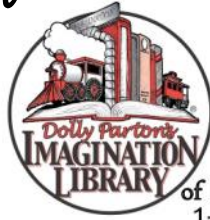


where's Llama's Mama Quilt Show Booklet

To Support



of Ionia County ISD
1-616-527-4900

Quilts are available for
purchase March 22nd, 2025 at
the Ionia ISD from 9am-noon
for \$135.00!

Raffle immediately following
the show!



Dolly Parton's Imagination Library of Ionia County

What is the Dolly Parton Imagination Library?

The Dolly Parton Imagination Library is a book distribution program for young children. The program provides a book a month from birth until the child turns five years of age. The program was started by Dolly Parton with the purpose of providing a home library for young children. Over the course of 5 years a child would have a home library of 60 books. The cost for the program is \$27.00 which funds a child for one year!

Total cost per child from birth to age five would be \$135.00!

How is the program funded?

The program is a gift from the community back to its youngest citizens. It is funded completely by community donations. ***Just \$27.00 provides a child a book a month for an entire year!*** The DPIL is a United Way affiliate and has two corporate sponsors: ***Michigan One Community Credit Union*** and ***ESS***. In addition the program is financially supported by all of the local school districts and many individual donors as well.

How many children are participating in the program?

The program started in January of 2007 with fund-raising activities. By June of 2007, the first 16 families received their first books. Since January of 2018, **every month over 1900 children** are receiving books through this program. There were 2,512 children that received books last year in Ionia County. A total of 24,034 total books were mailed out in 2024!

How many children could participate in the program?

There are about 3650 children in this age range. The Dolly Parton Foundation indicates that 70% of the population will participate. That would be approximately 2800 kids. Our numbers indicate that 82% of the targeted population is participating.

Why did the Ionia ISD start this program?

The program started in Tennessee and has spread across the United States and Canada. School leaders from the Ionia ISD and local school districts embraced the concept of the program and felt that it would be a very appropriate school readiness initiative for our whole county. Ionia is only one of the 48 programs in the state that have this program.

It is one of the few programs that starts right from birth and has the potential to have great returns. It is one of the few programs that **everyone** can participate in!!

The program's concept is researched based....

- ♦ Children who are read to before school are better equipped for the demands of kindergarten than those that are not.
- ♦ Having books accessible in the home environment increases the likelihood that children will be read to.
- ♦ Children who are behind when they start kindergarten do not typically catch up without specific intensive interventions.

Is the program making a difference for children in Ionia County?

- ♦ Yes families are reading more, surveys have indicated:
- ♦ 93% of respondents reported their child is bringing the books to them and requesting them to read to them
- ♦ 94% of respondents reported their children are spending more time looking at books on their own.
- ♦ 88% of respondents reported they are reading more to their children then they did before

Is the program needed?

- ♦ **61.8% of respondents reported they would not be able to participate in the program if funding from community donations was NOT available.**

Use the QR code below to register your child today!



The More Books at Home, The Higher the Child's Education

The presence of books in the home has a greater influence on a child's level of education than does the parents' income, nationality, or level of education. A 20-year study shows how investing in books can make a big difference.

Educators long have believed that the top predictor of whether a child attained a high level of education was highly-educated parents. *A 20-year international study, however, has revealed an even bigger predictor of a child's academic success: the presence of books in the home.* Regardless of nationality, level of education, or their parents' economic status, children who grew up with books in their homes reached a higher level of education than those who did not, according to the study, [Family Scholarly Culture and Educational Success: Books and Schooling in 27 Nations](#) published in *Research in Social Stratification and Mobility*.

Having as few as 20 books in the home has a significant impact on a child's ascent to a higher level of education, the study found. The more books in the house, the greater the benefit. According to a press release about the study, "In some countries, such as China, having 500 or more books in the home propels children 6.6 years further in their education. In the United States, the effect is less -- 2.4 years, rather than the 3.2-year average advantage experienced across all 27 countries in the study."

The research was led by Dr. Mariah Evans, an associate professor of sociology and resource economics at the [University of Nevada, Reno](#). She was joined by researchers from [UCLA](#) and [The Australian National University](#). The project is one of the largest and most comprehensive studies ever conducted on influences on the level of education a child will attain. Read the rest of the article at:

http://www.educationworld.com/a_issues/chat/chat265.shtml

Article by Ellen R. Delisio; Education World R

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Published 9/28/2010

Quilt Sale and Raffle

The quilt sale and raffle is just one way you can support the library and provide books to children in their homes. There are over 30 quilts total, that are featured in this book, each quilt is handmade by community members and citizens interested in assuring that every child has books in their home and is read to before they go to school. The quilts were designed to be lap quilts for you and your child to cuddle up and share a book. The quilts are made from a block titled *Where's Llama's Ma-ma*.

