

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 14, 2016

RE: Kiwanis Club of Sandusky new sponsor of Sandusky Imagination Library

The Kiwanis Club of Sandusky is proud to announce it has taken sponsorship of the **Sandusky Imagination Library**, the local affiliate for the nationally renowned Dolly Parton's Imagination Library. Locally, The Imagination Library was initiated three years ago by Ann Murray, a children's advocate for reading and education and along with a committee of community members, she grew this worthwhile program from its grassroots to serving nearly 1,000 annually in the 44870 area code. Along with the continued support of the current committee members, Kiwanis Club will continue this program by fundraising and promoting the local Imagination Library.

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library was developed by Dolly Parton in 1995 to ensure that every pre-school child in her home county receive and grow their own personal library of books. It was her desire to instill the love of books to all children that inspired her to offer this program world-wide. Registered children are eligible to receive a new book each month from birth to five years old completely free.

The primary mission of Kiwanis is to support the needs of our community's children's and their goal is for the SIL to become their signature project locally. Research has proven that reading aloud to young children cultivates better vocabulary, cognitive abilities and sparks their naturally instincts to learn. The added bonus is developing the close bond so important to parents and their children as they cuddle and read together.

Through grants, fundraising and private donations, The Kiwanis Club of Sandusky will continue to offer this opportunity to the Sandusky and Perkins' area preschoolers. The Erie County Community Foundation is the fiscal agency assisting this cause, and the Sandusky Library will assist the SIL by maintaining the data base. The cost of funding one child annually is approximately \$25.00.

"This is truly a community effort and the partnership with the initial committee, the Foundation, Sandusky Library and Kiwanis Club will ensure the continued success of reaching our local children and contributing to their literary growth," says Anne McGookey, Kiwanis Club chairperson.

For information or to make a donation to the Sandusky Imagination Library, contact McGookey through the Kiwanis Club website at www.sanduskykiwanis.org or mail to Kiwanis Club of Sandusky, P. O. Box 1686, Sandusky, OH 44870.

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