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JELD-WEN TRADITION FOUNDATION SWINGS INTO ACTION TO HELP SUPPORT SMART

PORTLAND, Ore. – Young readers throughout Oregon received a stroke of good fortune this week thanks to the JELD-WEN Tradition Foundation, which announced a major donation to the Start Making A Reader Today (SMART) program.

SMART was awarded \$40,000 from the JELD-WEN Tradition Foundation – a portion of the proceeds raised from the 2005 JELD-WEN Tradition, Oregon’s major Champions Tour golf event. This is the second year in a row that SMART has been a recipient of JELD-WEN Tradition Foundation funding. Last year, SMART received \$30,000 from the Foundation.

According to Mary Jubitz, CEO of SMART, the grant will help provide essential reading support and books for hundreds of young children in Oregon this school year. SMART is a cost-effective, non-profit statewide literacy program that gives Oregon children the extra reading support, new books and caring attention they need. Every year, the program brings thousands of Oregonians together to help children read and succeed. Independent research shows that students make significant gains in reading progress as a result of SMART.

“This is such an important gift as there are more local children in Oregon who need the extra reading support and one-on-one attention that SMART provides,” Jubitz said. “We’re thrilled that the JELD-WEN Tradition Foundation chose to support SMART and hope that this gift encourages others to get involved as well.”

In the JELD-WEN Tradition’s three-year history in Oregon, the tournament has raised nearly \$1 million to help support innovative educational programs for kindergarten through high school students. SMART was one of 15 local beneficiaries of JELD-WEN Tradition Foundation funding this year.

About SMART

SMART gives thousands of Oregon children the one-on-one support they need to learn to read and build brighter futures.

SMART delivers the two things K-3 students need most to learn to read: adult attention and books. Volunteers read with two children for one hour a week in public elementary schools, and the children receive two books each month to keep and read with their families. It’s a simple approach that makes a world of difference. To learn more about SMART, visit www.getsmartoregon.org or call 1-877-598-4633.

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