



United Way of
Cumberland County



PRESS RELEASE

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United Way of Cumberland County

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Cumberland County Literacy Council Expands Imagination Library Storytimes to More Libraries and Launches Monthly Bilingual Storytime Series

Fayetteville, N.C. (August 4, 2025) – The Cumberland County Literacy Council is thrilled to announce a major expansion of its *Imagination Library Storytime* program. In addition to the current weekly sessions held at Headquarters Library, Bordeaux Community Library, North Regional Library, and Cliffdale Regional Library, four more locations will now host storytimes:

- West Regional Library
- East Regional Library
- Hope Mills Public Library
- Spring Lake Public Library

This expansion brings the joy of reading and early literacy development to even more children and families across Cumberland County.

As part of this exciting growth, the Literacy Council is also introducing *Imagination Library Bilingual Storytime*, a new monthly program that celebrates the cultural and linguistic diversity of our community. Beginning August 9, 2025, bilingual storytimes will take place on the second Saturday of each month, rotating between various library

locations. The first three sessions are scheduled for Spring Lake Public Library and Hope Mills Public Library.

Each bilingual storytime features:

- **Bilingual Storytelling:** A story is read in English and then in Spanish, helping children engage with multiple languages and cultures.
- **Music, Finger Play, and Movement:** Interactive songs and activities that support early learning and keep children engaged.
- **A FREE Book for Every Child:** Every child receives a book to take home, encouraging continued reading and building home libraries.
- **Socialization Opportunities:** Children can play and interact with peers in a fun, welcoming setting.

The first three bilingual storytimes will be led by NC-based authors and Literacy Council Ambassadors, Anechy Padrón and Claudia Zamora, who are passionate about literacy and celebrating culture through storytelling.

About the Storytellers

- **Claudia Zamora** is a bilingual children's author based in Fayetteville. Her stories celebrate culture, language, and connection. Through playful storytelling and vivid imagination, she inspires children to embrace their identity and see the world as a beautifully woven tapestry of dreams and voices.
- **Anechy Padrón** is an author with a heart full of stories and a remarkable journey from the stages of Havana to the pages of children's books. For nearly a decade, she delighted children in Cuba as an actress and puppeteer. Her debut middle-grade chapter book, *The Adventures of Patti and Barci: The City of Cats*, continues that legacy of entertaining and educating young readers.

To become a Literacy Council Ambassador, volunteers must submit an application, complete a federal background check, and attend child safety training. This ensures a safe and enriching environment for all participating children.

The Cumberland County Literacy Council remains committed to fostering early literacy and providing children with access to books, educational programs, and inclusive experiences that encourage a lifelong love of reading.

For full details and locations of Imagination Library Storytimes, visit:

<https://www.unitedway-cc.org/cumberland-county-literacy-council/programs/imagination-library-storytime.html>

To learn more about Bilingual Storytime and upcoming events, visit:

<https://www.unitedway-cc.org/cumberland-county-literacy-council/programs/imagination-library-bilingual-storytime.html>

Join the Movement: Become a Literacy Ambassador

The Cumberland County Literacy Council is currently recruiting Literacy Ambassadors to support its growing Imagination Library Storytime programs. Volunteers are vital to creating meaningful, engaging experiences that ignite a lifelong love of reading in children across our community.

By volunteering at Storytime events, you'll help nurture early literacy and promote joyful, inclusive environments where young readers can thrive.

Volunteer Requirements:

- Complete a short online application (10–15 minutes)
Pass a background check (required for all roles involving children)
Attend a volunteer orientation and child safety training
- Provide one professional reference

If you're passionate about literacy and want to be part of a movement creating lasting impact, we invite you to join us.

Apply to become a Literacy Ambassador here:

<https://www.unitedway-cc.org/cumberland-county-literacy-council/volunteer/>

Cumberland County Literacy Council

The Cumberland County Literacy Council is a collaborative initiative that brings together public and private partners to tackle one of our community's most urgent challenges: literacy. United in purpose, this coalition is committed to creating generational change through innovative strategies and targeted programs that advance literacy across all ages. Recognizing that literacy is a foundation for both economic opportunity and social well-being, the Council works to equip individuals with the reading and learning skills they need to thrive in school, in the workforce, and in life, ultimately building a stronger, more resilient Cumberland County.

United Way of Cumberland County

Our mission is to improve lives across Cumberland County by strategically raising and investing resources that successfully impact prioritized human service and health needs while working in effective and innovative partnerships with direct provider agencies. To learn more visit <https://www.unitedway-cc.org/>

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