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 Clatsop 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!

Another Great Year in the Books!

My favorite memory was working with a student every week until, toward the end of the program, he was reading entire books by himself, and began to enjoy reading. His face would light up when he came to SMART. I would call that a success!

- North Coast Area Volunteer

2019-20 Goals

Student Goal: 200
Fundraising Goal: $39,050
Volunteer Goal: 75

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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 nephews.

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.

SMART inspires a love of reading in my students and they love getting books to take home. To me it is very valuable to my community.

- SMART Educator

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:

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.

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91% of SMART students showed improved confidence in their reading skills.

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

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