

# Charlotte County Imagination Library Newsletter



## **Introducing our new Executive Director!**

The Gilstad Literacy Foundation Board of Directors is pleased to announce Gaylin Morris has accepted their invitation to become Executive Director of the Foundation to succeed retiring Executive Director, Dr. Christine Zimmer.

Mrs. Morris is a multi-generational Charlotte Countian and professional educator who is passionate about literacy and lifelong learning, community partnerships, and empowering parents to nurture their young children so they can learn to love reading. She holds degrees and certifications from Manatee Junior College, Barry University, Edison Community College Educator Preparation Institute, and multiple Florida Professional Educator Certifications. During her tenure with Charlotte County Public Schools, Gaylin taught and held leadership roles at elementary and middle schools and served as the District Curriculum and Instructional Specialist for K-12 Science and STEM. Her community involvement includes volunteering with Virginia B. Andes Clinic, Girls on the Run, American Cancer Society/Relay for Life, Hibiscus Festival, and Military Heritage Museum STEM Camps. She is a 2001 graduate of the Leadership Charlotte class of the Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce.

The Gilstad Literacy Foundation directors are looking forward to working with Mrs. Morris as she assumes leadership of the Charlotte County Imagination Library program, now in its 14th year of providing free books to preschool children.

## **Gilstad Literacy Foundation and CCIL Websites**

Do you want to know more about the Charlotte County Imagination Library (CCIL) program? Are you interested in information about local organizations that have services for families with children? Are you curious about Gilstad Literacy Foundation, the nonprofit organization that manages the CCIL program? Would you like to meet the Board of Directors and staff?



<https://www.charlottecountyimaginationlibrary.org> is a treasure trove of information for families! In addition to CCIL program information, there's a Community Resources section with lists of organizations with family support information. If you click on the name of an organization, you'll be immediately taken to their website. Are there times when your child wants you to read to them, but you're very busy with something that can't wait? There are over 40 appropriate books for preschoolers that are read to children! Of course, there's also a button to register children in the program, and to donate securely if you'd like to financially support CCIL and help keep the books flowing to more kids.

<https://gilstadliteracyfoundation.org> will provide information about the nonprofit that is responsible for managing the Charlotte County Imagination Library program. There's information about the Board of Directors and Management Staff members, history of the organization, the Strategic Plan, and a link to the Charlotte County Imagination Library website.

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*Celebrating*  
**30 Years**  
of Dolly Parton's Imagination Library



**TOTAL KIDS REGISTERED**  
**3,197,250**

**TOTAL BOOKS GIFTED**  
**284,132,065**

Charlotte County Imagination Library is the local affiliate of Dolly's program and is now in its 14th year. With the ongoing support of the Charlotte County community, we have provided 9,257 preschool children with 232,390 free books, and these numbers grow every day! "You can never get enough books into the hands of enough children!" (Dolly Parton) Thank you!!

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## Can You Help Us Enroll More Children?

Gilstad Literacy Foundation's goal for the Charlotte County Imagination Library program is to enroll at least 80% of the estimated 6,000 preschoolers living in Charlotte County.

Please help us by letting your family, friends and neighbors who have little ones know how to register the children through our website or <https://www.imaginationlibrary.com>

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## **Donor Spotlight**

Individual and group donations, and corporate and nonprofit grants are the primary sources of income for the CCIL program. Since our last newsletter generous support has come from many wonderful individuals and groups including: the Punta Gorda Isles Civic Association's Home Tour, Tampa Bay Rays Foundation, Power of 100 Punta Gorda, Charlotte Community Foundation, Charlotte Players, The Patterson Foundation, Punta Gorda Rotary, Tea Talk Book Club, Englewood Moose.

Like many other organizations, the costs of running the Imagination Library program and the Gilstad Literacy Foundation, which manages it, have increased significantly in recent months. The total budget for the program is \$162,000 annually. If you are interested in supporting early literacy in our community, committing to a monthly, online donation will help us the most by providing consistent income. You can arrange an ongoing, tax-deductible donation through our secure website <https://www.charlottecountyimaginationlibrary.org>

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**

