



WHAT'S NEW IN THE South Central Area

SERVING **KLAMATH & LAKE 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:



Volunteers Needed This Fall

We have openings for volunteer Readers and Site Coordinators at many of our sites 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.

Keep your eyes (and ears) open for information about our "SMART Summer Sunday Sundaes" where we'll give a short presentation and answer questions about how to get started as a volunteer.

2024-25 Local Impact



27
Sites



1,695
Students Served



19,125
Books Given

High Schoolers Lead the Way



This year, 104 student volunteers from Henley High School completed SMART's application and training process to become weekly Readers to three Kindergarten and three first-grade classes. Under the leadership of their outstanding English teachers, Lisa Stringer, Erin Haney, and Shaila Walker, these high schoolers brought fun and friendship to 137 students who were delighted to sit down and share books each week. This effective, impactful partnership is a model for other local schools wanting to follow their example!



Pictured: Gracie Poe from Henley High School reads with students at Henley Elementary School.

Boots for Books Breaks Fundraising Records



Despite wind, hail, and driving rain, SMART's 8th Annual Boots for Books Bash was a smashing success, breaking previous fundraising records! With 476 attendees raising their paddles, buying auction items, and celebrating SMART's impact, the event helped kick off the year with confidence and enthusiasm!

Special thanks to our extraordinary speaker, Hana Hooper, the American Heart Association's National Woman of Impact for 2024, who shared her story of how a strong foundation in reading as a child in Klamath Falls helped her weather many storms, including losing her sight at age 19.

This year's event on Saturday, August 16 is almost sold out. Contact the SMART office for details on how you can sponsor, attend, or donate. We love to grow the SMART family!

Pictured: Guests enjoy the festivities at last year's Boots for Books Bash.

SMART South Central Area Staff Taylor Melgoza, *Program Manager* | Holly Stork, *Area Director*

SMART South Central Office | 803 Main Street, Suite #404 | Klamath Falls, OR 97601 | Contact Us! 541-273-2424 | www.SMARTReading.org