This year we will be having a quilt sale and raffle. You may purchase available quilts on Saturday March 22nd at our quilt show for \$135.00 cash or check. This is the cost it is to provide books to one child for the entire 5 years in the program! This is a great opportunity for you to choose the quilt you want and also help provide books to a child in our community! Any quilts that have not been sold at the close of the show will be raffled off. If a quilt is marked sold in this booklet it has been sold back to the quilter. They have first chance at buying their quilt back.

Checks should be payable to: Ionia ISD - DPIL

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Quilt Number

Martha Goetz	#1
Lynette Seiler	#2
Val Wymer SOLD	#3
Kathy Blundy	#4
Kathy Blundy	#5
Wanah Newton	#6
Jonnie Julien	#7
Jonnie Julien	#8
Carrie Otis	#9
Connie Sines	#10
Sheila Ransom	#11
Cynthia Cole	#12
Beth Mellinger	#13
Angie Willette	#14
Rachel Gehrcke	#15
Sue Reynolds SOLD	#16
Pat Trommater	#17
Kathy Thiel	#18
Kay Tipton	#19
Judy Rowley	#20
Linda Lane	#21
Amanda Meddaugh	#22
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Windy Hartuniewicz	#24
Barbara Hamm	#25
Carol Ranville	#26

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Quilt Number

Sandra Ranville	#27
Martha Muth	#28
Mary Andrews	#29
Julie Tubbs-Lott	#30
Chery Valentine SOLD	#31
Wanah Newton	#32
Jonnie Julien	#33
Kacey Morey	#34
D. Marilyn Reid SOLD	#35
Julie Tubbs-Lott	#36
Florence Nitz	#37
Diane Brewer	#38
Mary Ziegler	#39
Mary Ziegler	#40
Jan Schell	#41
Paula Matuzak	#42
Jan Schell	#43
Anna Meyers SOLD	#44
Becky Sterzick SOLD	#45

Quilt 1:



- * Pieced by: Martha Goetz
- * Quilted by: Martha Goetz
- * Size: 58"L x 44"W

Quilt 2:



- * Pieced by: Lynette Seiler
- * Quilted by: Jacklyn Blodgett
- * Size: 60"L x 40"W
- * Special features: Rounded corners, binding in 2 colors, appliqued ? marks, Little Llama was made by Lynette's niece

Quilt 3:



- * Pieced by: Val Wymer
- * Quilted by: Val Wymer
- * Size: 56"L x 45"W
- * Special features: Flannel and Cotton,
Fair exhibit (Red ribbon)

Quilt 4:



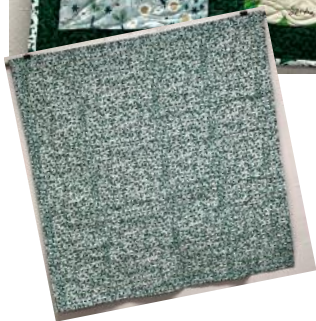
- * Pieced by: Kathy Blundy
- * Quilted by: Jacklyn Blodgett
- * Size: 64.5”L x 50”W
- * Special features: minky back

Quilt 5:



- * Pieced by: Kathy Blundy
- * Quilted by: Kathy Blundy
- * Size: 67.5"L x 48"W

Quilt 6:



- * Pieced by: Wanah Newton
- * Quilted by: Cindy Livingston
- * Size: 51"L x 49"W

Quilt 7:



- * Pieced by: Jonnie Julien
- * Quilted by: Cindy Livingston
- * Size: 55"L x 41"W

Quilt 8:



- * Pieced by: Jonnie Julien
- * Quilted by: Cindy Livingston
- * Size: 41”L x 58.5”W

Quilt 9:



- * Pieced by: Carrie Otis
- * Quilted by: Carrie Otis
- * Size: 57"L x 45"W
- * Special features: Peek-a-boo—look at the fabric to figure out where Mama's llama is!

