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Willowbrook honors girls volleyball coach Mason for 200th victory



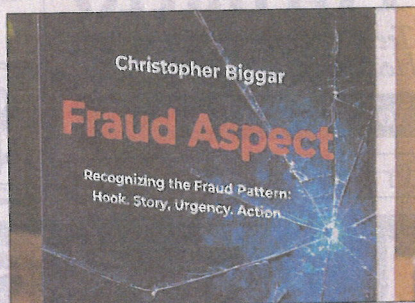
Irene Mason earned her 200th victory as Willowbrook High School's girls volleyball coach near the end of the Warriors' 2025 season. Willowbrook recognized the milestone achievement last week, just before the Warriors' 2026 home opener against Lyons Township. Mason, who is now in her 10th season, guided the Warriors to a third-place finish in the 2023 IHSA Class 4A state tournament. Willowbrook posted a record of 40-2 during its memorable 2023 season, when it won conference, regional, sectional, and super-sectional titles on its way to the state semifinals in Normal. Willowbrook presented Mason with a banner and a framed set of photos before the start of the Sept. 2 match against the Lions. She is pictured (holding the framed photos) with her family and the members of this year's team. Lyons Township defeated Willowbrook 25-14, 25-17 in last week's match in Villa Park to drop the Warriors' season record to 2-1. (Photo by Chris Fox)

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Sports

Warriors erupt for three TDs, pull away from Leyden

Willowbrook senior Dylan Borkowski (22) returns an interception in Friday's win over Leyden. He has made an interception in each of the Warriors' first three games of 2026. (Photo by Chris Fox)



The Willowbrook football team opened its West Suburban Gold Conference season with Friday's 26-9 victory over Leyden in Northlake. The Warriors raised their overall record to 2-1 with the win.

Willowbrook trailed the Eagles (1-2 overall, 0-1 in the conference) 9-7 after Leyden made a field goal early in the third quarter. The Warriors then closed the quarter with a burst of three touchdowns to take their 26-9 lead. Willowbrook

and Leyden played the fourth quarter as flashes of lightning appeared in the distance, northwest of Leyden's stadium. The lightning remained more than 10 miles away, allowing the game to continue.

Nick Hildreth earned the 100th win as Willowbrook's head coach with Friday's triumph over Leyden. Hildreth, who played for the Warriors

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Broncos start new winning streak with victory at Marist

Abrams throws three TD passes, runs for two scores during win

The Montini Catholic football team improved to 2-1 with Friday's 35-28 win at Marist in Chicago. The Broncos scored three touchdowns in the first quarter to take an early 21-0 lead over the RedHawks. Marist, which dropped to 2-1 with the loss, scored two touchdowns during the second quarter and cut Montini's lead to 21-14 by halftime.

The Broncos scored a touchdown on their first drive of the second half to build a 28-14 lead. Marist responded with a TD of its own to reduce Montini's lead to 28-21 in the middle of the third quarter. Montini scored its fifth and final touchdown of the game in the final minute of the third quarter. Marist scored its final touchdown of the evening with about two minutes left in the contest.

The Broncos earned their 35-28 win over Marist one week after losing a 35-28 decision at Sandburg. The Aug. 28 loss at Sandburg ended the Montini program's 25-game winning streak. Montini won its last 10 games of the 2024 season and captured the IHSA Class 3A state title. The Broncos posted an undefeated 14-0 record and won the Class 4A state championship in 2025. Montini opened its 2026 season with a 48-0 home win over Hoopeston Area High School on Aug. 21.

Senior quarterback Israel Abrams tossed a 53-yard touchdown pass to senior Donovan Evans to give the Broncos a 6-0 lead with 8:05 left in the first quarter. Senior Johnny Louise added the extra-point kick to push Montini's lead to 7-0.

Abrams scored the Broncos' next touchdown of the game on a 9-yard run with 2:20 to play in the first quarter. Moments later, on the next play from scrimmage, Montini senior linebacker Ben Evenson tipped a Marist pass in the air and made an interception at the RedHawks' 32-yard line. Evenson delivered a 22-yard return on his interception to advance the ball to Marist's 10-yard line. On Montini's next offensive play, Abrams threw a 10-yard touchdown pass to Evans. The extra-point kick gave the Broncos a 21-0 lead with 1:59 remaining in the first quarter.

