



SHARP FOCUS

Literacy, Inc.

VOLUME 11 | 2010-2011

SHARP Students Read and Write!

Celebrating 15 Years of SHARP Literacy



Clockwise from above: 1998 In-School Presentation at Urban Day School. 1996 Our first Family Achievement Recognition Event which was held at the Milwaukee Art Museum. 2006 Paper quilt student project. 2005 A parent joins in the fun at a Family Achievement Recognition Event.



We are grateful for all the support we have received through the past 15 years, which has made it possible for us to accomplish so much. We gathered some statistics to give you an idea of how many people SHARP has served and all the projects SHARP has completed over the years. We are proud of the work they have done and pleased to have had the opportunity to have impacted the lives of so many students and teachers.

Through the years we have served over 58,000 students in the first through fifth grades. We have worked with hundreds of teachers and principals and partnered with local organizations to benefit our community. Outside assessment findings show SHARP students' literacy skills improve between 40 and 70 percent in just one year. Our students, together with our artists in residence, have completed 12 murals which are located throughout the city and viewed by thousands of people every day. Eight "We Love to Learn" series books have been published and distributed.

We have accomplished this by hosting four holiday fundraising boutiques, eight Novel Event luncheons and four annual campaigns. We thank all our donors and sponsors who have provided financial support as well as our event chairs and campaign chairs who have generously shared their time and expertise to benefit Milwaukee's children.

We wish each one of you could personally witness how the children light up when they first understand a new concept or when they receive books of their own. Together our community is making a difference. ■

Marlene M. Doerr

Marlene M. Doerr
Executive Director

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world; indeed it is the only thing that ever has.”

—Margaret Mead

Celebrating **15** years[©]
1996-2011

Celebrating 15 years 1996-2011



2006 Author Ashley Bryan and students

“Every year, we happily anticipate the SHARP Literacy program because it is so well planned and tied into our reading, writing, science and social studies curriculum in so many ways. We are certain that your lessons help our students in their academic achievement.”

—School Principal



2006 Louis Romano, author of “Gertie the Duck,” reads his story with students.



2006 Forest Home Avenue School parents prepare a meal for SHARP student volunteers.

45,461 Students Participated

- 1996/97 – 1,600 students at 28 schools – Grade 2
- 1997/98 – 1,600 students at 28 schools – Grade 2
- 1998/99 – 1,236 students at 14 schools – Grades 2 & 5
- 1999/00 – 769 students at 13 schools – Grades 2 & 5
- 2000/01 – 1,818 students at 18 schools – Grades 2 & 5
- 2001/02 – 2,484 students at 19 schools – Grades 2, 3, & 5
- 2002/03 – 3,463 students at 21 schools – Grades 2, 3, 4 & 5
- 2003/04 – 3,921 students at 25 schools – Grades 2, 3, 4 & 5
- 2004/05 – 3,985 students at 25 schools – Grades 2, 3, 4 & 5
- 2005/06 – 4,204 students at 27 schools – Grades 2, 3, 4 & 5
- 2006/07 – 5,017 students at 28 schools – Grades 2, 3, 4, & 5
- 2007/08 – 4,889 students at 33 schools – Grades 2, 3, 4, & 5
- 2008/09 – 5,235 students at 32 schools – Grades 2, 3, 4, & 5
- 2009/10 – 5,240 students at 32 schools – Grades 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5



2000 SHARP Board President, Mike Mahoney, presents an award at a Family Achievement Recognition Event.



2006 Marlene Doerr, Barbara and Jack Augenstein at the Authors Luncheon hosted at the home of Barbara Stein.



2003 Celebrating friendships and literacy at a Novel Event



2005 Children love the colorful quilt they helped make.



2003 Lloyd Street School Principal, Helen Harris, with student artists



8 Books Published

- 2005 Friends and Neighbors
- 2006 All Around Milwaukee: A Kid's Tour Guide to the City
- 2007 All About Wisconsin
- 2007 Bullying: Is Anyone Listening?
- 2008 The American Dream
- 2008 Greater Milwaukee Circle of Life: Elimination of Racism and Discrimination Through the Eyes of Children
- 2010 Growing Up Strong: Healthy Children can Change the World
- 2010 Banking on Your Future: A Blueprint for Entrepreneurial, Technical, and Trade Careers



2010 Student star reporters take notes during interviews.



2010 Legacy Bank president, Jose Mantilla, talks with students about becoming entrepreneurs.



2007 Marquette University Alumni Memorial Union mural installed



2009 Doerfler School students work on their "Celebrations" mural.



2004 Installation of mural at the General Mitchell International Airport.

12 Murals Created

2002/03

- St. Rose Catholic Urban Academy
- Messmer Preparatory
- Urban Day 12th Street
- Rockwell Automation

2003/04

- General Mitchell International Airport
- Lake Express Ferry Terminal
- Ceria M. Travis Academy
- Forest Home Elementary

