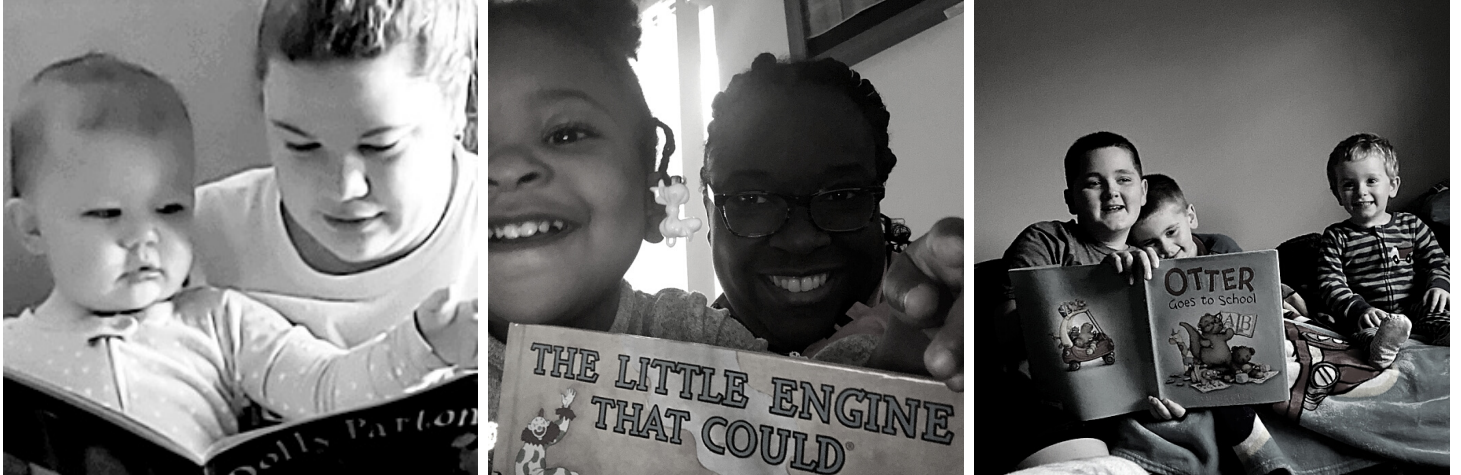


# ANNUAL REPORT



Friends,

We cannot thank each and every one of our funders, donors, volunteers, friends, and Board of Trustees enough for all the support. 2022 reminded us how much we need human connection - off the screens and phone lines. We returned to in-office work time, in-person meetings and live events! At the Read Across America Celebration we welcomed Dr. John Hutton to speak on his MRI brain scans and the impact of reading physical books. At that same event, we recognized the first Kurt Karakul Literacy award recipient. More than 150 people gathered at CLE Bee 7 to support The Literacy Cooperative and compete in the annual spelling bee. We commemorated a milestone surpassing one million books mailed to Cuyahoga County children through Dolly Parton's Imagination Library. Throughout the year we continued to convene community partners around low literacy challenges, through the 2Gen "Whole Family" Approach. AND...our team met THE Dolly Parton, a true inspiration.

But the most powerful inspiration comes from stories shared by Imagination Library families and our partners about why this work is important. A few of those quotes are included in this report. We could not do what we do without the partnership of so many. Your gift of time, talent, or treasure in 2022 was an investment in solutions that are bringing community partners together, building a stronger workforce through literacy skills and changing economic outcomes for multiple generations.

Thank you for your support in 2022!

Sincerely,

Emily A. Campbell  
Chair - Board of Trustee

Robert E. Paponetti  
President & CEO



# Dolly Parton's Imagination Library



**Over 1,000,000 books mailed to more than 50,000 children.**

Children enrolled in Imagination Library receive a free, brand new, high-quality, age-appropriate book in the mail each month until they turn 5 years old. The Literacy Cooperative leads Imagination Library in Cuyahoga County. Families receive additional resources and helpful tips through TLC's emails, texts, and social media channels. On August 9, our team and other TLC guests were thrilled to go to Columbus to welcome Dolly Parton to Ohio for the First Lady's Luncheon, celebrating the program's availability to every child under age 5 in Ohio.



