

SMART

(Start Making A Reader Today)

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The third-grade reading level is widely recognized as a key indicator of a child's future educational success; a child who is not meeting this important benchmark is more likely to drop out of high school and face challenges as an adult. SMART works to ensure that children are meeting this critical benchmark by providing the two ingredients essential for early literacy skills: shared book reading and the availability of books.

The SMART program concept is simple: pair an adult volunteer with children for two, one-on-one 30-minute reading sessions each week during the school year. Volunteers model the joy of reading, while supporting the child's efforts to read independently. Throughout the year, SMART students pick out 14 new books to take home and keep. The intention of SMART is to provide a literacy experience that entices children into books and reading, supports their efforts to learn to read, and celebrates their successes.

Business and community leaders started the first SMART program in Clatsop County in 1992. Nearly 25 years later, the community continues to value the importance of children's literacy. Statewide, SMART has served more than 180,000 students and partnered with over 117,000 volunteers, and given away 2.3 million books.

DONATIONS

SMART is nearly 100 percent privately funded, and we are not part of the school system. Each year, SMART must raise money from private sources to support our mission.

SMART's average annual cost per child is \$300, which includes the tangible and infrastructure costs necessary to implement SMART statewide, from providing books for children to keep; to recruiting, training and retaining volunteers; to program design, research and data collection.

In 2014-15, SMART served 65 PreK through third-grade students in schools at three SMART sites in Astoria, Seaside and Warrenton. In 2015-16, our goal is to serve 100 children at Astor, Gearhart, Warrenton and Seaside Heights elementary schools. With more funding, SMART can bring the lifelong love of reading and learning to more children who need us.

To make a donation to SMART, visit www.getSMARToregon.org or call 971-634-1620.

CORPORATE GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

SMART welcomes corporate partners who encourage their employees to volunteer as SMART readers. In-kind gifts and cash grants are also welcomed by local businesses.

BIRDIES FOR BOOKS

Sixty friends of SMART participated in a golf tournament and wine tasting in August 2015 at Gearhart Golf Links. Proceeds from the event are underwriting 12 children in the SMART programs in Seaside, Warrenton and Astoria. Many thanks to event sponsors Mary and Tim Boyle, Gearhart Golf Links, Lum's Auto Center, McMenamins and Walnut City Wineworks. Get involved by contacting Pam Lum at pam@lumsautocenter.com

SPONSOR A SMART SCHOOL

We invite corporate partners to Sponsor a SMART School and participate in the success of SMART students in your community.

- \$5,000 funds 16 children for one year and provides 233 books
- \$2,500 funds 8 children for one year and provides 116 books
- \$1,000 funds 3 children for one year and provides 42 books

VOLUNTEER

SMART Readers spend an hour each week during the school year reading with local students. SMART Site Coordinators work with SMART and site staff to implement and oversee the program throughout the school year.



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101 SW Market St.
Portland, OR 97201

Mission Statement:

SMART engages community volunteers to read one-on-one with PreK through third-grade children who need reading support. Participating children also receive new books each month to keep and read with their families.

Vision\Goals:

An Oregon where every child can read and is empowered to succeed.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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