2004/05

- Greenfield Elementary School

2005/06

- Discovery World

2006/07

- Marquette University Alumni Memorial Union

2008/09

- Anna F. Doerfler Community School

16 Fundraisers

1999/00 – Holiday Boutique – Darrow Home

2000/01 – Holiday Boutique – Third Ward Fire Station

2001/02 – Holiday Boutique – Italian Conference Center

2002/03 – Holiday Boutique – Wisconsin Club and Novel Event featuring Christina Schwarz

2003/04 – Novel Event featuring Mary Pierce

2004/05 – Novel Event featuring Robert Burleigh

2005/06 – Novel Event featuring Dr. Kenneth Cole

2006/07 – Novel Event featuring Ashley Bryan

2006/07 – Annual Campaign Chaired by Russ Darrow

2007/08 – Novel Event featuring Lois Ehlert

2007/08 – Annual Campaign Co-chaired by Curt Culver and Russ Darrow

2008/09 – Novel Event featuring Wisconsin First Lady Jessica Doyle

2008/09 – Annual Campaign Co-chaired by Kristine Rappé and Charlie Groeschell

2009/10 – Novel Event featuring Jerome Rousseau

2009/10 – Annual Campaign Co-chaired by Maria Lopez Vento and Corey Hoze

2010/11 – Novel Event featuring DeMarco Morgan – Co-Chaired by Cecelia Gore and Mary Meehan



1997 Our second Holiday Boutique fundraiser which was held in the Third Ward at Engine Company No. 10.



2005 Distribution of creative writing books at Family Achievement Recognition Event.



2000 Students view a Milwaukee Art Museum sculpture on their tour.



2007 Students and families celebrate together at the Milwaukee Art Museum.

SHARP by the Numbers

In the 2009/2010 School Year

5,773 Books distributed for A Book in Every Child's Hand initiative

5,401 SHARP Student Workbooks and Teacher Guides were distributed

5,240 Students and **261** teachers from **32** schools participated

4,078 Students took part in **88** SHARP Literacy Tours at the Milwaukee Art Museum

Since 1996, **over 58,000** urban students have had their lives touched by SHARP Literacy!

Year End Family Achievement Recognition Event

Circle of Life Celebration



The Circle of Life event was a singular success. Held on May 24, 2010, at the Marcus Center for the Performing Arts, 1,200 guests (students, parents, performers, and teachers) returned their R.S.V.P.s for this culminating event. It was an emotional experience for all who attended, bringing the audience to their feet, with tears in their eyes.

The celebration completed the multi-year *Greater Milwaukee Circle of Life Project* developed by SHARP Literacy, Inc., and underwritten by the **Forest County Potawatomi Community Foundation**. The project's goal was to enlist students' reading, writing, and artistic efforts to bridge racial and cultural divides while helping them build lifelong literacy and research skills.

Year one resulted in the student-created, spectacularly-sized, "Circle of Life" mural, now permanently on display at Marquette University. **Year two** captured the cultural stories and artwork of students from 18 area schools into a beautiful book that takes aim at the elimination of racism and discrimination. **Year three** brought together students from a variety of backgrounds to discuss their heritage and the uniqueness of their cultures. The resulting DVD is now available for educators to use in their classrooms. **Year four** (this year) we created a live mosaic. Through the beauty of song and dance, our children reminded us that our rich differences are always outweighed by what we have in common, and together, we enrich and invigorate our community.

Five different schools performed at this celebration. Jason Newton of WISN Channel 12 was the emcee for the evening. The Indian Community School of Milwaukee performed the Indian Round Dance, a social dance common among native communities of the upper Great Lakes region. The Drum Group and ICS Eagle Singers also performed. The students of Hmong American Peace Academy danced to three songs which related the life, values, and beliefs of the Hmong people. The Hartford University School students sang "Agents of Change," reflecting their goal to make a positive difference in the world. Escuela Vieau School pupils performed "Raices," a Puerto Rican song and dance and the popular and familiar "Mambo #8." Students from St. Marcus Evangelical Lutheran School performed "Ise O luwah," a Yoruban chant song and "I Have a Dream," a contemporary piece that contemplated the powerful words of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

At the finale, students from all five schools joined together for a final group song, "Let's Make a World." This original song was composed by students from Escuela Vieau under the guidance of local composer, Connie Grauer of Present Music. Students suggested the lyrics and melodic ideas and Connie helped guide and shape the orchestration. Each of the five schools contributed a lyric about how the world could become a better place. Members of the Milwaukee Youth Symphony Orchestra accompanied the performance.

"The final performance brought me to tears — to see those children of varied ethnic backgrounds come together and sing a song which brought them together as one was beyond beautiful. I thank you for including me and my son in such an incredible experience."