Montini received the second-half kickoff and quickly drove 60 yards for a TD. Abrams and senior Damacio Oregon connected on a 35-yard touchdown pass to complete the drive. The extra-point kick raised the Broncos' lead to 28-14 with 10:55 left in the third.

Marist trimmed Montini's lead to 28-21 after it scored a touchdown and made the extra-point kick with 8:20 to play in the third quarter. Abrams scored the Broncos' fifth and final touchdown of the night on a 9-yard run with 39.8 seconds left in the third quarter. The extra-point kick raised Montini's lead to 35-21.

Abrams completed 12 of 23 passes for 252 yards and three touchdowns in Friday's win over Marist. He did not throw any interceptions. Abrams gained 44 rushing yards and scored two touchdowns on nine carries.

Louise, a linebacker on Montini's defensive unit, provided a team-leading 13 tackles. He also made all five of the Broncos' extra-point kicks. Evenson supplied nine tackles, as well as his first-quarter interception that set up Montini's third touchdown of the game.

"It was great to be able to jump out to an early lead," said Montini coach Mike Bukovsky in his post-game comments. "Our guys really battled tough, and many guys had to play extra snaps that they don't usually play, because of the effect the heat was having on numerous players. I am very pleased with our overall preparation and resiliency to be able to bounce back this week from a tough loss [at Sandburg] last week."

Montini's season continues with this Friday's CCL Green Division game at Nazareth Academy (1-2) in La Grange Park. The Broncos and the Roadrunners join St. Rita and St. Francis to make up the four-team Green Division this season.



TOP: Senior Montli Perry (1) rushed for 127 yards and two touchdowns during Glenbard East's win over Fenton. Perry is pictured during his 30-yard scoring run late in the first quarter. BELOW: Glenbard East senior Mason Wright (3) heads toward the end zone on his 49-yard touchdown reception Friday at Fenton. (Photos by Chris Fox)

Rams rout Fenton for first win of 2026

Glenbard East plays its homecoming game this Friday

Glenbard East's football team opened its Upstate Eight Conference East Division season by crushing Fenton 48-0 on Friday evening in Bensenville. The Rams, who opened their 2026 season with losses to Willowbrook and Plainfield North, moved to 1-2 overall with their dominant victory over the Bison, who dropped to 1-2 overall.

The Rams scored three touchdowns in the first quarter of Friday's division contest. Glenbard East piled on four more touchdowns during the second quarter to take a 48-0



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•Rams

(Continued from page 10)

halftime lead. Moments after the kickoff to open the second half, with lighting flashing in the distance, officials declared the game over.

The Rams received the opening kickoff and began their first offensive series at their own 35-yard line. Senior Montii Perry ran for 28 yards on the game's first play from scrimmage. After an incomplete pass, Perry broke a 35-yard touchdown run to complete a three-play, 65-yard scoring drive. Senior Moises Velazquez made the extra-point kick to give the Rams a 7-0 lead with 11:20 left in the first quarter.

Glenbard East turned the ball over on downs on its next drive. The Rams continued their scoring onslaught on their next drive, when sophomore quarterback Carter Pohlman threw a 49-yard touchdown pass to senior Mason Wright, who caught the ball at the 50-yard line and weaved through Fenton defenders on his way to the end zone. Velazquez missed the extra-point kick, leaving the Rams with a 13-0 lead with 3:57 to play in the opening quarter.

Perry scored Glenbard East's third touchdown of the game on a 30-yard run with 39.6 seconds remaining in the first quarter. Velazquez added the extra-point kick to boost the Rams' lead to 20-0.

Pohlman fired a 15-yard touchdown pass to senior Malachi Miller with 8:27 left in the second quarter. Senior Mishun Williams delivered a 1-yard scoring run with 4:52 to play in the quarter. The Rams scored their sixth touchdown of the game moments after Pohlman and junior Jackson Turko connected on a 35-yard pass play that advanced the ball to Fenton's 1-yard line. Senior Demetrius Coleman crossed the goal line on a 1-yard touchdown run on the next play. Velazquez tacked on the extra-point kick to raise the Rams' lead to 41-0 with 2:25 remaining in the first half.

Turko scored Glenbard East's seventh touchdown of the night when he returned a Fenton punt 40 yards for a touchdown as the first half concluded.

