

DECEMBER 2020

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9,420 total books

1000 children served

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Hello Shire Kids Families:

In just a year and a half, Shire Kids has provided thousands of free books to over 1,000 children in Bennington County and the town of Danby through Dolly Parton's Imagination Library. In addition to free books, our all-volunteer board has planned community programs to connect local families, and look forward to implementing them when physical distancing requirements allow.

What do you love most about the Imagination Library? For my sons, it was always opening the mailbox to see their new book inside. For me, I loved the unexpected books that my children were drawn to. For example, my younger son was mesmerized by *Coat of Many Colors*, and my older son loved *Violet the Pilot*.

Thank you to everyone who replied to our question in the last newsletter regarding new programming. Imagination Library Storytime and Book Clubs are in the works! In the meantime, we'll start an occasional aggregator email in January (about twice a month) which will include fun children's events happening in and around Bennington County (and online!) - keep an eye out for an opt-in email to receive that list!

Last, thank you for participating in this exciting local literacy program. Fulfilling Shire Kids mission would not be possible without your enthusiastic embrace of the Imagination Library and reading to your children at home. We're also grateful to our enrollment partners who have connected with so many families, and our supporters and contributors, without whom the Imagination Library books would not be possible. Though the Imagination Library is free to the families enrolled, Shire Kids is responsible for paying for the production and mailing of the books.

Best wishes for a safe, happy holiday season, and for your continued health and well-being,

The Shire Kids Board of Directors