—Excerpt from thank you note from a parent of a 5th grade SHARP student

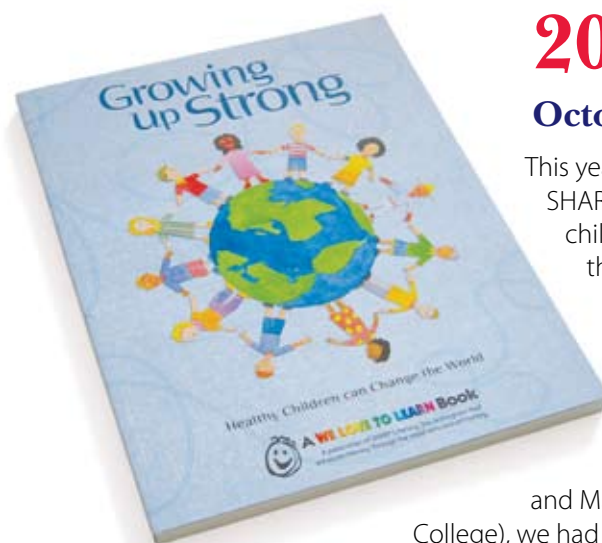


After the performances, all had an opportunity to sign artist prints of international artist Roland Poska's handmade paper art work, donated by the artist. In addition, all present that evening had the opportunity to sample a variety of ethnic foods as a fitting close for a successful evening.

We are grateful for the many volunteers and organizations that provided their support for this event! ■

2010 Novel Event

October 12, 2010 — The Pfister Hotel



This year's Novel Event celebrated SHARP Literacy's 15 years of serving children in our community and the publication of our latest book — *Growing Up Strong: Healthy Children Can Change the World*. With the help of co-chairs, Cecelia Gore (Executive Director, Brewers Community Foundation) and Mary Meehan (President, Alverno College), we had a terrific event.

Our featured speaker was DeMarco Morgan who is passionate about helping children. His story energized and inspired the audience to help the next generation lead healthy lives. He is a top-notch journalist and reporter for WNBC in New York City and former news anchor for Milwaukee's Channel 12 WISN, Morgan has been honored as one of the Top 30 Future Young Leaders of America and received the 2009 Thurgood Marshall Prestige Award for his community service.

SHARP students were asked to participate in a writing contest and winners were announced at the Novel Event luncheon. Students were asked to write about "What Literacy Means to Me". Six winners were selected by DeMarco Morgan. The winners attended the luncheon and were awarded lovely prizes. We are proud of all the students who entered and congratulate our winners for their stellar efforts.

The Novel Event is SHARP's only fundraising event and each year we are grateful for the support of our sponsors, table captains and volunteers. ■

"I would like to see all children throughout the world grow up healthy and happy."

—LaTroy Hawkins



LaTroy Hawkins, #32 of the Milwaukee Brewers, shared his thoughts about healthy living with students in the new book.



DeMarco Morgan

Milwaukee Summer Reading Project

In response to reports indicating Milwaukee's African-American fourth graders have the lowest reading proficiency rates in the country, concerned community leaders came together to fund, create and implement a special summer reading project.

The program was spearheaded by Dr. Howard Fuller and coordinated by SHARP Board Member and noted educator, Dr. Patricia Ellis. The five-week course was administered to 90 second and third graders at five public, private and charter schools.

We are proud that SHARP Literacy curriculum was used for this program. SHARP vocabulary assessment pre- and post-tests were administered with very successful results. Students attended school five days a week for four hours a day. Many students went

from not knowing the definition of any of the words on the pre-test at the beginning of the program, to getting 28 out of 30 answers correct at the end of the program. Each classroom had a certified teacher, two college students and two high school students to provide support. ■

First-Grade Program

The first and second pilot phases of the **SHARP First-Grade Program** have been successfully completed. This program initially came about as a result of requests from teachers that SHARP Literacy expand its curricula to first grade. We thank educators from Cardinal Stritch University, Milwaukee Public Schools, and SHARP for laying the groundwork, developing the program, providing important feedback, and finalizing this valuable program.

The two-year pilot program showed its success in very tangible ways. First-graders were given vocabulary pre-quizzes before each lesson plan and then given post-quizzes after each Lesson Plan. Results showed across-the-board improvement rate ranging from **30 to 58 percent**. The Lesson Plan's *optional* First-Grade Writing Challenge achieved **nearly 90 percent** participation, with almost all of the students choosing to illustrate their stories and essays.

These findings strongly supported the goal of adding a permanent first grade program as part of the core offerings available to schools participating in SHARP. The final program included improvements to the first grade lesson plan packets based on input from the teacher surveys. Therefore, SHARP will fully implement the program at 15 SHARP schools for the 2010–2011 school year. ■

Campaign Wrap Up

SHARP Literacy wrapped up its 14th year by exceeding its fund raising goal for the 2009–2010 year. Thanks to generous people like you, SHARP was able to meet its budget again and serve more than 5,200 students.

The 2009–2010 Annual Campaign was co-chaired by **Cory Hoze** of Associated Bank, and **Maria Lopez Vento** of the Helen Bader Foundation. Both Cory and Maria led the campaign with enthusiasm, dedication and creativity, opening doors to many new donors and reigniting those from the past. It was a challenging financial climate in which to fundraise, but thanks to the leadership of Cory and Maria and our entire board of directors, we ended our year on a very positive note.