Quilt 10:



- * **Pieced by: Connie Sines**
- * **Quilted by: Jacklyn Blodgett**
- * **Size: 59”L x 43”W**

Quilt 11:



- * Pieced by: Sheila Ransom
- * Quilted by: Jacklyn Blodgett
- * Size: 55"L x 47"W

Quilt 12:



- * Pieced by: Cynthia Cole
- * Quilted by: Cynthia Cole
- * Size: 44"L x 34.5"W

Quilt 13:



- * Pieced by: Beth Mellinger
- * Quilted by: Beth Mellinger
- * Size: 48"L x 38.25"W

Quilt 14:



- * Pieced by: Angie Willette
- * Quilted by: Angie Willette
- * Size: 51"L x 39.5"W

The quilted panel is titled "Where's the Animal?" and features a grid of 12 panels. Each panel contains a different animal and a corresponding question or statement. The quilt is bordered with a green fabric and a wide, colorful patchwork border. A small circular label with the number "15" is visible in the bottom right corner.

Panel	Animal	Text
1	Sheep	Where's the sheep?
2	Lamb	Where's the lamb?
3	Cow	Where's the cow?
4	Sheep	Where's the sheep?
5	Pig	Where's the pig?
6	Lamb	Where's the lamb?
7	Cat	Where's the cat?
8	Lamb	Where's the lamb?
9	Horse	Where's the horse?
10	Lamb	Where's the lamb?
11	Lamb	Where's the lamb?
12	Lamb	Where's the lamb?

- * **Pieced by:** Rachel Gehrcke
- * **Quilted by:** Rachel Gehrcke
- * **Size:** 63”L x 39”W

Quilt 16:



- * Pieced by: Sue Reynolds
- * Quilted by: Cindy Vidor
- * Size: 78"L x 43.5"W

Quilt 17:



- * Pieced by: Pat Trommater
- * Quilted by: Pat Trommater
- * Size: 73"L x 49.5"W
- * Special features: fleece back, quilted hearts

Quilt 18:



- * Pieced by: Kathy Thiel
- * Quilted by: Kathy Thiel
- * Size: 51.5"L x 41.5"W

Quilt 19:



- * Pieced by: Kay Tipton
- * Quilted by: Jacklyn Blodgett
- * Size: 48"L x 46.5"W

Quilt 20:



- * Pieced by: Judy Rowley
- * Quilted by: Judy Rowley
- * Size: 60.5"L x 41.5"W

Quilt 21:



- * Pieced by: Linda Lane
- * Quilted by: Carol Huster
- * Size: 60"L x 38"W

Quilt 22:



