Dear Friends:

Thank you for making 2018-19 another great year filled with bringing 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. As an updated logo, language, and messaging reflect our mission to bring the joy and power of reading to kids throughout Oregon, I’m excited to share that we have an updated look and feel 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!

Thanks All Around!

Thank you for being a part of the SMART family!

Buoy Beer Raises a Glass to SMART

Buoy Beer is donating $1 to local SMART programs for every Hop IPA ordered before June 30. Bring your friends and stop by their taproom!

North Coast Area Volunteer of the Year

Longtime SMART volunteer Judith Pearson was named the North Coast’s 2018-19 SMART Volunteer of the Year! Judith is in her second year as the Site Coordinator at Gearhart Elementary after being a Reader and co-Coordinator in Portland. As a retired librarian, she is passionate about getting books into the hands of kids and loves talking about SMART with everyone she meets. Congratulations, Judith, and thank you for everything you do for SMART!

Birdies Fore Books Raises Funds for Local Programs

Last year’s golf tournament and wine reception was a huge success, raising nearly $17,000 to support local programs and we hope you’ll join us for more fun this year! Mark your calendars for Birdies Fore Books on Thursday, August 8. Held at Gearhart Golf Links, our annual golf scramble will be followed by a complimentary wine reception at 5 p.m., celebrating another successful year of SMART and raising funds to provide books and shared reading time to local kids next year. To RSVP, visit www.bit.ly/2019Birdies4Books or call 971-634-0125.

2018-19 Local Impact

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Sites</th>
<th>Volunteers</th>
<th>Students</th>
<th>Books Given</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>168</td>
<td>2,326</td>
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2018-19 Statewide Impact

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<tr>
<th>Sites</th>
<th>Volunteers</th>
<th>Students</th>
<th>Books Given</th>
<th>Volunteer Hours</th>
<th>Donated Value</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>287</td>
<td>5,021</td>
<td>10,993</td>
<td>145,546</td>
<td>155,922</td>
<td>$3.5 million</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
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 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!

SMALL BEAUTY by Jia Qing-Wilson Yang

- Shannon Ross, South Valley Program Administrator

Where the Crawdads Sing by Delia Owens

- Stephanie Gates, Northwest and North Coast Development Officer

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.

“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

“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