We are proud to announce Chad Tessmer of PNC Bank and Maria Lopez Vento of the Helen Bader Foundation as co-chairs of SHARP's 2010–2011 Annual Campaign. Watch for opportunities over the course of the year to get involved and celebrate our 15th anniversary with us by helping even more Milwaukee children learn to read and write. ■

SHARPening our Focus

In May 2010, SHARP Literacy Board members and staff met to look toward the future and create a three year strategic plan to make SHARP Literacy the most effective literacy enrichment program for elementary school children. We clarified our mission, outlined our objectives and created detailed action steps to enable us to grow and continue serving the children of our community.

Mission—SHARP Literacy energizes urban school children to become confident, capable readers, writers and researchers, using the visual arts as our tool to engage young minds and reinforce learning.

Vision—SHARP Literacy will become the most effective literacy enrichment program for elementary school children. SHARP's effectiveness will be based on scientific research, allowing students the opportunity for greater educational success. ■

New Publication

Banking on Your Future: A Blueprint for Entrepreneurial, Technical, and Trade Careers

SHARP's most recent *We Love to Learn Book* is geared toward teaching students about the many technical, trade, and entrepreneurial career options available to them. Participating SHARP students from 17 schools researched, wrote and provided illustrations for this new resource book. Local business owners and technical and trade professionals from various fields visited schools and were interviewed by SHARP students.

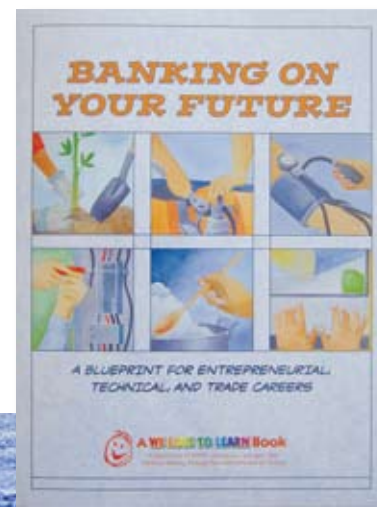
This was a great opportunity for students to talk to role models in interesting professions. Most of the people interviewed were clients of Legacy Bank. All our interviewees encouraged the children to have good attendance at school, study hard, and earn their high school diplomas. Many of the entrepreneurs shared how they learned all aspects of the work prior to becoming business owners. The students loved hearing the personal stories of what activities our mentors enjoyed when they were children and how their interests led to the work they do as adults.

The book has a chapter for each career accompanied by activities combining

vocabulary skills, knowledge, and writing challenges. Other resources, suggested lesson plans and a glossary are contained in the book as well.

SHARP Literacy is very grateful to Legacy Foundation for providing the keystone gift that made the book possible.

We are also appreciative of other organizations that contributed to this project, including the Helen Bader Foundation, the Emory T. Clark Family Charitable Foundation, the Gardner Foundation, the Milwaukee Arts Board, the Milwaukee Public Schools Partnership for the Arts, Rockwell Automation, the A.O. Smith Foundation and the Wisconsin Arts Board. ■



Student illustration for the electrician chapter



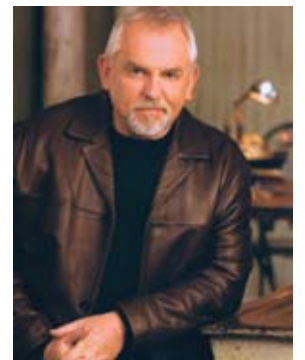
Deloris (Dee) Sims, Legacy Foundation



Margaret J. Henningsen, Legacy Foundation

“The more you learn, the more you earn.”

—John Ratzenberger



John Ratzenberger, known to children as *Toy Story's* Hamm (the piggy bank), contributed a letter of encouragement to the students in SHARP's new book. He is an advocate for trade careers.

2010–2011 Book Project

SHARP's Taking a Walk on the Wild Side

SHARP is getting a little wild on our next book project! Our new project starts with the story of a jaguar named Pat. Pat's story will be the centerpiece of an international project between SHARP students in Milwaukee and students from Pat's original home of Belize. Never before have the children of two nations joined hands to create a book by children, for children, to tell the tale of the last great cat of the Americas, the jaguar.

In telling the story of their “shared citizen,” Pat the Cat, children of Belize and children of Milwaukee will understand the importance of conservation, while developing their literacy skills and making new international friends. The project will weave together lessons about geography, science, conservation, history, nature, art, and beauty.

At one time, the territory of the jaguar ranged from South America through Central America and Mexico, as far north as Oregon, and east to Louisiana. Our story's “hero” is a down-on-his-luck jaguar who, as his forest home is diminishing, makes a bad decision



when he starts taking cattle instead of his traditional prey. Caught by ranchers, he ends up at a sanctuary for problem cats in Belize. Having lost his canine teeth, he cannot be returned to the wild. He needed a home, and the people of Milwaukee reached out to Pat. In a journey that has taken two years, Pat has made a new home at the Milwaukee County Zoo. After a tough start, he has become a world-renowned ambassador for jaguars in the wild.