**LITERACY, LEARNING AND PLAY**

## Family Engagement



We hosted a series of virtual programs featuring local health practitioners addressing health topics of interest to our Imagination Library families. Topics ranged from stress reduction techniques and nutrition to milestones and guidance for different ages and stages. Each program is available on TLC's YouTube page and website. [Click here to view the Healthy Families Series resource page.](#)



# 2Gen "Whole Family" Approach



Since 2018, we have been working to create trusting relationships between partners and to build these relationships into a Steering Committee that guides 2Gen efforts across our community. The Cuyahoga County 2Gen Steering Committee consisting of 28 members representing 19 organizations including six funders, works with TLC to set a vision for 2Gen in our community and to develop strategies to advance that vision. The committee started with two pilots and now our community has seven 2Gen initiatives and more in the works! In 2022, the committee published the Evolution of 2Gen Report, [linked here](#).

The Literacy Cooperative hosted the 5th annual 2Gen Summit on July 20, 2022. The theme celebrated the evolution of the whole family work within Cuyahoga County. This event featured a presentation by Aysha Wilburn of The Centers, a panel conversation with FamilySpace partners, and a presentation by Kate Carden of CHN Housing Partners. Participants engaged in networking and table discussions. [Click to view the 2Gen evolution video](#). [Click here to read the 2Gen Summit recap](#).



***"Supporting 2Gen work in Cuyahoga County is changing the way services are designed and delivered to make it easier for all members of a household to get the support they need to realize their goals."***

-Marci Lu, William J. & Dorothy K. O'Neill Foundation

## TRAINING A BRIGHTER FUTURE

# Professional Excellence

TLC professional development incorporates our three focus areas of early literacy/parent engagement, adult literacy connected to career pathways, and two-generational practices. Training sessions are selected based on current best practices, new and emerging education policies and standards as well as requested topics from participants. Over 500 people attended one of the 14 sessions hosted in 2022. 70% of participants reported that they learned a new strategy at a session. [Click here to learn more about TLC professional excellence](#).

**"Employers: Advancing Literacy is Key to Advancing Your Workforce"**

## Career Pathways

More than 300 adult education instructors and workforce development professionals access The Literacy Cooperative's website for industry-based curriculum for healthcare, manufacturing, hospitality, construction, and digital literacy. In the fall of 2022, The Literacy Cooperative staff met with area school districts and student programming providers to discuss the use of the manufacturing curriculum to prepare high school juniors and seniors for manufacturing classes and employment. Do you have an interest in using the curriculum? [To sign up for access, click here.](#)

According to the National Skills Coalition, 54% of in-demand jobs in Ohio require skills training beyond high school, but not a four-year degree. Even with access to training, adults may struggle due to less than proficient literacy and numeracy skills, also known as foundational basic skills. Government, industries, and higher education institutions are planning how to prepare workers for the future, and foundational basic skills must be included in the conversation.

## Public Policy & Advocacy

In March, Joan Spoerl, Director, Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, presented testimony in Columbus before the Study Committee on Ohio's Publicly Funded Child Care and Step Up to Quality (SUTQ) Program in support of policies that prioritize and fully fund high-quality early childhood education at scale and commit to ongoing support for SUTQ.

TLC's 2022 Policy Agenda was released with focus on early literacy education, support for two-generational practices, and connecting literacy to training and workforce programs to increase opportunities for adults. [Click here to view the policy agenda.](#)

As part of TLC's work on the Ohio Workforce Coalition, staff participated in the National Skills Coalition 2022 Skills Summit Capital Hill Meeting in March. The Ohio delegation met with representatives from the offices of Senators Portman and Brown, and Representative Shontel Brown. TLC advocated for more opportunities for adults with low literacy to engage in workforce programs.



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***“My mommy tells me that she didn't have any books growing up. She grew up in foster care and was only able to see books at school. She reminds me daily how important books are and how she wants better for me and my development.”***  
-Natasha, Imagination Library Parent

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***“The Literacy Cooperative is vital to our community overall, they have been a thought leader on key issues of importance, particularly thinking about early learning and adult learners. They advocate and raise the profile of literacy in key spaces so that individuals know how important it is for us to focus on literacy if we are really thinking seriously about career pathways.”***

– Bishara Addison, The Fund For Our Economic Future

We cannot thank you enough for your support. To all our donors, board members, partners, volunteers, families, and staff, we appreciate you and we look forward to working together to continue to improve literacy outcomes.