



United Way of Youngstown  
and the Mahoning Valley

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Navarro Family Makes Major Gift to United Way's Imagination Library**

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(Youngstown, OH) – The Navarro Family and the United Way of Youngstown and the Mahoning Valley are committed to helping children in Mahoning County learn how to read. To further that mission, Shorty and Elba Navarro are generously donating \$25,000 to the United Way's Imagination Library initiative. **Elba Navarro will present United Way with a check on Wednesday, July 19th at 10am at OCCHA at 3660 Shirley Road in Youngstown.**

In 2014, United Way launched Imagination Library, which provides a free age-appropriate book once a month to children from birth to age 5 living in Mahoning County. Since its start, more than 4,600 children have received 125,000 books sent directly to their homes.

"Imagination Library is a major investment for our United Way, and the only way we can reach more children is through great partnerships like this one with the Navarro Family," said Bob Hannon, President of the United Way of Youngstown and the Mahoning Valley, "We are lucky to have Shorty and Elba Navarro in our Valley, and we are honored they want to help us grow this reading initiative."

Shorty and Elba Navarro's gift will help the United Way expand Imagination Library to reach even more children. Elba Navarro will be on hand for an Imagine with Us event at OCCHA, one of United Way's partner agencies, on **Wednesday, July 19th at 10am**. She will present the United Way with a check at that time, and then be a guest reader for children in OCCHA's summer program. The children will also take part in several literacy based activities.

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"We wanted Imagination Library to be about more than free books, so we brought together the right partners to provide ways to encourage the entire family to read," said Kathy Mock, United Way's Director of Education and Initiatives, "We have Imagine with Us Events with the Public Library of Youngstown and Mahoning County, we have volunteers serve as Reading Buddies by going into pre-schools to read to the little ones, and local schools have even adopted their own Reading Buddy program by pairing up middle school children with kindergarten and first graders. It's all grown out of Imagination Library"

Imagination Library is also sponsored by Covelli Enterprises and the Ohio Children's Foundation.

To sign up your child for Imagination Library, you can go to [www.ymvunitedway.org/imaginationlibrary](http://www.ymvunitedway.org/imaginationlibrary) or call the United Way office at 330-746-8494.