Our SHARP educators are very excited about this project and feel it will be a great opportunity for their students. In these challenging times, sending a message that we can all work together to achieve something truly special is empowering for children and adults alike. ■

Our Students Need Your Help

750 N. Lincoln Memorial Drive, Suite 311
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202
(414) 270-3388 | Fax (414) 270-3399
www.sharpliteracy.org

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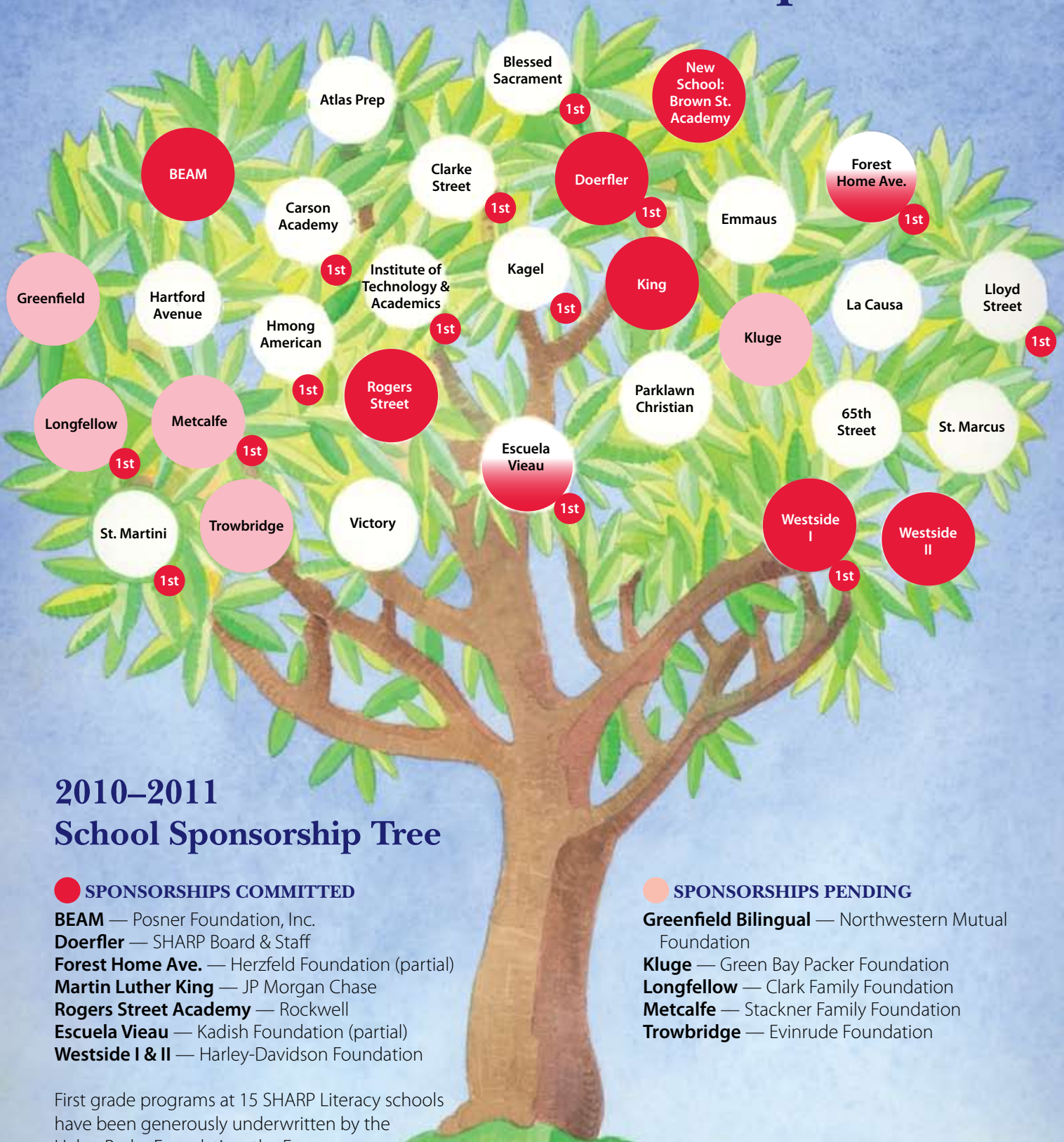
Executive Director

Marlene M. Doerr

SHARP's Wish List

To help us better serve our students and teachers

- A heavy-duty, multi-function, high-volume **Photocopy Machine** (\$5,000)
- Two **Digital Cameras** (\$400 each)
- A commercial document **Shredder** (\$400)
- Lateral **Storage Cabinets** for files (\$700)
- **Interactive Presentation System** for in-school presentations (\$3,500)
- Small **Educational Toys and Games** SHARP educators can hand out during classroom presentations as rewards to students for great answers (\$500)



2010-2011 School Sponsorship Tree

SPONSORSHIPS COMMITTED

BEAM — Posner Foundation, Inc.
Doerfler — SHARP Board & Staff
Forest Home Ave. — Herzfeld Foundation (partial)
Martin Luther King — JP Morgan Chase
Rogers Street Academy — Rockwell
Escuela Vieau — Kadish Foundation (partial)
Westside I & II — Harley-Davidson Foundation

First grade programs at 15 SHARP Literacy schools have been generously underwritten by the Helen Bader Foundation, the Faye McBeath Foundation, and the Jane Bradley Pettit Foundation.