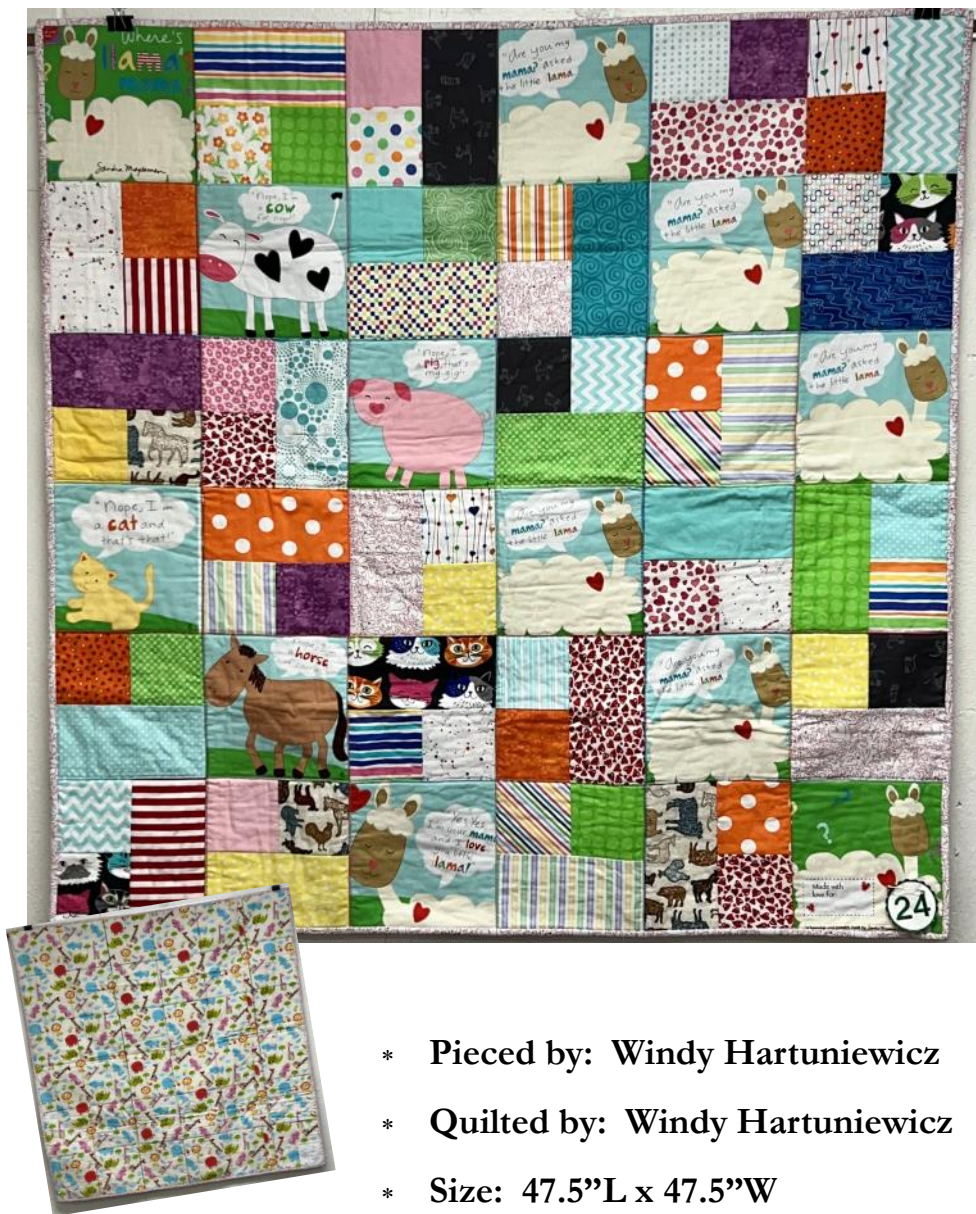
- * Pieced by: Amanda Meddaugh
- * Quilted by: Amanda Meddaugh
- * Size: 60"L x 37.5"W

Quilt 23:



- * Pieced by: Judy Rowley
- * Quilted by: Judy Rowley
- * Size: 49.5"L x 41.5"W

Quilt 24:



- * **Pieced by: Windy Hartuniewicz**
- * **Quilted by: Windy Hartuniewicz**
- * **Size: 47.5”L x 47.5”W**
- * **Special features: I used different colors of thread to quilt it**

Quilt 25:



Quilt 26:



- * Pieced by: Carol Ranville
- * Quilted by: Carol Ranville
- * Size: 47"L x 37"W

Quilt 27:



- * Pieced by: Sandra Ranville
- * Quilted by: Sandra Ranville
- * Size: 62.5"L x 38.5"W

Quilt 28:



- * Pieced by: Martha Muth
- * Quilted by: Martha Muth
- * Size: 51.5"L x 44"W

Quilt 29:



- * Pieced by: Mary Andrews
- * Quilted by: Julie Tubbs-Lott
- * Size: 63"L x 36.5"W

Quilt 30:



- * Pieced by: Julie Tubbs-Lott
- * Quilted by: Julie Tubbs-Lott
- * Size: 57"L x 41"W

Quilt 31:



- * Pieced by: Chery Valentine
- * Quilted by: Chery Valentine
- * Size: 66"L x 61"W
- * Special features: Longarm use/rental fee was generously donated by Christi Pett at Friends Quilting Basket in Lake Odessa

SOLD

Quilt 32:



- * Pieced by: Wanah Newton
- * Quilted by: Wanah Newton
- * Size: 62"L x 62"W

Quilt 33:



- * Pieced by: Jonnie Julien
- * Quilted by: Jonnie Julien
- * Size: 63"L x 35.5"W

A colorful quilt with a central panel of animal-themed blocks. The blocks feature illustrations of a sheep, a cow, a pig, a cat, and a horse, each with a speech bubble containing a phrase. The quilt is bordered by a dark fabric and has a small tag with the number 34 in the bottom right corner.

-
- A quilt with a light-colored background and a dense pattern of small, multi-colored stars or dots. The quilt is displayed on a wooden surface, and a portion of another quilt with a blue and white pattern is visible in the upper left corner.

