

What's New in the Rogue Valley Area

Serving Jackson and Josephine counties

Thank You!

Our incredible community of 216 volunteers spent 4,262 hours this year reading with kids and helping them choose new books to keep. We're so grateful for the volunteers, donors, educators, and partners who made it possible for us to return to in-person reading, give away thousands of books, and inspire a love of reading in local kids. Thank you for being an important part of SMART!

Corporate and Foundation Sponsors

Many thanks to these businesses and partners for helping us spark joy and opportunity through the magic of a shared book:

Anna May Family Foundation, Arthur R. Dubs Foundation, Asante Health System, Beerworks, Carrico Family Foundation, Gordon Elwood Foundation, Harry & David, Holliday Jewelry, Knife River, KOBI NBC5, Medford Fabrication, Nothing Bundt Cakes, Platon's Kitchen, Reed & Carolee Walker Fund of The Oregon Community Foundation, Rogue Disposal and Recycling, Storytelling Guild, Table Rock Kiwanis, The Carpenter Foundation, The Joe and Frances Naumes Family Foundation, United Way of Jackson County, and Windermere Real Estate



Honoring A Longtime SMARTie

We owe a huge debt of gratitude to Patsy Smullin for her years of service and support of SMART Reading in the Rogue Valley. We had the honor of celebrating her this spring shortly after she

stepped down from her post as a member of the Rogue Valley Leadership Council. Thank you, Patsy, for your ongoing support of SMART!

Give Your Heart to SMART Returns

This February, we held our first in-person fundraiser since 2020. We welcomed several new local sponsors such as Trader Joe's, the White Lotus Day Spa, Lithia Honda in Medford, Platon's Kitchen, and Market of Choice. The event was full of love for SMART and enthusiasm about being gathered together again!

Meet Our New Team Members!

We had two amazing new SMARTies join our team this past school year!



Taylor Melgoza, Program Manager

I was primarily in the legal industry before coming to SMART. My experience there gave me confidence that I would be an asset in the role of program manager, but what brought me to

SMART was really the mission. I have been an avid reader since my youth, and know that the early years of reading are the most magical (and important). My favorite part of the job is visiting the programs in action: seeing the students excitedly chat with their Readers, and picking out books, especially on days they get to take the books home with them!



Jenny Grossman, Program Manager

Before coming to SMART, I worked for the Medford School District, and most recently, the Oregon Commission for the Blind. I have also been a volunteer with

Girl Scouts for 10 years and a co-leader of Troop 31829 for 7 years. At SMART, I love watching kids and volunteers bond over books, and of course, see kids' smiles when they choose books of their very own.

What We're Reading

- Taylor's reading *The Well of Ascension* by Brandon Sanderson
- Leona's reading *Get Good with Money* by Tiffany Aliche
- Jenny's reading *The Girls with No Names* by Serena Burdick

2022-23 Local Impact



22
Sites



791
Students Served



7,161
Books Given