SPONSORSHIPS PENDING

Greenfield Bilingual — Northwestern Mutual Foundation
Kluge — Green Bay Packer Foundation
Longfellow — Clark Family Foundation
Metcalfe — Stackner Family Foundation
Trowbridge — Evinrude Foundation

Last year we introduced our "School Sponsorship Tree" to visually show the growing number of schools and students we serve, and to recognize those generous individuals, corporations and foundations who underwrite the SHARP program at a particular school. The tree was a powerful graphic — one that we will continue to use and update.

One such update this year is the "little apples" you can see sprinkled throughout the tree, next to the larger ones. The little apples designate the schools at which we

have been able to expand our new 1st grade program. Thanks to the generosity of the Helen Bader Foundation, the Faye McBeath Foundation and the Jane Bradley Pettit Foundation, we were able to have our 1st grade program in 15 schools, serving more than 800 students.

If you are interested in sponsoring the SHARP program at a school or would like more information, please contact Executive Director, Marlene Doerr, or Edie Boatman, Director of Fund Development, at (414) 270-3388.

2009-2010 SHARP Schools

Atlas Preparatory Academy
2911 S. 32nd Street

Blessed Sacrament Elementary School
3126 S. 41st Street

The Business and Economics Academy of Milwaukee
3814 W. North Avenue

Dr. Benjamin Carson Academy of Science
4920 W. Capitol Drive

Clarke Street Elementary School
2816 W. Clarke Street

Anna F. Doerfler Community School
3014 W. Scott Street

Emmaus Lutheran School
2818 N. 23rd Street

Excel Academy for Financial Literacy
3624 W. North Avenue

Forest Home Avenue Elementary School
1516 W. Forest Home Avenue

Greenfield Bilingual Elementary School
1711 S. 35th Street

Hartford University School for Urban Exploration
2227 E. Hartford Avenue

Hmong American Peace Academy
1418 S. Layton Boulevard

Albert E. Kagel School
1210 W. Mineral Street

Richard Kluge Elementary School
5760 N. 67th Street

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Elementary School
3275 N. Third Street

La Causa Charter School
1643 S. Second Street

Lloyd Street Global Education School
1228 W. Lloyd Street

Longfellow Elementary School
1021 S. 21st Street

Ralph H. Metcalfe Neighborhood School
3400 W. North Avenue

Parklawn Christian Leadership Academy
3725 N. Sherman Boulevard

Rogers Street Academy
2430 W. Rogers Street

St. Marcus Lutheran School
2215 N. Palmer Street

St. Martini Lutheran School
1520 S. Cesar Chavez Drive

Sixty-fifth Street Community School
6600 W. Melvina Street

Trowbridge School of Discovery and Technology
1943 E. Trowbridge Street

Urban Day School 12th Street Campus
3774 N. 12th Street

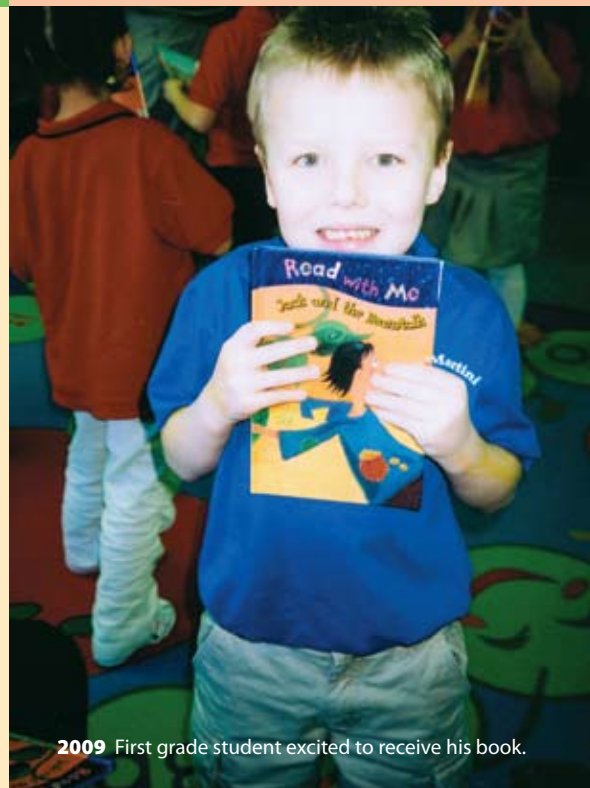
Urban Day School 24th Street Campus
1441 N. 24th Street

Victory School for the Gifted and Talented
2222 W. Henry Avenue

Escuela Vieau School
823 S. Fourth Street

Westside Academy I
1945 N. 31st Street

Westside Academy II
1940 N. 36th Street



2009 First grade student excited to receive his book.

2009–2010 Donors

The important work SHARP Literacy does would not be possible without the generous financial support of the individuals, corporations and foundations listed below. Many of our donors have invested in our program year after year, while some of the names below are new to the SHARP family. We appreciate the investments made by all — thank you!

