite.com](https://bunco-brushstrokes-2021.eventbrite.com)



**Did you know?** Every child in Sullivan County from birth until they turn age 5 is eligible to receive a book each month regardless of race, religion, sex, ethnicity, or family income. No eligible child is ever turned away from Sullivan County Imagination Library.

# Donors Fuel Our Engine

Our donors make all of this possible. Here are some reasons other donors have told us why they choose to give to SCIL.

Joy and Wesley Eastridge told us, "We love supporting Sullivan County Imagination Library! We feel like giving children books helps them to learn to read, to love learning, and to have opportunities for good family time. The book selection is carefully thought out and helps to empower children. The books help children have a vision of the wider world beyond the confines of their own place and time. When children grow up feeling the love and support of the community around them through programs like the Imagination Library, we all benefit. The Imagination Library is a great way to help make the world a better place!"

"I give to encourage kids to read early and often. I hope this early reading will foster a life-long love of books as it has done for me." Anne

"I give \$12 each month to make a difference in lives of 12 children." Amy

"I give to the Sullivan County Imagination Library to encourage every young child to love books." Terry



If you have already donated this year, we thank you, and for our monthly donors, a special note of appreciation. Your donations are greatly appreciated by the children of our communities.

If you have not yet donated, please consider making a donation in the enclosed envelope, using the QR code below, or going to our website to make a secure online donation. For as little as \$12/month, you can become a Monthly Book Sponsor, sponsoring 12 children to receive a book every month for a year. Monthly donations help us cover the monthly invoice SCIL receives for the 6300 books printed and mailed each month.

When making a donation using the QR code or going to our website, consider making your donation go even further by having it deducted from your bank account rather than charging it to your credit card to eliminate the credit card charges SCIL has to pay.



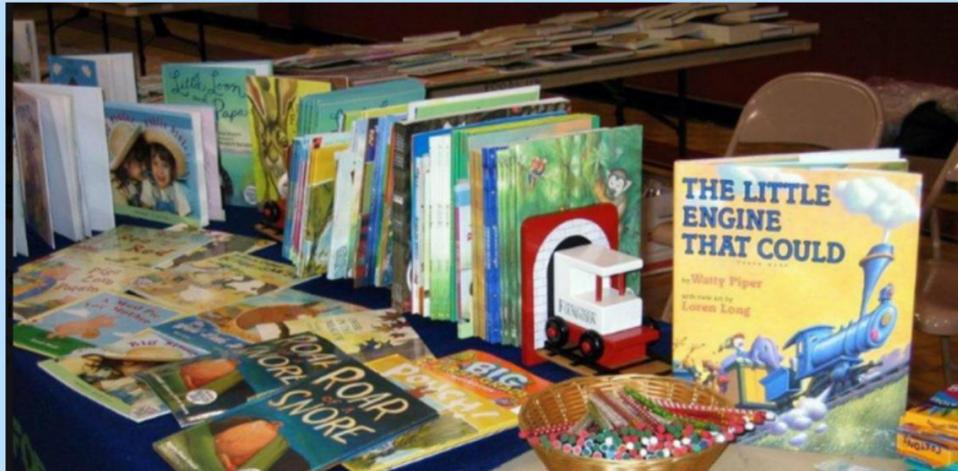
Thank you to our major donors!



Massengill-DeFriece  
Foundation, Inc.



**Did you know?** 95% of all of our income goes directly to pay for books and mailing.



## FUN FACTS



Imagination Library affiliates exist in 5 countries and all 50 states. All 95 counties in Tennessee have an affiliate.



159,623,797 books have been gifted by all Imagination Library affiliates, and 1,017,370 by the Sullivan County affiliate



About 160 new children in Sullivan County are registered each month by local hospitals, online registration, and registration events



Over 1500 children graduated from Sullivan County Imagination Library in 2020 better prepared for kindergarten



About 6300 books are mailed to children in Sullivan County each month, including the cities of Kingsport, Bristol, Piney Flats, Blountville, and Bluff City.



Sullivan County Imagination Library had 270 individual and organization donors in 2020

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Our Website: [scimaginationlibrary.org](http://scimaginationlibrary.org)

