

## Dolly Parton's Imagination Library Receives \$2700 Operation Round Up Donation from Tri-County Electric Trust



Chad Lowder, CEO of Tri-County Cooperative, presents Calhoun First Steps with an “Operation Round Up Donation” in the amount of \$2700. The \$2700 Round Up donation will be used to register one hundred children for Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library. Over the past twelve years, Tri-County Electric Trust has supported Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library through Operation Round-up donations and contributing to Calhoun First Steps Annual Golf Tournament, a fundraiser for this early childhood literacy initiative.

Calhoun First Steps has operated as a Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library Affiliate since 2005. Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library provides free, age-appropriate books to children age birth to five years. Operated by the Dollywood Foundation, Imagination Library is currently in more than 1,600 communities internationally and mails books to about 700,000 children each month.

All children, birth to five years, residing in Calhoun County are eligible for Imagination Library. Children who register for the program will receive one age-appropriate book per month by mail through the month of their fifth birthday. Each book is carefully selected by a committee of educational specialist.

According to the Center on the Developing Child at Harvard University, the peak period for brain development related to language is around nine months of age. One of the easiest and most effective ways to build this capacity in young children’s brains is to read to them.

Children residing in Calhoun County may register for Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library at <https://imaginationlibrary.com>. “Calhoun First Steps is happy to partner with your family in building your child’s personal library.” Virginia Newman, Executive Director