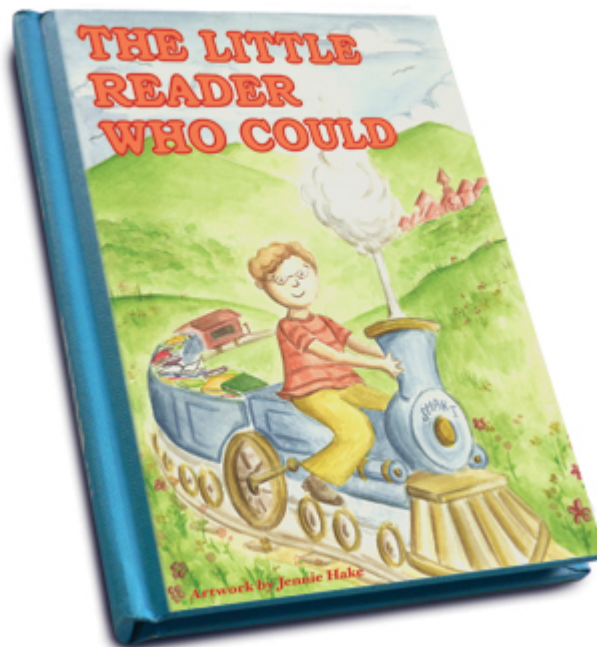




S M A R T
Start Making A Reader Today®

Annual Review

2006-07



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

MISSION: We engage community volunteers to read one-on-one with K-3 children who need literacy support. Participating children also receive new books each month to keep and read with their families.

Friends,

My trip around the State is complete and I am astounded by the commitment and passion of those I've met, from our managers to our coordinators to our volunteers... your stories are inspirational.

If tenure is a barometer for future success, SMART has a very solid future. The average time served by our volunteers seems to be around five or six years with coordinators around eight years.

To our donors who have made the journey with us and paid to pave the road we travel: a heartfelt "Thank You!!!!" Because of you, well over 100,000 children can read and are empowered to succeed. SMART readers now in fifth grade are 60% more likely to reach state reading benchmarks. Although we are not teachers in the formal sense, our time teaches them so much. They learn to use their imaginations, travel through unexplored worlds and become inspired to read so they can experience more adventures. Just as importantly, they learn there are caring adults they can depend on—adults who will spend dedicated, uninterrupted time with only them. They become more confident and self assured, knowing they CAN learn, they CAN participate, they CAN choose to succeed.

Literacy lies at the very foundation of our communities. We cannot expect to educate geologists or hydrologists or foresters or biologists if they cannot read. Lawyers, doctors, pharmacists, fire fighters, police officers... all must read to fulfill their responsibilities. When a child can read, all things are possible.

Our journey begins anew every school year. You, our supporters, are empowering Oregon children to succeed. We are reviewing our delivery and funding models to ensure SMART's sustainability so look for some great things to come in 2007-08 and beyond.

Thank you for your contributions of both time and money to allow SMART to work its wonders and keep those most vulnerable amongst us on the path to success.

Best wishes,



Terry Shanley
SMART CEO

A Kid Named Dakota

Every day we hear about the positive affects SMART has on young Oregonians. We hear it from parents, grandparents, relatives, friends, volunteers, and even the students themselves.

We'd like to share a very special story with you, about a kid named Dakota. You may remember him as the third grader in SMART's [public service announcement](#) filmed by Weiden + Kennedy in 2004.

Once upon a time, there was a kid named Dakota, who had been in and out of foster homes his whole life. So it may come as no surprise that this boy is having trouble learning to read.

When you meet Dakota, you will not see a boy who is poor, or needy, or scared. He's a tough guy. But if you read with him, there will be a moment when his tough guy act will crack. He has let you in. He knows you are a grownup who can be trusted, and he knows that's important, and remarkable.



Kyler & Dakota in 2004

Kyler was the volunteer who read with Dakota: “When I started working with Dakota I didn't know anything about his background. As far as I knew he was just like any other kid. He would come in to read with a smile on his face and be ready to go. As I learned more about his past I couldn't help but admire his courage and his ability to leave everything behind and focus on reading.”

