One of our TNSO projects for literacy is to promote Books from Birth, or

 **DOLLY PARTON’S IMAGINATION LIBRARY.** From their website:

**Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library is dedicated to inspiring a love of reading by gifting books free of charge to children from birth to age five, through funding shared by Dolly Parton and local community partners in the United States, Canada, United Kingdom, Australia and Republic of Ireland.**

Inspired by her father’s inability to read and write Dolly started her Imagination Library in 1995 for the children within her home county. Today, her program spans five countries and gifts over 1 million free books each month to children around the world.

“When I was growing up in the hills of East Tennessee, I knew my dreams would come true. I know there are children in your community with their own dreams. They dream of becoming a doctor or an inventor or a minister. Who knows, maybe there is a little girl whose dream is to be a writer and singer. The seeds of these dreams are often found in books and the seeds you help plant in your community can grow across the world.”

In 1995, Dolly Parton launched an exciting new effort, Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library, to benefit the children of her home county in East Tennessee, USA. Dolly’s vision was to foster a love of reading among her county’s preschool children and their families by providing them with the gift of a specially selected book each month.

Several of our TNSO chapters participate in the program in one way or another, or donate funds. Beta Beta Chapter focuses on The Imagination Library in their December meeting each year. From Judy Cross, Beta Beta Chapter:

Our December meeting focuses on the Imagination Library with updates on its status by one of our members who is the Chair of the Imagination Library for Morgan County. Members also share how this program is helping children in their classrooms. Afterwards, our annual Christmas Ornament Auction begins. Members bring in Christmas ornaments (one or more) that are store bought or handmade. One member serves as our auctioneer, bidding paddles are distributed, and the fun begins! We all enjoy this time of fun and laughter while raising money for a wonderful project. This past Christmas we raised over $500 in one night!

You can find other programs and projects on literacy in the EEC Corner of our TNSO website. If you have a program or project to share, we encourage you to submit one as well!