



## Cooks For Books fundraiser brings childrens' books to life in form of food

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Courtesy photo

A look at the Jackson District Library's "Fancy Nancy" food display at last year's Cooks For Books

JACKSON – If you had to choose a children’s book to use as a basis for a recipe, which would it be? How about “Charlie and the Chocolate Factory”? Or maybe “Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs”? Picking a book, choosing a recipe and making it come to life will be the goal for cooks at the annual “Cooks For Books” fundraiser for the Jackson County **Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library program** at First United Methodist Church on Friday afternoon.

“This is our one big event of the year,” said organizer Sheri Butters, who is the director of Great Start Collaboration Jackson County. “Last year, we had 12 teams. This year, we have 23.” Each team represents a local organization or business, including the ABC Academy, the Jackson Police Department and the Jackson Career Center, to name a few. The teams will choose a popular children’s book title and then create recipes based on that title. “The Stinky Cheese Man” was the basis for last year’s winning team. “They had a whole array of foods with cheese, so that went over very well,” Butters said. “I should warn everyone, that group is doing ‘Don’t Forget the Bacon!’ this year.”

Some of the other themes this year include “Ugly Pie,” “Thunder Cake” and “The Giant Jam Sandwich.” The winner will be decided by a popular vote. Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library is a nationwide literacy program that provides books to small children. The Jackson County program is open to all children living in the county and is run by the Jackson District Library and the Great State Collaboration.

Each child in the program receives a book in the mail once a month. So far, approximately 4,000 children have benefitted from the local chapter. About 2,700 have “graduated” from the program, which occurs when they reach five years of age. “If a child is registered at birth, they’ll receive 60 books,” Butters said.

### **If you go ...**

**What:** Third annual “Cooks for Books” cook-off and fundraiser

**Where:** First United Methodist Church, 275 W. Michigan Ave., Jackson

**When:** 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Friday

**Cost:** \$5 per person, includes tasting and one vote. Additional votes available for \$1 donations.

**More info:** <http://www.greatstartjackson.org/>

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