Velazquez converted the extra-point kick to give the Rams their 48-0 halftime advantage.

Perry rushed for 127 yards and two touchdowns on six carries in Friday's victory. Pohlman completed seven of 11 pass attempts for 120 yards and two touchdowns.

Glenbard East will try to even its 2026 record at 2-2 when it plays its homecoming game against Elmwood Park (1-2) in this Friday's Upstate Eight Conference East Division matchup in Lombard.



Willowbrook girls volleyball coach Irene Mason is pictured during last week's match against Lyons Township. The Warriors honored Mason before the match for reaching the 200-win milestone near the end of the 2025 season. (Photos by Chris Fox)

Warriors place second at own invite

Willowbrook's girls volleyball team completed a busy week by winning four of five matches and placing second at its own eight-team invitational, which took place Sept. 4-5. The Warriors won their first four matches of the event before losing the championship match. Metea Valley defeated Willowbrook 25-15, 27-25 in the title contest.

The Warriors' overall record stood at 6-2 at the end of the invite.

Willowbrook opened the invite by winning three straight matches in pool play on Sept. 4. The Warriors began the event with a 25-18, 25-21 win over Coal City. Willowbrook then beat Trinity 25-17, 25-19 before closing the day with a 25-21, 25-21 victory over Glenbard South. The Warriors defeated Addison Trail 25-11, 25-11 in a morning semifinal match on Sept. 5. Willowbrook faced Metea Valley in the championship match later that morning.

Willowbrook played its first home match of the 2026 season on Sept. 2, when it battled Lyons Township. The visiting Lions defeated the Warriors 25-14, 25-17 in Villa Park.

Before the match against Lyons Township, Willowbrook honored Irene Mason, who earned her 200th victory as the program's head coach near the end of the 2025 season. Mason is currently in her



Willowbrook senior Tess Doyle (6) receives a serve against Lyons Township.

tenth season as the program's head coach. She guided the Warriors to the third-place trophy in the 2023 IHSA Class 4A state tournament. Willowbrook set a new program record for victories in a season when it won 40 matches in the 2023 season.

The Warriors won conference, regional, sectional, and super-sectional titles on their way to the state semifinals and finished the 2023 season with a 40-2 record.

Darcy Hurley hit four kills for Willowbrook in its loss to Lyons Township. Lucy Franz provided three kills, while Maggie Hurley contributed two kills. Melanie Marinier handed out seven assists for the Warriors. Paige Marinier supplied five assists. Metea Mockler made five digs for Willowbrook. Tess Doyle added four digs.

"This is the youngest group that I've ever had on varsity," said Mason after the Warriors' loss to the Lions. She noted that the team includes four sophomores (Tessa Burritt, Franz, Darcy Hurley and Evelyn Lammers) and two freshmen (Paige Marinier and Bryna Meeker).

"They are eager to learn," said Mason of the Warriors' young lineup. "They're working hard and having fun."

Willowbrook opened its 2026 season with a 25-16, 25-18 victory at Walter Payton College Prep in Chicago on Aug. 24. The Warriors moved to 2-0 following their 25-11, 25-6 win at Elgin on Aug. 26.

Maggie Hurley bashed 10 kills in Willowbrook's season-opening win over Walter Payton College Prep. Melanie Marinier pried up 13 assists and five digs in the victory.

Darcy Hurley contributed five kills and three aces. Franz made four kills, while Burritt and Lammers connected for two kills each. Doyle supplied 11 digs.

Darcy Hurley served 10 aces and hit two kills in the Warriors' win at Elgin.

Willowbrook opened its West Suburban Gold Conference season with a match at Proviso East earlier this week. This Saturday, Sept. 12, the Warriors will play at Leyden High School's Eagle Invite.

Rams, Warriors run at Lyons Township

Willowbrook's Alka earns fourth-place finish

The Glenbard East and Willowbrook girls and boys cross-country teams competed in Saturday's Mike Kuharic Invitational at Lyons Township's south campus in Western Springs. Glenbard East's girls team placed 12th out of 17 teams. The Rams placed 20th in the 24-team boys event's team standings.

Willowbrook's boys team ran to an eighth-place finish in Saturday's competition. The Warriors' girls team did not use a full lineup in the event.

