

## United Way Announces Launch of Imagination Library in Scott & Rock Island Counties at Annual Meeting

All young children in Scott and Rock Island counties will have access to free books according to an announcement being made by Scott Crane, president of United Way of the Quad Cities Area at their Annual Meeting. United Way is bringing Imagination Library to the Quad Cities. On hand to tell supporters about Imagination Library will be Mr. David Dotson, executive director of the Dollywood Foundation. Dotson will speak to the importance of Imagination Library and its impact on a community.

Dolly Parton established Imagination Library in 1996 in her home county of Tennessee. She wanted every child to experience the magic of books, regardless of their income. She began mailing a new, age-appropriate hard cover book to every child between the ages of 0 and 5 in Sevier County and continued doing it every month until their 5<sup>th</sup> birthday. The program was a huge success and soon other communities wanted to know how they could participate. Today, thanks to the Dollywood Foundation and local partners across the globe, 475,000 children in 900 communities receive books each month. Through a partnership with United Way, some of the books include reading tips designed to follow the development of the child.

“We know that the single most effective thing we can do to prepare our children for school is help them obtain critical pre-reading skills” said Scott Crane, president, United Way. “By ensuring that all our area children have access to books, we believe that we can help start them on the road to a successful education.”

In addition to launching Imagination Library, United Way will look back on 2007 and update guests on the progress of the Birth-to-Work Community Agenda and the 2007 Campaign. United Way’s Annual Meeting will begin at noon in the Outing Club Ballroom.

### **More about David Dotson:**

Mr. David Dotson, a motivational speaker not new to the concept of changing lives, is set to deliver a message about Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library and it’s importance to our community. Imagination Library is a program focused on increasing interest in reading among youth by putting new, age appropriate books in the hands of children five and under.

Mr. Dotson’s currently the president of The Dollywood Foundation overseeing the international replication of Dolly’s Imagination Library.

To register your child [click here](#)