Quilt 35:



- * Hand Pieced by: D. Marilyn Reid
- * Hand Quilted by: D. Marilyn Reid
- * Size: 56.5"L x 38.5"W
- * Special features: The applique llama is "pronking". He's a form of play that can also be a sign of happiness. It looks like he is pogo-ing!

Quilt 36:



Quilt 37:



- * Pieced by: Florence Nitz
- * Quilted by: Florence Nitz
- * Size: 62"L x 39.5"W

Quilt 38:



- * Pieced by: Diane Brewer
- * Quilted by: Diane Brewer
- * Size: 53"L x 39"W

Quilt 39:



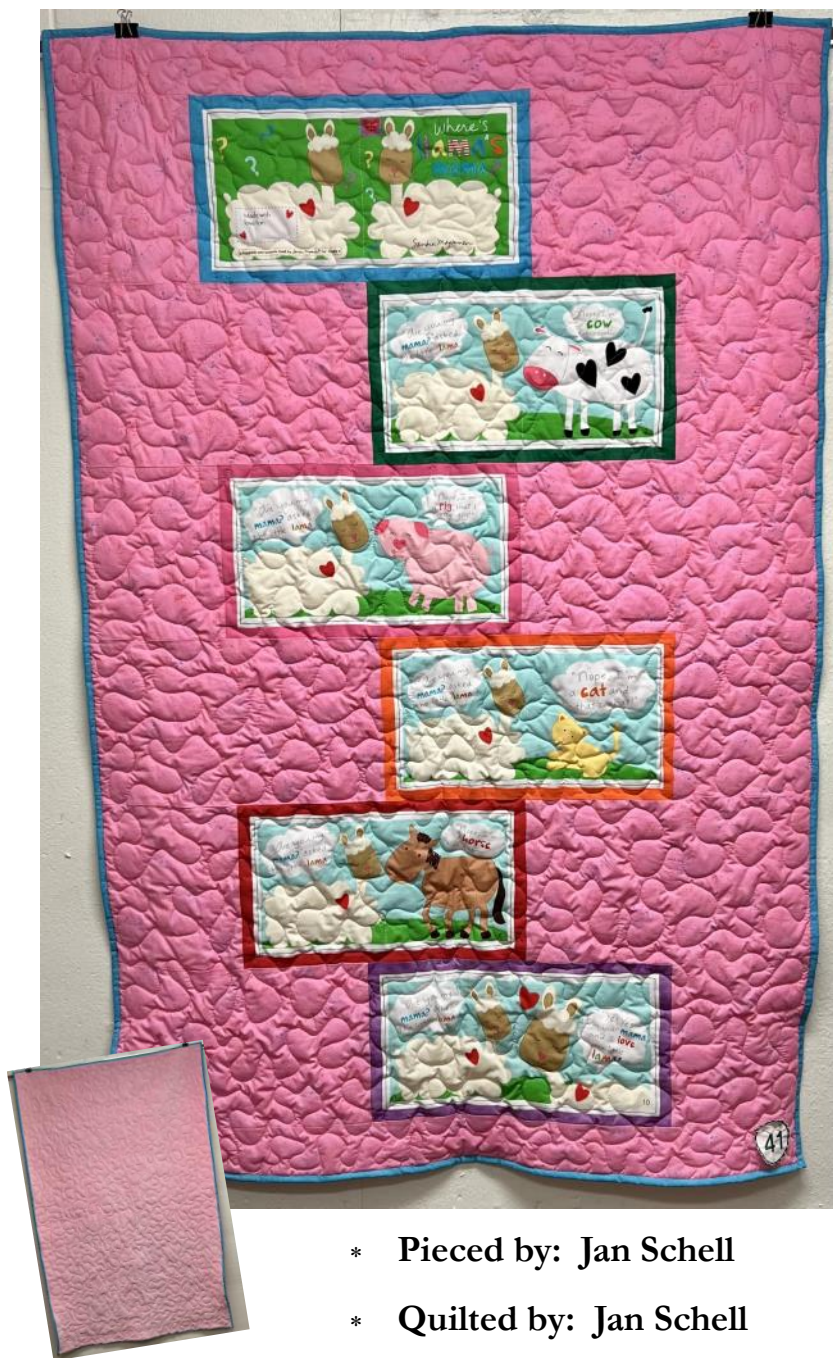
- * Pieced by: Mary Ziegler
- * Quilted by: Mary Ziegler
- * Size: 64"L x 40"W

Quilt 40:



