

Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development**Grants to Named Recipients (AS 37.05.316)****Grant Recipient: North Star Imagination Library****Federal Tax ID: 27-4560964****Project Title:****Project Type: Equipment and Materials**

North Star Imagination Library - Reading Campaign

State Funding Requested: \$50,000**House District: Fairbanks Areawide (7-11)**

Future Funding May Be Requested

Brief Project Description:

The North Star Imagination Library is a local branch of Dolly Parton's Imagination Library. It is run by volunteers who register children to receive free books in the mail each month until their fifth birthday. Books are paid for by local fundraising and support from the legislature and Best Beginnings.

Funding Plan:

Total Project Cost:	\$93,450
Funding Already Secured:	(\$12,000)
FY2013 State Funding Request:	(\$50,000)
Project Deficit:	\$31,450

Funding Details:

This project is ongoing. We will need funding each year as we continue to enroll more children.

Detailed Project Description and Justification:

In 2011, the North Star Imagination Library enrolled 1,414 new children, graduated 719 children and currently provides books for more than 3,400 children each month. 40,943 books arrived in local mailboxes in 2011! In the past year we have hosted Family Fun Nights for preschoolers, including an Imagination Library book storytime, a related special guest, activities and a light supper. We have been actively recruiting new children by attending events in the community and partnering with local agencies such as the Resource Center for Parents and Children and Fairbanks Memorial Hospital. We have also offered literacy training for child care providers at the early childhood conference. The funding we are requesting goes to pay for books as all the work mentioned is done by volunteers.

Project Timeline:

Books are ordered on a monthly basis throughout the fiscal year.

Entity Responsible for the Ongoing Operation and Maintenance of this Project:

The North Star Imagination Library Board of Directors

Grant Recipient Contact Information:

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Has this project been through a public review process at the local level and is it a community priority? ☐ Yes ☒ No

North Star Imagination Library Annual Report 2011



2011 was a great year for our program as we continued to secure our place as a permanent part of this community. From Family Fun Nights to training early childhood educators, we are working hard to make a difference for our youngest citizens. Take a peek at some of the things we accomplished and what we have planned for 2012.

Enrollment

- Currently 3,400 children receive a book every month. In 2011, we enrolled 1,414 new children, graduated 719 and saw 600+ move away.
- 40,943 books arrived in local mailboxes in 2011!
- You might have seen us at the Truck Touch, Golden Days Fair, Youth Safety Day, Spooky Train, Best Beginnings Family Fair and other events registering kids.
- A book and brochure has been included in Food Bank food boxes for families with young children.
- Resource Center for Parents and Children and the Fairbanks Memorial Hospital collect registration forms for pick up each month (180 and 70 respectively in 2011).
- Brochures are available throughout the community at child care centers, medical offices, retail stores, etc.

Our goal for 2012 is 3,550 enrolled children.



Fundraising

- Our Champions for Children of 2011: Sally Levensgood, Roxa Hawkins, and John Regitano, were honored at Pike's Waterfront Lodge where the community came out in huge support of our free book program. A big thank you to Jay Ramras for continuing to sponsor this major event!
- We completed our third annual Read-a-Thon in partnership with PTAs with 'kids reading for kids' and earning money for books and Great Alaska Pizza Company parties for their class.
- McSeuss Night continues each year on March 2. Great way to make some money and have fun serving fries and taking orders!

We are grateful to live in such a generous community!

Invaluable Supporters

- We are proud to have become our own 501.c.3 organization this year!
- We depend largely on a grant from Best Beginnings for operating expenses and family events as well as for books. In addition, Best Beginnings provides statewide cooperation and logistical support, including trainings to share with other Imagination Libraries. Two of our board members went to Dolly Parton's Homecomin' event in Tennessee.
- \$50,000 from the state legislature goes a long way to pay for books (~\$2.25 per book) and gives us the stability to continue to grow.
- GCI has generously donated the use of a phone line for IL queries.

We continue to strengthen our partnerships as we are all working to help children and families succeed.

Outreach

- Our Family Fun Nights have been a huge success. Crowds between 75 and 100 at the Noel Wien Library for three events in 2011 (see photo). Thread joined in on the fun.
- The post offices collect non-deliverable books and return them to us to distribute in the community at enrollment events, waiting rooms, child care programs, Red Cross packages, classrooms, and more.
- Public health nurses have been taking books out to interior villages not yet served by Imagination Library.
- Board members presented a literacy workshop for early childhood professionals at the FAEYC conference.

We are taking our Family Fun Nights on the road in 2012! Eielson, Goldstream and downtown Fairbanks are on the agenda as we try to reach families where they are.