



United Way of Southwest Minnesota's Imagination Library Sponsorship



United Way of Southwest Minnesota

United Way of Southwest Minnesota is committed to supporting learning and development, as well as a sense of belonging for children and youth, so that they become responsible and contributing adults. As your child's first teacher you will give them opportunities to grow and develop so they can start school ready to succeed.

Program Details

Imagination Library provides a FREE book each month to all registered children birth to age 5. The age appropriate, quality books are mailed directly to each child at their home once per month. All children who have not yet reached their 5th birthday, and reside in the United Way of Southwest Minnesota service area, are eligible to participate in this program.



Why Are Books Important?

A child deserves to be prepared: Educators emphasize that reading with your preschool child is one of the most important activities to prepare them for kindergarten.

Books Are Essential: Studies by the National Assessment of Educational Progress organization have consistently found that the more reading material available in the home, the better students' reading levels are likely to be.

Cost of Children Not Being Prepared: According to Wilder Research, in Minnesota, the cost of children entering kindergarten unprepared is approximately \$113 million annually to school systems due to increased:

- ⇒ Student aid
- ⇒ Special education and grade repetition
- ⇒ Teacher – related costs
- ⇒ Impact on school safety due to delinquent behavior.

Eligibility

Each child from birth up to their 5th birthday who lives with their parent or guardian in the United Way of Southwest Minnesota service area is eligible to participate in the program through their sponsorship. The service area includes the following Minnesota school districts, including private and charter schools:

- | | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------|
| Canby | Dawson/Boyd | Fulda |
| Hendricks | Ivanhoe | Lake Benton |
| Lakeview | Lynd | Marshall |
| Milroy | Minneota | |
| Murray County Central | Russell-Tyler-Ruthton | |
| Tracy Area | Westbrook-Walnut Grove | |
| Yellow Medicine East | | |

Enrolling Your Child

You can enroll your child by completing this form and mailing it to our office; or you can register online at <http://unitedwayswmn.org/Registration.php>

Financial Support

There is no charge to the local families who receive the books. Imagination Library is brought to you locally by a partnership between United Way of Southwest Minnesota Success By 6 and the Dollywood Foundation. The cost of this program is \$30 per child per year. United Way of Southwest Minnesota funds this program through donations to their annual campaign from individuals, corporations, businesses, employee groups, service organizations, and grant funds. **If you or someone you know would like to support this program financially, please email us at unitedway@unitedwayswmn.org.**

Parent Comment: "Our children are always thrilled to get their very own book in the mail. As soon as the book arrives, we often find ourselves dropping everything and reading since the kids are so excited to read their new story. Thanks for this program!!"

For more information, please contact:
United Way of Southwest Minnesota
507-929-2273 - [UnitedWaySWMN.org](mailto:unitedway@unitedwayswmn.org)
unitedway@unitedwayswmn.org

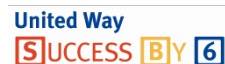


Cut here and submit form to United Way of Southwest Minnesota, PO Box 41, Marshall, MN 56258

IMAGINATION LIBRARY REGISTRATION FORM (one per child)

This information will not be used for any other purpose than the Imagination Library program and a parenting newsletter.

Please Print Clearly



Child's FULL Name _____ Male/Female Child's Date of Birth ____/____/____
First Middle Initial Last Month/Date/Year

Parent or Guardian's Name _____ Phone Number _____

Child's Mailing Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

"I affirm that this child lives in the following school district - all private and charter schools are included (circle one):

- Canby Dawson/Boyd Fulda Hendricks Ivanhoe Lake Benton Lakeview Lynd Marshall Milroy Minneota
Murray County Central Russell-Tyler-Ruthton Tracy Area Westbrook/Walnut Grove Yellow Medicine East

Other: Name of School _____

Signature of Parent/Guardian _____ Email Address: _____

CHECK BOX IF THIS CHILD HAS BEEN ENROLLED BEFORE (To prevent receipt of duplicate "Welcome Book")

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Date Received: _____ E _____ A _____ Group Code _____