



*** FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE ***

QuickStart Children of Virginia Mourns the Passing of Dolly Parton and Reaffirms Commitment to Her Literacy Legacy

Williamsburg, Virginia (8/28/2026) – QuickStart Children of Virginia (QCV) joins millions around the world in mourning the loss of Dolly Parton, a woman whose generosity, imagination and unwavering belief in children transformed early childhood literacy forever. We are heartbroken. Her passing leaves a profound ache in our hearts, but her legacy continues in every home where a child opens an Imagination Library book and discovers the joy of reading.



For us, Dolly was more than a global icon. She was the spark behind a movement that changed childhood in Virginia. Through [Dolly Parton's Imagination Library](#), thousands of children across our Commonwealth now have “home libraries” and families have experienced the simple, powerful ritual of reading together, a ritual that builds confidence, strengthens bonds and lays a solid foundation for lifelong learning.

Today, we grieve. Tomorrow, we carry Dolly's work forward.

Dolly's impact was not abstract. It was deeply personal and profoundly local. She touched families in ways that statistics alone simply can't capture.

A Legacy That Lives in Children

Dolly believed every child, no matter their zip code, background or circumstance, deserved a chance to begin life with books in their hands and remains forever in their hearts. Her vision reshaped how communities think about early literacy, and her impact will echo for many generations to come.

In Virginia, her dream took root in rural counties and in small towns and cities over the past five years. It reached families who had never before had age-appropriate books or

any books at home. In many communities, her books were the first books a child ever owned. It inspired volunteers, educators, librarians and champions across the state. And it gave us a shared mission: to make early literacy a birthright, not a privilege. Today, almost 94,000 children enrolled in 99 local programs in Virginia receive a book at no cost to their family each month. And we're not done yet.

Our Commitment Going Forward

As we honor Dolly's life, we reaffirm our commitment to the work she entrusted to all of us. We will continue expanding the Imagination Library across Virginia. We will strengthen partnerships with community organizations, libraries and school divisions. We will ensure that every child, especially those facing the greatest barriers, has access to books, stories and joyful early learning experiences. We will protect the integrity, simplicity and child-centered spirit of Dolly's vision.

Her passing does not end the movement she began. It deepens our resolve to carry it forward with love, humility and purpose.

A Call to Honor Dolly's Legacy

We invite communities, leaders and families across Virginia to join us in honoring Dolly's extraordinary life by investing in the future she cared about most: children.

The greatest tribute we can offer is simple: Put more books into more homes. Put more joy into more childhoods. Put more hope into more futures. This is how we honor Dolly.

Early childhood literacy is everybody's business and every child's birthright!

Dolly Parton changed the world. Now it's our turn to keep her vision alive.

QuickStart Tennis of Central Virginia, Inc. (aka QuickStart Children of Virginia) is an all-volunteer, grassroots Community Tennis Association established in 2009 as a 501(c)(3) charitable organization to promote, develop and grow QuickStart Tennis in Virginia for all beginners, especially underserved and at-risk youth, using the kid-sized QuickStart Tennis format. We leverage the fun of tennis to promote lifelong physical activity, healthy eating/lifestyle habits and a love of reading in the communities we serve. We believe early childhood literacy will solve many socioeconomic problems and produce kids who will succeed in school and in life. We are proud to carry forward Dolly Parton's belief that every child deserves the chance to read, learn and thrive.

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For additional information, contact quickstartcentral@comcast.net.



A racquet in every hand! A smile on every face!



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