Junior Teigan O'Donnell led Glenbard East's girls team with her 18th-place finish in the 5-kilometer girls race, which she completed in 20 minutes, 25.6 seconds. Freshman Isabelle Budy (21:11.6) finished 37th for the Rams. Sophomore Ava Ihms (22:41.9; 66th), junior Charlotte Kemmerling (24:07.7; 94th), sophomore Ellie Pangilinan (24:55.8; 102nd) and sophomore Gianna Zundell (26:56.5; 106th) completed the Rams' varsity lineup.

Senior Alexander Hernandez posted Glenbard East's fastest time in Saturday's 5-K boys race, which he completed in an 85th-place time of 17:50.6.

Willowbrook junior Legend Alka turned in a fourth-place finish in the boys race. Alka negotiated the 5-kilometer course in 15:34.2.

Senior Thomas Thimo (16:38) contributed a 28th-place finish for the Warriors. Senior Ryan Quinney (17:03.3) provided a 49th-place finish, while senior Jacob Alexander (17:13.4) placed 53rd. Senior Kole Johanson (17:36) completed Willowbrook's scoring lineup with his 79th-place finish. Seniors Ian Montgomery (19:43.7; 132nd) and Siddhartha Mamidi (20:53.2; 144th) rounded out the Warriors' varsity lineup.

Senior Bethany Yurich of Willowbrook ran to a ninth-place finish in Saturday's 5-kilometer varsity girls race, which she completed in 19:47.9. Juniors Juliet Oddo (22:09.4; 56th) and Madeline Pontecoco (23:06; 76th) also represented the Warriors in the varsity girls race.

Broncos run at Fenton's invite; Nino Pesola places third in the boys race: The Montini Catholic girls and boys cross-country teams competed in Saturday's John Kurtz Early Bird Invitational at Fenton High School in Bensenville. The Broncos placed third out of 20 teams in the standings of the boys event. Montini finished seventh in the 15-team girls competition.

Senior Nino Pesola led Montini's boys team with his third-place finish in the 3-mile boys race. Pesola completed the race in 15:54.7. Senior Gavin Conway (16:16.5) provided a 13th-place finish for the Broncos, while senior Adriel Garcia (16:26.1) landed in 20th place. Sophomore Matthew Ferris (16:38.4; 24th) and senior Owen Ferris (16:58.5; 32nd) completed Montini's scoring lineup.

Sophomore Natalia Pesola turned in the Broncos' best finish in the 3-mile girls race, which she completed in a ninth-place time of 19:27.9. Junior Gia Csoke (22:09.5; 41st) and sophomore Fiona Felten (22:16.6; 43rd) joined junior Ella Chico (23:51.4; 68th) and freshman Ellie McGady (23:42.1; 69th) to complete Montini's scoring lineup.

Kummer scores two goals as Rams even record at 2-2

Glenbard East's boys soccer team improved its overall season record to 2-2 with its 3-1 home win over Wheaton Warrenville South on Saturday, Sept. 5. Senior Ryan Kummer scored two goals and provided one assist in the Rams' victory over the Tigers. Junior Danny Grimaldo contributed one goal. Junior Sam Scarlett added one assist for Glenbard East.

The Rams opened their season with a 5-3 win at Plainfield Central on Aug. 25. Glenbard East lost a 3-1 decision at West Aurora on Aug. 27. The Rams lost 3-2 at Streamwood on Aug. 29.

Kummer and senior Johan Olivero scored two goals each in the Rams' triumph over Plainfield Central. Scarlett netted one goal in the season opener.

The Rams opened their Upstate Eight Conference East Division season earlier this week with a match at Fenton. Glenbard East is taking on Glenbard North in a Glenbard Cup match at Camera Park in Glendale Heights on Sept. 10. The Rams will face Whitefish Bay (Wisconsin) High School in a Sept. 12 match at the Illinois vs. Wisconsin Challenge in Rockford.

Glenbard East battles past Glenbard North

Glenbard East's girls volleyball team lost 25-20, 25-23 to South Elgin in a Sept. 1 match in Lombard. One day after losing to South Elgin, the Rams earned a 26-24, 25-20 home win over Glenbard North.

