



# WHAT'S NEW IN THE South Valley Area

SERVING **BENTON, LANE, & LINN 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:

**Doris and Bill Scharpf Foundation**

**Esta Rose Fund of the Oregon Community Foundation**

**James and Shirley Rippey Family Foundation**

**Oregon Country Fair**

**SELCO Community Credit Union**

**Spirit Mountain Community Fund**

**Starker Forests**

**The Cressey Family Charitable Trust**

**W.L.S. Spencer Foundation**

## Book Bank Programming Grows in South Valley



With the goal of getting as many books as possible into the hands of kids, the South Valley team is actively working to add new Book Bank programs in our region. Adapted from the Children's Book Bank in Portland, this includes hosting book drives and cleaning, sorting, and refurbishing donated books before getting them back out to kids.

Big thanks to SELCO Community Credit Union for hosting a successful month-long book drive and two book cleaning events this year!

Want to get involved in this effort? We are looking for both in-office and out-of-office volunteers.

Visit [www.bit.ly/SVBookBank](http://www.bit.ly/SVBookBank) to sign up.

## Take Me Out to the Ballgame



Willagillespie Community School first grader Isaiah Wilt threw the first pitch at the Eugene Emeralds game on May 22 where SMART was the featured nonprofit. Isaiah is enthusiastic about books and his skills are taking off! During volunteer appreciation week, he spontaneously ran out of the classroom to tell his Reader, "You're the greatest!"

*Pictured: SMART Reading student Isaiah Hilt poses with Sluggo at the Eugene Emeralds Game.*

## 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](http://www.SMARTReading.org/volunteer).

## Staff Spotlight: Meet Emily

Emily joined the SMART team in May as our new Program Manager. She grew up in Coos Bay, where she also worked as a substitute in local schools. Outside of work, you can find her at the local bluegrass jam, appreciating the beauty of the Willamette Valley, or wrapped up in a good book!



### 2024-25 Local Impact



**33  
Sites**



**1,307  
Students Served**



**14,041  
Books Given**