STRATEGIC PARTNERS (\$50,000+)

Forest County Potawatomi
Community Foundation
Legacy Foundation
Rockwell Automation
Daniel M. Soref Charitable Trust

VISIONARY SPONSORS (\$25,000-\$49,999)

Anonymous

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Wisconsin Arts Board
Wisconsin Energy Corporation
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Anonymous (3)
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CDW
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18 SHARP scholarships honor Russ Darrow, Jr.

This past spring, Russ Darrow, Jr. — “The Real Deal” — celebrated a special birthday. Many will remember that Russ was SHARP Literacy’s first official annual campaign chair in 2006–2007, and co-chaired the 2007–2008 annual campaign as well. Both Russ and his wife Sue have been strong supporters of SHARP for many years and held the first fundraiser for the organization in their home. To mark his birthday, many of Russ and Sue’s friends made donations to SHARP in honor of Russ. Thanks to Russ and the generous donors listed below, 18 students from some of Milwaukee’s most challenging neighborhoods will be able to learn to read and write through the SHARP program.

Mr. and Mrs. Ned Bechthold
Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Boelter
Marlene M. Doerr
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas E. Goris
Sharon and Don Hansen
Mr. and Mrs. G. F. Kasten, Jr.
Ms. Janice L. Lennon
Mr. and Mrs. Camp Van Dyke III

New Members Join SHARP Literacy Board

In August, SHARP Literacy welcomed four new members to the board of directors.

Jason W. Allen

Jason Allen is a partner with Foley & Lardner LLP, and is a member of the Finance & Financial Institutions and Private Equity & Venture Capital Practices and the Energy Industry Team. His practice focuses in the areas of mergers and acquisitions, private equity, finance and general corporate and commercial law, with a particular emphasis on transactions in the energy industry.

Joel G. Nettesheim, CPA

Joel Nettesheim is a Principal in the Business Advisory Services Group at SVA Certified Public Accountants. He is experienced in financial and tax issues as well as valuation and litigation matters.

Michael P. O’Neil

Michael O’Neil is a partner in the Business Practice Group at Michael Best & Friedrich. He concentrates his practice on matters concerning business and tax law, specializing in mergers and acquisitions, joint ventures, structuring and formation of real estate and operating businesses, business succession planning and general corporate and partnership matters.

Manuel Perez

Manny Perez is president and owner of JNA Staffing, the eighth largest staffing corporation in the Milwaukee area. He possesses 14 years of experience in the HR field and is the former North America Product Manager for Manpower USA Managed Services Solutions. He is a Bravo Innovation Award 2010 Recipient.

We thank them for their time and expertise. They are joining a group of very talented individuals. Each of our board members bring a mix of skills and expertise, and they share a passion for helping the children of our community become better readers, better writers and better citizens. ■

“SHARP brings learning alive to myself and my students. All students (Special Education especially) really internalize the curriculum. They retain more with SHARP than with any curriculum I’ve taught.”

—Teacher

SHARP Students Read and Write!



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Student Historical Art Resource Program

