WHAT'S NEW IN THE Northeast Area

SERVING **BAKER**, **GILLIAM**, **HOOD RIVER**, **MORROW**, **UMATILLA**, **WALLOWA**, & **WASCO** COUNTIES

Our Heartfelt Thanks!

SMART is possible because of our incredible volunteers, donors, educators, and partners. Thank you for sharing our commitment to creating brighter futures for kids through reading!

Corporate and Foundation Sponsors
Big thanks to these funders for helping us provide vital reading practice time and books to kids:

Avangrid Foundation, Inc.
Eastern Oregon Coordinated Care Organization
Edna Rogers Harrell Community Children's Fund
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James and Shirley Rippey Family Foundation
Jeffrey L. Rippey Family Charitable Fund
Roundhouse Foundation
The D.E. & Jane Clark Fund
United Way of the Blue Mountains
United Way of Columbia Gorge
Wildhorse Foundation

Volunteers Needed This Fall

We have openings for volunteer Readers in Boardman, Cascade Locks, Hermiston, Pendleton, The Dalles, and Umatilla this fall. The commitment starts at one hour a week, and we promise it will be a fun, rewarding experience!

Learn more at **www.SMARTReading.org/volunteer**.

2024-25 Local Impact

17 Sites

685 Students Served

9,008 Books Given

Storytelling Night Raises Funds for Local Programs

SMART was the featured nonprofit at the Gorge Speakeasy's monthly storytelling night in January, which raised over $600 for our local programs. It was a fun, heartwarming night, and we're so grateful for the opportunity to share about our mission!

Pictured: SMART Site Coordinator Nancy Paul (left) and Program Manager Kate Drahota (right) speak at the Gorge Speakeasy event.

Volunteer Testimonial: The Power of Our Work

"For the first six months my first-grade student and I read together, he would not talk. I used every creative idea I could think of to engage him, but the most I got was a one syllable utterance. Most of the time he would look up at the ceiling or fidget, but he never looked at me. It could be a long 30 minutes.

I always gave him the choice to read or listen to me read. He never responded, so I read and read and then a miracle happened.

One day, he presented me with a rose. The following week, he picked a book about dolphins and before I knew it, he READ that book! Reading miracles do happen with consistency, time, and encouragement."

Pictured: A SMART student presents a rose to Reader Donna Reike during National Volunteer Week.

SMART Northeast Area Staff Kate Drahota, *Program Manager* | Jennifer Zardinejad, *Area Director*
SMART Northeast Office | 1029 NW 14th Street, Suite 101 | Bend, OR 97703 | Contact Us! 541-436-5457 | www.SMARTReading.org