Glenbard East raised its season record to 3-5 with its win over the Panthers. Senior Taylor Griffith provided five assists and four digs for the Rams in their Sept. 2 victory over Glenbard North. Senior Belle Me-

Dermott supplied eight kills, six digs and three blocks for Glenbard East in the win.

Senior Claire Bolda contributed five kills for the Rams, while sophomore Madison Schmidt hit four kills.

Sophomore Olivia Stieve handed out 10 assists in Glenbard East's Sept. 2 win. Junior Abby Michelson served four aces and made four digs. Sophomore Eileen Urbina delivered six digs and three assists.



Glenbard East's Taylor Griffith sets the ball last week vs. South Elgin. (Photo by Chris Fox)

Police Reports

The Villa Park Police Department recently reported the following arrests and citations.

Readers are reminded that an arrest does not constitute a conviction, and that suspects are considered innocent unless proven guilty in a court of law.

Persons charged with domestic battery are not named in order to protect the privacy of victims. Juveniles age 17 or younger are not named.

Sept. 1

A complainant at an auto repair shop in the 400 block of W. St. Charles reported that a subject battered them.

A complainant at a store in the 200 block of W. Roosevelt reported that a subject was in the store after being issued a trespass warning. The subject was issued a citation.

Aug. 31

Ashley Levy, 41, of Villa Park, was charged with theft/unauthorized control at a pharmacy in the 1-100 block of E. St. Charles.

A complainant at a gas station in the 1-100 block of W. St. Charles reported at 6:51 a.m. that a subject was causing a disturbance. The subject was issued a trespass warning.

Aug. 30

Rafael Media Davila, 46, of Villa Park, was charged with violation of a pretrial release and disorderly conduct in the 300 block of N. Ardmore. Media Davila was transported to the DuPage County Jail.

George John Malloy, 20, of Villa Park, was charged with DUI, consumption of liquor by a minor, driving too fast for conditions and improper lighting near W. Elm and N. Princeton at 8:14 p.m.

A complainant at a store in the 200 block of W. Roosevelt reported at 7:02 p.m. that subjects removed merchandise from display shelves and left without paying.

A complainant at a hotel in the 300 block of E. Roosevelt reported that a subject battered them.

A complainant in the 900 block of W. North reported that a juvenile subject damaged their vehicle's front windshield.

A complainant at a pharmacy in the 200 block of E. Roosevelt reported their prescriptions were picked up by an unknown subject.

Aug. 29

A complainant at a store in the 100 block of W. Roosevelt reported that a subject was causing a disturbance. The subject was issued a trespass warning.

Aug. 27

A complainant in the 800 block of S. Myrtle reported they returned from vacation and noticed jewelry missing from their home.

Aug. 26

Johnny D. McDaniel, 30, of Oak Park, was charged with criminal trespass to vehicles at a gas station in the 300 block of E. North.

A complainant at a restaurant in the 1-100 block of W. Roosevelt reported that a subject battered them. The complainant did not want to sign complaints.

Identity theft, fraud

According to information provided by the Villa Park Police Department, two incidents of identity theft or fraud were reported in the village between Aug. 26 and Sept. 1.

Cook County man charged with solicitation of sex act with minor

DuPage County State's Attorney Robert Berlin and Elmhurst Chief of Police Michael McLean announced last week that a Cook County man has been accused of soliciting a minor for a sexual act.



Janeiro Green

Janeiro Green, 70, of Deerfield, appeared in court on Aug. 31, and was charged with one count of solicitation of a sexual act of a minor, a Class 4 felony.

As the charge against Green is non-detainable under Illinois' SAFE-T Act, he was released from custody with conditions, including no contact with the victim or anyone under the age of 18.

On Aug. 30, at approximately 10:40 a.m., Elmhurst police officers responded to a call of an unwelcome male near a gas station located in the 600 block of W. North Avenue.

After speaking with the victim, officers learned that the victim, a 17-year-old female, was at the gas station pumping gas when she was allegedly approached by a man, later identified as Green. It is alleged that Green began speaking to the victim and told her using vulgar language that he wanted to have sex with her and that he could pay her.

It is further alleged that after several attempts by the victim to end the conversation, she was able to disengage with Green by telling him she had to go to work. It is alleged that Green then gave the victim his name, phone number and email address.

