



# WHAT'S NEW IN THE South Central Area

SERVING KLAMATH & LAKE COUNTIES

## We're Grateful for YOU!



Our community of volunteers, donors, educators, and partners makes it possible for kids to receive valuable reading practice time, individual support, and books to keep. Thank you!

### Corporate and Foundation Sponsors

Many thanks to these partners for supporting our vision of an Oregon where all children can realize their full potential through reading.



## Endowment Benefits Local SMART Programs



SMART received a gift from the Brenn Fund of the Klamath Community Foundation, an endowment benefiting SMART programs in the Klamath Basin. The fund honors the life of Steve Brenn, a friend and fan of SMART Reading.

Members of the SMART Leadership Council accepting the check from Heidi Biggs of the Klamath Community Foundation.

### 2023-24 Local Impact



27 Sites



1,627 Students Served



15,876 Books Given

## SMART Celebrity Takes the Prize at Klamath's Dancing with Your Stars



Longtime SMART volunteer Reader, Site Coordinator and Leadership Council Member Heidi Gaither took home the top prize at this fun-filled annual event at the Ross Ragland Theater in May. She danced on behalf of SMART Reading, which means we receive a check honoring her amazing performance. Congratulations, Heidi!



## Volunteer Spotlight: Meet Gavin



Gavin Reed is the Site Coordinator at Bonanza Elementary and Klamath Family Head Start. Here's what he has to say about the experience:

*"SMART Reading inspires me by allowing me the opportunity to see the joy in little children's faces as I am reading to them. Their reactions reflect excitement and interest when I read. Giving them books*

*to take home to keep as their own is something very special and important. It's rewarding for me to be able to know I made an impact in their lives. They recognize me in our rural community of Bonanza and around town, and I always strive to be a good role model as a young person reading to other young people."*

## Volunteers Needed This Fall

We have openings for volunteer Readers and Site Coordinators at many of our 27 sites in the Klamath Basin when our programs re-open in the fall. The commitment starts at one hour per week (and we promise it will be a highlight of your week). Learn more and sign up at [www.SMARTReading.org/volunteer](http://www.SMARTReading.org/volunteer) or call 541-273-2424.

SMART South Central Area Staff Holly Stork, Area Director

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