



Courtesy photo

Putnam County WIC staff hold an autographed picture of Dolly Parton presented by the Early Learning Coalition of Putnam and St. Johns counties. David Kastensmidt, back right, nutrition program director at the Putnam County Health Department, directed his staff to implement the registration process. Staff pictured are Charmaine Neely, Jeanette Jenkins, Linda Atchison, Eveliz Arroyo, Miriam Guerrero, Sandy Sylvester, Donna Schneider, Belkis Delgado, Megen Amodio, Amanda Muhlenberg and Jodi Mathews.

## 585 Putnam babies now receiving free books

### Putnam County WIC and Dolly Parton Imagination Library instrumental in bringing books to newborns

*Special to the Daily News*

Almost one year after beginning efforts to deliver free books into the hands of all newborns in Putnam and St. Johns counties, more than 585 babies in Putnam County have enrolled in the Dolly Parton Imagination Library program ([www.dollypartonimaginationlibrary.com](http://www.dollypartonimaginationlibrary.com)).

Putnam County WIC has been

instrumental in promoting the library to new parents, according to a news release from the local organization. Parents who go to WIC offices can fill out a registration form to get started in the program.

Parents of Putnam and St. Johns County newborns (born after May 1, 2008) are eligible to register for this nationwide program, which delivers an age-appropriate book each month in the mail until their fifth birthday at no charge to the parent. The goal of the Early Learning Coalition of Putnam and St. Johns Counties is to make this program available to every baby in the counties.

"Reading to your child at a young age is so fundamental for early learn-

ing success," said Jena Waters, coordinator of the program. "We hope that more of the community will take WIC's lead and help us get books in the hands of our children."

Other organizations joining the Dolly Parton Imagination Library's mission are the Putnam County Medical Center, St. Johns County Education Foundation, St. Johns County Public Library and the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce.

Parents can sign up by calling 386-328-8225. For more information or to sponsor this program, contact Jena Waters at the ELCPSJ at 328-8225; [jwaters@elcpsj.org](mailto:jwaters@elcpsj.org) or visit [www.dollypartonimaginationlibrary.com](http://www.dollypartonimaginationlibrary.com).