In March, at a Portland event benefiting SMART, Dakota and Kyler were reunited. Before even saying hello, they met with a special handshake created three years earlier at SMART.

Today, Dakota is a talkative and confident sixth grader. He loves skateboarding and basketball, and has high hopes for continued education.

His grandmother Debra attributes his success to early progress he made with SMART. “I really think SMART was where he got his confidence. It showed him that he could read and, because he could master that, since then it's all been positive—education-wise especially, and attitude too—to know that he could succeed; that he could do it.”

Says Debra, “I never have to ask if his homework is done. Dakota pulled straight As the last trimester of fifth grade, and continues to do well this year in sixth grade. As with most kids his age he doesn’t like school, but he continues to strive for excellence. The only problem I have with him is getting his hair cut. It’s hanging in his eyes! I asked him what it would take to get it cut, and he replied, ‘a full college scholarship.’”

That’s what happens at a place called SMART.

One volunteer at a time. One hour at a time. One kid at a time.



Kyler & Dakota in 2007

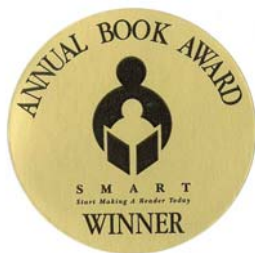
Be the Kyler in another Dakota’s life.

[Volunteer](#) to inspire little readers in your community. [Donate](#) to provide the literacy support they need.

16 Years of Inspiring Little Readers

In January 1992, SMART opened for service providing 585 children in 8 schools with literacy support. Teachers recommend students for participation in SMART, which complements the school's curriculum. Today we serve 11,600 children in 280 schools across 32 Oregon counties.

SMART has impacted the lives of more than 100,000 children since its inception. Our program is simple. We inspire a love of reading through:



Weekly, one-on-one reading sessions – 30 minutes for each child for seven months. **14 new books** for each child to take home and keep. A **permanent collection** of quality books on-site. The annual **SMART Book Award** – kids read, vote and get a copy of the winning book.

In 2006-07:

- **11,478 little readers** received one-on-one literacy support from **9,480 volunteers**.
- Those children received a total of **122,998 new books** to take home and keep.
- Volunteers and students shared a total of **953,428 books**.
- **Thousands of SMART students** read and voted on the 2007 SMART Book Award winner, *Silly Sally* by Audrey Wood.

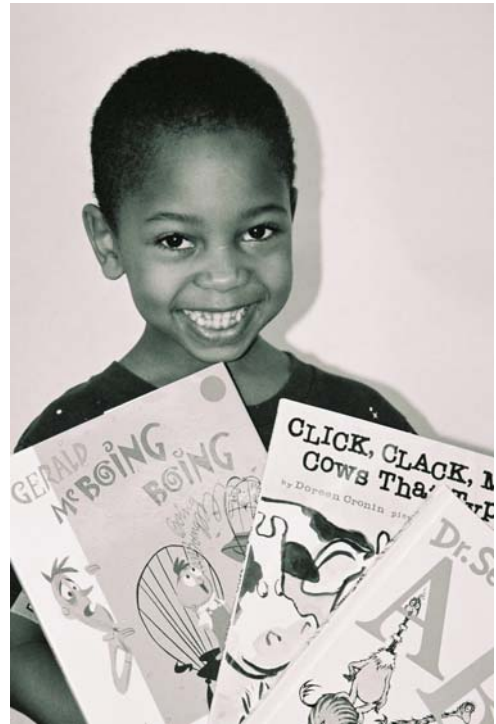
SMART volunteers donated **196,695 hours** of their time to read with children throughout Oregon. The consistent, one-on-one relationship gives children the attention, self-confidence, and skills to succeed in school and beyond.

Saluting Our Supporters

Thank you to the thousands of Oregonians in 2006-07 who helped create success in the lives of children like Dakota. Your support helps build brighter futures children and communities throughout Oregon.

View the [complete list of donors](#) who gave \$1,000+ to SMART from July 1, 2006, to June 30, 2007.

Together, we are building brighter futures for Oregonians big and small!



Learn more:

[About SMART](#)
[SMART Leadership](#)

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