

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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ImagineIF and Local Nonprofits Team-up to Deliver Literacy Kits to Families

Kalispell, MT – This June ImagineIF Libraries provided 275 literacy kits to children and families across Flathead County. Staff and volunteers loaded up buses provided by Kalispell Public Schools and The HEART Locker with 75 family kits, 100 birth to five kits, 50 elementary kits, and 50 kits for teenagers. The kits themselves are full of age-appropriate books and activities like sidewalk chalk, drawing pads, terrariums, and DUPLOS for the younger children, and origami sets and more complex activities for teens.

“Through the generosity and swift action of Zero to Five and The HEART Locker, we're delighted to be able deliver high-quality kits to Flathead youth and their families. We designed these kits to be a packet of joy in these tough times, inspiring babies, kids, teens, and the adults who love them to make art, read, and create together. As much as possible we sourced materials locally from small businesses, keeping those grant dollars in the local economy,” said Ellie Newell, ImagineIF Libraries Youth Service Librarian.

Montana early childhood initiative, Zero to Five, provided funding to purchase the items in the kits assembled by ImagineIF Libraries, which were delivered by The HEART Locker, Kalispell Public School’s program to aid students and families experiencing housing and financial instability. This was a true collaborative effort, in which child and family-serving organizations joined hands to provide fun and essential learning activities for families.

About The HEART Locker

The HEART Program is a nonprofit organization that encourages growth and graduation by helping meet the basic needs of Kalispell and Evergreen students struggling with homelessness. The HEART Program consists of four parts: The HEART Locker, The Locker Learning Center, The HEART Markets, and The HEART Fund. The HEART Locker is a facility that acts as a “store” to receive donated clothing, hygiene products, bedding, and school supplies. We are run by the school district and serve students and their families, at NO cost to them. Any student in need is welcomed and we appreciate the opportunity to introduce our students to the many resources our community has to offer. ImagineIF Libraries is an

important partner in ensuring these youth are connected with our larger community and know that there are many doors open to them. Find out more at: <https://www.kalispellheartprogram.org/mission-index-impact>

About Zero to Five Montana

Zero to Five is an early childhood initiative helping caring Montanans make lasting differences for the benefit of children through local and statewide work. For more information on Zero to Five Flathead County contact Kayme Backstrom at kbackstrom@flathead.mt.gov or by phone at 406-751-8116.

ImagineIF Libraries encourages exploration, fresh ideas and self-discovery. ImagineIF offers activities and services for all ages. For more information, visit www.imagineiflibraries.org.

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