



# History

## Shelby County Imagination Library Fund

In 2007, the communities of both Morristown and Waldron raised funds from a large number of donors and created endowment funds to support Imagination Libraries for their communities with matching dollars from Blue River Community Foundation (BRCF). Fundraising was so successful that in 2019 Waldron, with the help of fundraising in the south western part of the county, was able to expand their program to include the Southwestern School district. In just a few months, 75 additional children were added to the distribution list.

Although program availability had reached another corner of Shelby County, there were still two districts where children were not eligible to participate: Shelbyville and Triton. BRCF has received many inquiries over the years from grandparents and parents who live in one of the areas not served (Shelbyville, Triton). It had also been a dream of the Foundation to be able to expand the program county wide.

During review of the 2019 Racino grant applications, BRCF and the Shelby County Council realized this was the perfect opportunity to expand the Imagination Library. Thus, Shelby County Council awarded a grant to the Imagination Library program, which when combined with the existing funds already held at BRCF, allowed the expansion to the entire county. This grant from the Shelby County Council is a permanent investment in early education, creating a love of reading and learning for our youngest forever.



Reading aloud to a child is one of the most important activities you can do with your child at an early age. Reading aloud to a child will help increase vocabulary, improve processing skills, build a strong understanding of the world around them, and enhance a child's imagination. The Imagination Library is a wonderful program that puts books in homes of young children and helps promote the importance of reading. The more accessible we make books the more that we will build a strong love for reading. Imagination Library builds on this idea and provides a variety of titles in homes of young children. We are lucky to have the Imagination Library available to all the children in our community.”

**Lora Nigh**  
**Principal**  
**Golden Bear Preschool**