The 2018-19 school year was filled with shared stories, laughter, and learning as our community came together to support young readers and help set them on a path for success in school and in life. Thanks to our volunteers, donors, educators, and partners in Douglas County and throughout the state, we reached an exciting milestone -- nearly 11,000 students benefiting from one-on-one reading sessions and new books to keep. We look forward to more fun, partnerships, and important work ahead!

Having 30 minutes of time for a child to connect with a reader once or twice a week supports their academics, self-confidence, and provides a little one-on-one attention. I appreciate the time that is given from the volunteers and SMART.

- Douglas Area Principal

2019-20 Goals

Student Goal: 600
Fundraising Goal: $56,320
Volunteer Goal: 300
Meet SMART Alumna Kenetha

Years after she walked the halls of her elementary school as a kindergartner, Kenetha Mayo still beams when she pulls out the well-loved stack of books she received from SMART. “These books were the first ones that were truly mine,” she says. “I read them all the time and I didn’t have to worry about wrinkling the pages.”

She has cherished that stack of books, keeping them through frequent childhood moves and rescuing them from a family garage sale. She credits these books and the time spent reading with a SMART volunteer with setting her on a path for success in school and in life. “SMART really impacted every aspect of my life. Starting so young, it helped me build confidence in myself as a person and as a student. I remember feeling so special when I got to read to someone, and with the books from SMART, I started reading more at home, too,” she recalls.

Now an avid reader, Kenetha is a Lead Universal Associate for Umpqua Bank, and loves reading the books she received from SMART with her nieces and nephew.

Family and Educator Feedback

Each year, SMART gathers input from families with children in the SMART program and from educators with SMART in their schools to learn about our impacts, outcomes and areas for improvement. Here’s what we learned:

- 93% of educators indicated SMART contributed significantly to reading motivation and enjoyment for their students.
- 97% of parents or guardians agreed that their children benefited from the SMART program.
- 85% of parents or guardians said their children demonstrate improved reading skills as a result of participating in SMART.

I loved seeing the improvement in reading skills. The student I read with was able to read stage 2 books at the end of SMART!

-Douglas Area Volunteer

Student Milestones

Each April, SMART teachers are asked to participate in a voluntary survey reporting progress observed for each participating student. Teachers evaluate students’ progress on grade-appropriate literacy benchmarks. The results reveal:*

- More than 85% of SMART students consistently showed improvement in measures of reading motivation and enjoyment, which are strongly correlated with reading performance.
- 91% of SMART students showed improved confidence in their reading skills.
- 82% of SMART students showed improvement in social and emotional skills.

*This data is from the 2017-18 program year; outcomes remain relatively constant year to year.