- * Pieced by: Mary Ziegler
- * Quilted by: Mary Ziegler
- * Size: 64"L x 40"W

Quilt 41:



- * Pieced by: Jan Schell
- * Quilted by: Jan Schell
- * Size: 70"L x 45"W

Quilt 42:



- * Pieced by: Paula Matuzak
- * Quilted by: Paula Matuzak
- * Size: 57"L x 47.5"W

Quilt 43:



- * Pieced by: Jan Schell
- * Quilted by: Jan Schell
- * Size: 65.5"L x 42.5"W

Quilt 44:



SOLD



This quilt was pieced and quilted by Anna Meyers. She made this quilt to honor her sister in law and longtime DPIL quilter Sue Meyers who passed away in July 2024.



Quilt 45:



- * Pieced by: Becky Sterzick
- * Quilted by: Becky Sterzick
- * Size: 61"L x 39"W

These books are available for purchase for \$20!



Lynette Seiler

Connie Sines

Sheila Ransom



Carrie Otis

BOOKS MADE A DIFFERENCE FOR ME



"Young children who have access to books in the home and who are read aloud to regularly have the best chance of becoming successful readers."

Meet One of Dolly's Kids!

Henry has participated in the program since **birth** and received a book a month for 5 years collecting a home library of 60 books. The DPIL provided him with access to high quality books and as a result he was read to regularly,

Henry has a strong foundation for learning to read as a result of being a part of the Dolly Parton Imagination Library.



DPIL is a school readiness initiative that is available to all children **birth to age 5**, that live in the Belding, Ionia, Lakewood, Portland and Saranac school districts.

THE PROGRAM IS OF **NO COST** TO PARTICIPANTS!

Enroll today and start your child on the path to success!
imaginationlibrary.com or ioniaisd.org or 616-527-4900



This program is funded by generous donations from the community, including all the local school districts, United Way, grants, WillSub, M1, businesses, organizations and individuals.

Find us on  **Ionia Imagination Library**



Top 10 Reasons You Should Support The Imagination Library

.....from a child's point of view

1. **Having books in my home increases the likelihood that someone will read to me!**
2. **The average middle class family has 13 books per child in their home. My family is low income and there is 1 book for every 300 children in my neighborhood.**
3. **Sharing a book with my mommy or daddy is a time for me to cuddle, feel loved, attach to my caregiver and strengthen my social-emotional development.**
4. **Being read to develop pathways in my brain that will help me recognize the sounds that make up words. Being able to differentiate the sounds that make up words is a critical skill I will need to learn to read.**
5. **Being read to helps me learn new words! This is very important because my language/vocabulary skills at the age of 2 are a strong predictor of my later school success.**
6. **When I have books in my home, I can hear the story read to me over and over! This repetition helps me strengthen the pathways in the brain and develops my memory and expressive language skills. Soon I will be able to read the book to you!**
7. **Being read to helps me pay attention and develop listening skills which are very important for my overall ability to learn.**
8. **Being read to before I go to school introduces me to letters and numbers. I learn that print has meaning. Soon I will recognize my name on the book that is sent to my house each month.**
9. **Being read to before I enter kindergarten increases the likelihood that I will learn to read and am successful in school. If I start out behind in kindergarten, the research suggests that I will not catch up without specific intensive intervention to help me.**
10. **If I do not learn to read, I will most likely be underemployed or unemployed, be dependent upon the welfare system and/or become incarcerated during my lifetime.**

INVEST IN ME...



I am our future!

*"A dollar invested in early childhood yields **THREE** times as much as for school-aged children, and **EIGHT** times as much for adult education," James Heckman Nobel Prize-winning economist.*

Biggby Coffee
2331 South State Road

Special offer for the Month of March

Stop in anytime during March and purchase a Grande or specialty coffee and present the voucher, that will be available at the store, and a \$1.00 from every purchase will be donated to the Dolly Parton Imagination Library of Ionia County.



“Like” us on Facebook

Go to Ionia Imagination Library !



A special thank-you to our sponsors:

Michigan One Community Credit Union · ESS· United Way
Belding Area Schools · Ionia Public Schools

· Portland Public Schools

Lakewood Public Schools · Saranac Community Schools
Biggby of Ionia · Friends Quilting Basket

Coming in 2026!

Let's Take a Ride!

Here is a sneak peek at the panel for 2026!



Panels are available by contacting Lindy Trierweiler @ 616-489-2077 or by email latrierweiler@ioniaisd.org