The SHARP Mission

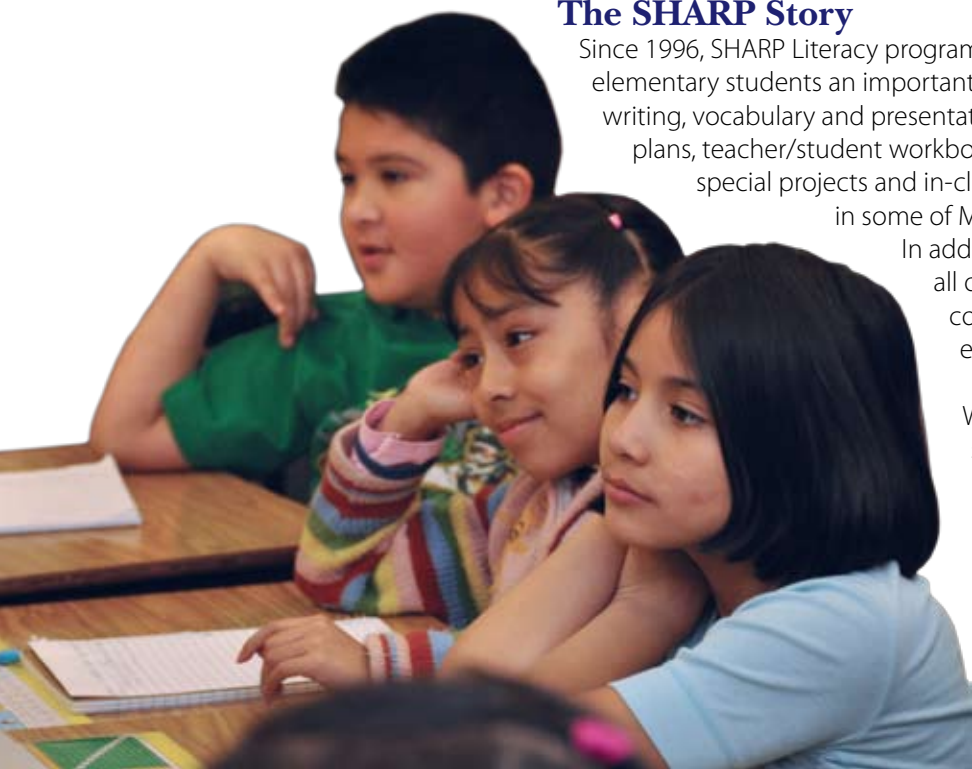
SHARP Literacy energizes urban school children to become confident, capable readers, writers and researchers, using the visual arts as our tool to engage young minds and reinforce learning.

The SHARP Story

Since 1996, SHARP Literacy programs have given thousands of Milwaukee elementary students an important edge in research, interviewing, reading, writing, vocabulary and presentation skills. SHARP develops and provides lesson plans, teacher/student workbooks, writing challenges, field trips, activities, special projects and in-classroom guest visits for students who reside in some of Milwaukee’s most challenging neighborhoods.

In addition to harnessing the power of the visual arts, all of SHARP’s core literacy programs and materials connect directly to Wisconsin’s mandated elementary curricula standards.

Working each year with more than 5,000 students in 30-plus public, charter and choice schools, SHARP educators collaborate with classroom teachers on assorted books featuring student-written works inspired by the SHARP curricula — a process that annually turns thousands of children into published authors. Many of the books written by the students are in turn used as textbooks by other students for years to come. ■



2003 Family Achievement Recognition Event at Serb Hall.



2010 Family Achievement Recognition Event celebrating Circle of Life.

How Exactly Does the SHARP Program Work?

THE EIGHT BUILDING BLOCKS

The SHARP school year rests firmly on the foundation of the following Eight Building Blocks:

- 1. Teacher Summer Workshop (June).** Each June, SHARP gathers a diverse group of its participating school teachers to review SHARP materials and student workbooks for each grade level, ensuring that the most up-to-date, effective teaching tools are in use for the coming autumn.
- 2. Teacher In-Service (September).** An all-day in-service session gives teachers a look at SHARP’s core curriculum for the year and a preview of annual museum field trips custom-designed by SHARP for each grade level. SHARP’s annually changing elective writing and book enrichment projects for students are also introduced at this time.
- 3. Workbook Distribution (October).** Updated student and teacher workbooks — designed to build vocabulary by drawing on the strengths of multiple learning styles — are provided for each grade level and each student, offering students a year’s-worth of engaging activities exploring language arts, science and social studies subjects.

- 4. First Semester In-School Presentations (October–December).** A SHARP educator visits each of the 250 to 300 classrooms to introduce students to new vocabulary related both to the curriculum and the visual arts. Students explore with the SHARP presenter how artworks they view via PowerPoint relate to their other classroom subjects.
- 5. SHARP Milwaukee Art Museum Tours (December–March).** Thousands of participating SHARP students are brought to the Milwaukee Art Museum each year to interact with SHARP-trained docents and see first-hand many of the artworks viewed earlier on screen in the classroom. Because the students are prepared for these SHARP-designed tours, SHARP students learn more and behave more appropriately in the museum.
- 6. Second-Semester In-School Presentations (January–March).** After reviewing vocabulary and concepts with a SHARP presenter and viewing additional curriculum-related visual art, students are asked to develop well-thought-out ideas for the Year-End Writing Challenge.

- 7. Year-End Writing Challenge (March).** After students complete the challenge to pen a short story, poem or essay about what they have learned from the SHARP curriculum, all student works are published in attractive Writing Challenge Books for each grade level — each thick book containing the creative efforts of hundreds of young writers from across Milwaukee. Every SHARP teacher receives a free copy of the Writing Challenge Book for classroom use.
- 8. FARES: Family Achievement Recognition Events (April–May).** It is at these events celebrating the students’ achievements that the Writing Challenge Books debut, and children can’t wait to show a parent or guardian that they are published authors. This excitement generates even greater student effort as children progress to the next SHARP grade level. Skits, stories, songs, poems, food and fun are the order of the day at these popular family events.

Chips Off the Eight Blocks

- The cost to provide this Eight-Block program is approximately \$100 per student. ■