



Seeds of Imagination Literacy Award

*"Take care, my little ones, for the world is big and you are small.
But never forget...even the grandest of trees once had to grow up from the smallest of seeds."
- Miss Maple's Seeds*

No success is achieved in a vacuum. Every cause is built on the efforts of others, and ours is no exception. Dolly Parton's Imagination Library of Knox County seeks to honor its community for supporting our program and for advancing outstanding work in early literacy.

During our annual Seeds of Imagination Luncheon, we have the opportunity to recognize individuals and organizations that share a passion for nurturing our children in developing their sense of self and a love of learning.

Our mission depends on two major roles: that of developing resources and financial support, and on advancing frontline expertise. We wish to honor both roles by structuring our awards ceremony accordingly.

The Presenter:

Presenting an award is an honor in itself. The Presenter(s) should be an individual, a group or an organization that has both acted as an ambassador and has supported Knox County's Imagination Library program at a significant level but is not necessarily a front-line practitioner.

The emcee will introduce the Presenter(s) with a short bio of their contributions to the program and an expression of appreciation. The Presenter(s) will then introduce the honoree.

The Honoree:

The Seeds of Imagination Literacy Award will be granted to an individual, group, or organization for their outstanding work in the field of early literacy. Nomination for the award should fall under one of the following criteria:

- Exemplary and/or innovative work in early literacy
- Promotes early literacy and/or responds to the needs of our community in early development
- Provides access to books and reading in our region

In all categories, there are ample numbers of deserving recipients. The Imagination Library is more successful as we acknowledge and collaborate with our community. The Seeds of Imagination Luncheon provides us with a natural opportunity to do so.

Past Seeds of Imagination Literacy Award Recipients:

2024: Denise Dean, Executive Director of East Tennessee Freedom Schools

2023: Ellie Kittrell, Director of Early Care and Education Systems at United Way of Greater Knoxville

2022: Pastor John Unthank, Title I Schools Liaison with Knoxville Dream Center

2021: The Nurses of the Childbirth Center at Parkwest Medical Center

2020: Dr. Nick Geidner, director of *The Library that Dolly Built*

2019: Jinx Stapleton Watson, founding member of the Blue Ribbon Book Selection Committee for Dolly Parton's Imagination Library