SMART wouldn’t be possible without our incredible community of Site Coordinators, Readers, donors, educators, and advocates who partner with us to bring a love of reading and learning to local kids. Thank you for being a part of the SMART family!

Corporate and Foundation Sponsors

Many thanks to these businesses and partners for helping us provide one-on-one reading support and books to kids in our community:

- St. Charles Foundation
- Simplicity Homes
- Tetherow
- Miller Lumber
- Bigfoot Beverages
- OXO
- St. Charles Foundation
- TransCanada
- PCC Structures, Inc.
- W.M. Keck Foundation
- Janet and Earl Seikins Foundation
- Thea’s Financial
- Barbara Emily Knudson Foundation

SMART Sip Raises Funds for Local Programs

Our second annual SMART Sip fundraiser was a huge success! Held at Tetherow, the event raised over $26,000 to support our local programs and was a great opportunity for fellow SMART fans to gather and celebrate another amazing year.

Thank you to our sponsors:
- Bend Garbage & Recycling
- Umpqua Bank
- Westhoff Group
- Bigfoot Beverages
- Miller Lumber
- Tetherow
- Simplicity Homes
- G5
- Central Electric
- Knife River
- Storms Family Foundation
- Autzen Foundation
- Cow Creek Umpqua Foundation
- Barbara Emily Knudson Foundation

Thank you to our vendors:
- Crater Lake Spirits
- Maryhill Winery
- Silver Moon Brewing
- Tomato Cider Co.

Central Area Volunteer of the Year

Longtime SMART Reader and Leadership Council member, Jim Linker, was named Central Oregon’s 2018-19 SMART Volunteer of the Year! Jim has been a dedicated member of the SMART community for nearly a decade, and works tirelessly to recruit volunteers and support our fundraising efforts. Congratulations, Jim, and thank you for everything you do for SMART!

New SMART Program Opens in Burns

This year, SMART opened a new program at Henry Slater Elementary in Burns, the first SMART program in Harney County. The program serves 26 second graders each week and has already been a huge success. “The relationship between the adult and the student has been really meaningful,” says Site Coordinator Stephanie Volle. Read more about this program at www.bit.ly/SlaterSMART.

Thank you to our vendors:
- Crater Lake Spirits
- Maryhill Winery
- Silver Moon Brewing
- Tomato Cider Co.

2018-19 Local Impact

- 22 Sites
- 405 Volunteers
- 944 Students
- 13,909 Books Given

2018-19 Statewide Impact

- 287 Sites
- 5,021 Volunteers
- 10,993 Students
- 145,546 Books Given
- 155,922 Volunteer Hours

$3.5 million Donated Value of Volunteer Hours

Dear Friends:

Thank you for making 2018-19 another great year filled with the joy and power of reading to kids throughout Oregon. At our core, SMART believes that reading matters. We know reading is an essential building block in a child’s life, forming the strong foundation for future learning and life experiences. And we know our vast community of volunteers, donors, educators, families and students agrees with us. Thanks to your support, SMART served over 11,000 students with one-on-one reading and gave away over 127,000 books to Oregon kids this year. We think that is worth celebrating!

As I’ve come to learn in my eight years at SMART – and one of my favorite things about this organization and our incredible team – each year is filled with interesting and exciting new developments. This year, we launched 15 pilot programs through our new Out-of-School Time (OST) model, prioritized in our 2017-20 strategic plan. The OST model reaches more children who can benefit from our services by partnering with community organizations, after school programs and summer programs. SMART OST programs served nearly 300 children and gave away over 1,500 books in 2018-19. Next year, we aim to reach 400 students and will continue refining the model and evaluation mechanisms before rolling it out statewide.

You also may have heard that SMART is getting a new look through a rebranding effort. Later this year, you’ll see a new logo, language, and messaging as an updated reflection of who SMART is today and where we’re headed. Much more to come on this front in the fall – keep an eye out for SMART’s new look.

Thank you again for your continued partnership and support. Here’s to a great summer filled with warm, sunny days and an endless supply of good books!

Chris Otis
SMART Executive Director

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Executive Staff:
- Chris Otis
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- Jessica Bowersox
- Communications Director
- Alexis James
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- Jonathan Walter
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Published by SMART I Design by Ovidio Francisco-Juan and Sara Matsuzaki I Editing by Jessica Bowersox, Michelle Gilmore, and Phoebe Petersen

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What’s New in the Central Area
Serving Crook, Deschutes, Grant, Harney, and Jefferson counties
SMART had a huge impact on my life. Even though my parents read with me regularly, SMART provided the extra practice and one-on-one time at school that helped me grow as a reader and catch up with my classmates. With the extra boost, I exceeded on the SATs and ACTs. I’m a very fast reader now and good at skimming, which has been really helpful to me in college.

– Mariza Rayfield, Tigard/Tualatin

SMART Staff Book Squad
SMART staff launched a book club this year to foster reading and learning together as a team. Our first book was Americanah by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, which members of our statewide team gathered to discuss over their lunch hour. Next up: Brown Girl Dreaming by Jacqueline Woodson.

Congratulations to Karen Brkich, a SMART Site Coordinator in Central Point, who has been named SMART’s statewide Volunteer of the Year. Karen has been volunteering with SMART since the first program opened in the Rogue Valley in 1995, and was selected from among 10 regional winners because of her longstanding dedication to fostering a love of reading in local children. “Through all of life’s changes, Karen has made volunteering with SMART her number one priority,” says Julie Brimble, SMART Rogue Valley Area Manager. “She has recruited and trained volunteers, taken on challenging sites and helped them thrive, and is beloved by volunteers, school staff, and students alike. As one of her fellow volunteers said, ‘she is, quite simply, the best!’” Big thanks and kudos to you, Karen!

SMART’s annual statewide fundraiser, the Alphabet Ball, was held on Friday, Feb. 8 (amid rumors of snow that thankfully didn’t materialize). By all accounts, the event was a great success! Over 300 guests joined us at The Nines Hotel in downtown Portland, and collectively helped raise $502,000 to support SMART operations throughout the state. Thank you to our many supporters and sponsors, including our presenting sponsor, First Tech Federal Credit Union.

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– Mariza Rayfield, Tigard/Tualatin

“If I hadn’t been in SMART, I wouldn’t have enjoyed reading. It was such a positive, welcoming environment and I felt free to learn and have fun with books without judgement. Through SMART, I got more adventurous with books and started exploring new genres. I love that reading is all about sparking the imagination.”

– Nini Bui, Beaverton

“As a shy child falling behind my classmates in both learning and confidence, the SMART program not only provided me focused time for reading with a devoted adult but also an early confidence boost that I was not receiving elsewhere at that point in my life. Even two decades later, I know that my time spent as a participant in the SMART program was one of the factors which increased my confidence and reading ability, leading me to the successful place I have in life today.”

– Andrew Eddy, Klamath Falls

SMART BOOK CLUB
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