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**Date: 10/13/2023**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**KITTANNING, PA** – The Armstrong County Community Action Partnership (ACCAP) was awarded by the Armstrong County Community Foundation a generous grant from the Richard G. & Barbara A. Snyder General Charitable Fund in the amount of \$4,000 in support of Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library Program.

This grant was presented to ACCAP at the Armstrong County Community Foundation’s 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Dinner on Tuesday, October 10, 2023, at The Inn at Lenape Heights.

According to the United States Census Bureau, Armstrong County has a high school dropout rate of 8%, or 5,228 of the total population. Furthermore, of the 67 counties in Pennsylvania, Armstrong County falls at number 52 with one of the lowest literacy rates in the state. ACCAP believes that the greatest impact on this epidemic can be made by reaching children at a very young age by inspiring a love reading and, thereby, fostering a love of learning.

In October 2022, ACCAP began a partnership with The Dollywood Foundation to bring Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library to Armstrong County. Children birth to five years old are provided with quality books to help inspire them and their families to develop a love of reading. ACCAP also received a grant last year from the Armstrong County Community Foundation for this program.

With the help of the Armstrong County Community Foundation and private donors, ACCAP has been able to provide in one year nearly 600 children with books. ACCAP is honored to have the privilege of working with the Dollywood Foundation, the Armstrong County Community Foundation, and private donors to help bring the love of reading and lifelong learning to children.

For more information about Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library, please contact Robin Rainey, ACCAP’s Family Services Department Manager, at 724.548.3408 ext. 5760 or robinra@armstrongcap.com.

The Armstrong County Action Partnership would like to thank everyone for their generosity and support. Without the community’s support, ACCAP would not be able to fulfill the ***Promise of Community Action***:

***Community Action changes people’s lives, embodies the spirit of hope, improves communities, and makes America a better place to live. We care about the entire community, and we are dedicated to helping people help themselves and each other.***

*Established in 1965.  
ACCAP is a private, 501(c)3 nonprofit organization.*

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From left: ACCAP Board Members Dr. Sean Taladay and Doug Flanders; ACCAP Executive Director, Marlene Petro; Armstrong County Community Foundation Executive Director, Jodi Beers; ACCAP Controller, Erica Bowser; ACCAP Board Member, Lou Palumbo.