



## SAN BENITO COUNTY AGENDA ITEM TRANSMITTAL FORM

Dom Zanger  
District No. 1

Kollin Kosmicki  
District No. 2

Mindy Sotelo  
District No. 3  
Vice-Chair

Angela Curro  
District No. 4  
Chair

Bea Gonzales  
District No. 5

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**MEETING DATE:** 11/26/2024

**DEPARTMENT:** BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

**AGENDA ITEM PREPARER:** Vanessa Delgado

**DEPT HEAD/DIRECTOR:** Henie Ring

**SUBJECT:**

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

Approve Proclamation supporting the Dolly Parton Imagination Library program we have started in San Benito County.

SBC FILE NUMBER: 156

**AGENDA SECTION:**

c. Presentations and Recognitions

**BACKGROUND/SUMMARY:**

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library is a flagship program of the Dollywood Foundation. This foundation was created in 1988 by Dolly Parton to inspire the children in her home county to achieve educational success. Initial efforts focused on decreasing the dropout rate in the county's high school.

By early 2023, Dolly Parton's Imagination Library has reached a significant milestone, gifting a total of 200 million books globally since its inception.

This program is now being brought to San Benito County students. Closing the literacy gap among our students is a priority for both the United for San Benito, as well as the San Benito County Office of Education.

Literacy is arguably the most crucial factor in determining whether a student will succeed in school and beyond. Hart and Risley research determined that at-risk children hear 30 million fewer words by the time they are 4 than their affluent peers. These children enter kindergarten with only 25% of the vocabulary they need to succeed and 88% of them never catch up.

Dolly Parton has partnered with the state of California, who is paying for ½ the cost of each book. We will be responsible for the other half of the cost to keep the program running.

**What is the program?**

Each month, a new, carefully selected book will be mailed to children registered, directly to their home.

**Who is eligible?**

Children under the age of five

**When Will the child receive their first book?**

Eight to ten weeks after registration has been received.

United for San Benito is the nonprofit who will be the fiscal agent responsible for paying for the FREE books. The San Benito County Office of Education is the administrative agent and responsible for enrolling students and managing the program.

**RESOLUTION OR ORDINANCE NEEDED FOR THIS ITEM:**

N/A

**CONTRACT NEEDED FOR THIS ITEM:**

N/A

**RFP AND BID HISTORY:**

N/A

**LAST CONTRACT AMOUNT OR N/A:**

N/A

**CONTRACT HISTORY (Describe all amendments and previous contracts):**

N/A

**STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS: 1. Operational Development & Excellence**

No

**STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS: 2. Planning And Sustainable Growth**

Yes

**STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS: 3. Technology**

No

**STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS: 4. Community Engagement**

Yes

**STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS: 5. Health & Safe Community**

No

**BUDGETED:**

N/A

**BUDGET ADJUSTMENT NEEDED:**

N/A

**SOURCE OF FUNDING:**

N/A

**UNFUNDED MANDATE:**

N/A

**SBC BUDGET LINE ITEM NUMBER:**

N/A

**CURRENT FY COST:**

N/A

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

Approve Proclamation supporting the Dolly Parton Imagination Library program we have started in San Benito County.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

[Dolly Parton Imagination Program 2024](#)