While speaking with the victim at the scene, officers observed commotion from a store across the street involving Green. Officers waved Green over to speak with them. After speaking with the officers, Green was taken into custody without incident.

"I commend the young victim in this case for having the courage to do the right thing and bring this matter to the attention of authorities," Berlin said. "We are all very thankful she was left physically unharmed. While the charge against Mr. Green is very upsetting, unless there is a threat of or infliction of great bodily harm or permanent disability or disfigurement, it is not a detainable offense under the State's SAFE-T Act. In fact, the charge against Mr. Green is specifically omitted as a detainable sex offense under the Act. Cases such as this illustrate the need for the General Assembly to strengthen the Act by giving judges more discretion when determining if a defendant is a danger or threat to society."

Green's next court appearance is scheduled for Sept. 28, in front of Judge Margaret O'Connell.

Senior Warriors



The four seniors on Willowbrook's dance team are pictured at the season-opening football game between the Warriors and Glenbard East. From left to right: Elizabeth Deany, Amanzia Termini, Kyri Burritt and Izzy Krygowski. The seniors joined the rest of the dance team to perform during halftime of the Aug. 21 game in Villa Park. Willowbrook defeated Glenbard East 20-13 in overtime in the 2026 season opener. The Warriors' season continued with road games at Oswego East and Leyden. Willowbrook's dance team will perform during halftime of the Warriors' Sept. 11 West Suburban Gold Conference home game against Downers Grove South. (Photo by Chris Fox)

Christian Church of Villa Park announces relocation, fundraising campaign for move

The Christian Church of Villa Park and the Disciples Food Pantry are relocating from 1336 S. Villa Ave. to a new location within the Villa Park area at 507 E. St. Charles Road (Unit C). The church believes this move will better serve the community by providing more space for ministries, especially for the food pantry.

Although the Disciples Food Pantry is not the only ministry impacting the lives of the community, it has outgrown its current space. On average, the Disciples Food Pantry serves 263 households each month, reaching about 801 individuals from its current location. The new facility in Villa Park will provide additional room to enhance this important ministry and improve services for local families in need.

The Love Your Neighbor Day ministry, which is in its 12th year, extends into the community. With the help of the humble and dedicated efforts of a diverse group of volunteers from churches and the community, it helps Villa Park and Lombard neighbors in need once a year with exterior repairs or yard work.

The new location at 507 E. St. Charles Road (Unit C) in Villa Park has plans that include

a larger worship space, a children's area and more, is currently being built, along with searching for items such as new furniture and equipment to support this new environment.

The church kindly asks for support, whether through physical help with the move or financial contributions, as every item — be it a board, nail, light, speaker, or piece of furniture — has a cost. To aid this effort, the church has launched a Church Relocation Fundraising Campaign. If you would like to provide financial support for the church's relaunch and relocation, go to the website at www.ccvponline.net for information on making a one-time gift (by mailing a check or through Giveliy on the website, choosing Church Relocation Fund), or you can make a pledge over time.

Thank you for helping Christian Church of Villa Park to continue to do God's work throughout the community and being a light in a fragmented world. Once the church has a move-in date, it will invite the community to attend a grand opening worship service to kick off the relaunch at the new location to kick off the relaunch. If you have any questions, email: ccvp1336@yahoo.com.

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library coming to Villa Park Sept. 26

The Villa Park Public Library announced that registration for Dolly Parton's Imagination Library will officially open on Saturday, Sept. 26.

The Imagination Library is available at no cost to all Villa Park and Oakbrook Terrace residents residing in the 60181 ZIP Code with children from birth up to age five.

"I am thrilled to be launching this program in the community! Reaching children in the first few years of life to connect them with books they can call their own is truly a huge step forward. Books, reading, and early literacy resources for families are crucial—they create a foundation for education, and provide a set of invaluable tools that children can put to use as they move through the

world," said Jean Jansen, head of Youth Services at The Villa Park Public Library.

Local families interested in registering can do so in person at the library or online by visiting <https://imaginationlibrary.com/check-availability/>. Launched in 1995, Dolly Parton's Imagination Library is the world's leading early childhood book-gifting program and the flagship initiative of The Dollywood Foundation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Since its founding, the program has gifted more than 300 million free books to children across the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, Australia, and the Republic of Ireland.

For more information, visit the library's website at www.vppi.info or call 630-834-1164.