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Media Kit

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**About Us**

SHARP Literacy, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) children’s literacy program serving the Milwaukee community. This year SHARP Literacy, Inc. will impart foundational literacy skills to over 8,500 elementary school students in 42 of Milwaukee’s and Waukesha’s most at-risk schools.

**Mission**

SHARP partners with educators to foster a love of learning and brighten children’s futures through innovative STEAM-based experiential programs.

**Vision**

SHARP Literacy is committed to be the most effective literacy enrichment program for elementary school children. SHARP’s impact is measurable and scalable to maximize student success and outreach.

**Goal**

The goal of SHARP Literacy is to provide elementary school students with a creative approach to improving reading and writing skills, building confidence and self-esteem, and instilling a greater awareness of the world along the way.

At SHARP Literacy, we believe that every child should be given the opportunity for a great education, no matter what the child’s situation.

**Background**

1996 - 1997
- SHARP Literacy, Inc. is founded by Marlene Doerr Kreilkamp
- 1,600 2nd and 5th grade students in 28 Milwaukee schools are touched by the SHARP Literacy program

2001 - 2003
- 3rd and 4th grade students are added to the program
- Student mural projects are installed at St. Rose Catholic Urban Academy, Messmer Preparatory Catholic School, Urban Day 12th Street School and Rockwell Automation

2004 - 2007
- Student mural projects are installed at Greenfield Elementary School and Discovery World Museum
- SHARP publishes its first student-researched bilingual *We Love to Learn* book

2008 - 2011
- 1st grade students are added to the program
- Student mural projects are installed at Anna F. Doerfler Community School and Milwaukee Intermodal Station, and 1st grade students are added to the program
- SHARP begins conducting pre- and post-assessments on all SHARP students

2012-2013
- Lynda Kohler is named new President/CEO of SHARP
- Student mural project is installed at the Milwaukee County War Memorial Center
- SHARP develops a partnership with Milwaukee School of Engineering to create the Honey Bee Robot
- Field study at Haggerty Museum of Art is added to the 1st grade program
- 7,000 1st - 5th grade students in 34 Milwaukee schools are touched by the SHARP Literacy program
- SHARP’s 11th *We Love to Learn* book (*A Great Lake’s Journey: Salmon’s Journey Home*) is published

2014-2015
- K5 Pilot is added to the SHARP program
- Pilot online assessment is added
- Museum field studies at Lynden Sculpture Garden (grade 1), Discovery World (grade 2), Jewish Museum
Milwaukee (grade 3), and Museum of Wisconsin Art (grade 4) were added.

- SHARP’s 12th *We Love to Learn* book (*There Grows the Neighborhood: Agriculture in the City*) is published
- Summer programs added to the SHARP program

2015-2016

- Museum field studies: Lynden Sculpture Garden (K5); Museum of Wisconsin Art (grade 1); Discovery World (grade 2); Keeping Greater Milwaukee Beautiful or Growing Power (grade 3); Museum of Wisconsin Art (grade 4); Milwaukee Art Museum (grade 5)
- SHARP’s 13th *We Love to Learn* book (*Explore MKE: Your Neighborhood, Our City*) is unveiled
- After School Learning Initiative (ASLI) began at Browning and Thurston Woods Schools
- “Reading with the Golden Eagles” program began

2016-2017

- K4 pilot is added to the SHARP program
- Expanded the SHARP program into Waukesha County
- Intergenerational program with Ovation Chai Point Senior Living began

2017-2018

- SHARP program has approximately 8,000 students in 39 Milwaukee and Waukesha schools
- Arts-integrated pilot program began
- SHARP’s 14th *We Love to Learn* book, *Aloha Adventure: A Tale of Two Friends*, was published.
- Create Art with Code (CAC) was added to the SHARP curriculum
- “Reading with the Pioneers” began (Carroll University Men’s basketball)
- In a partnership with the Florentine Opera, Milwaukee, an opera based on SHARP’s book, *A Busy Bee* was created and presented to elementary school students
- The first SHARP murals in Waukesha County were unveiled at Carroll University and Prairie Springs Environmental Center

2018-2019

- K3 pilot is added to the SHARP program
- SHARP program includes approximately 8,500 students in 42 Milwaukee and Waukesha schools
- The first Design Through Code murals were put on display at MSOE’s Grohman Museum
- The Design Through Code program is in 5 Milwaukee and 3 Waukesha schools
- A summer coding program with MPS was piloted

What We Do

SHARP Students Read and Write!

- SHARP Literacy is a year-round program that is fully integrated into school curriculum.
- All materials are provided by SHARP Literacy and we work with participating teachers to plan each year, adjusting our programming to incorporate special initiatives.
- SHARP Literacy’s program is reviewed and updated each year to ensure our teaching tools remain the most up-to-date and effective in literacy enrichment.

How It Works

SHARP’s Core Literacy Program

The SHARP Literacy program is designed to help teachers associate art history and visual arts with the required science and social studies curricula in a way that spurs students on to improved reading and writing skills.
Teacher Input & Training
Teacher workshops and In-services allow for collaborative creation of the grade-appropriate lesson plans and workbooks, and also training in preparation for the upcoming school year.

Classroom Resources
Workbooks: SHARP provides every student and teacher a workbook that conforms to Wisconsin Model Academic Standards and uses the arts to help students understand and define words and concepts in their respective curricula.

- K4: Science – Living Things
- K5: Science – Plants
- First grade: Science – Bees
- Second grade: Science – Great Lakes
- Third grade: Social Studies – Urban Agriculture
- Fourth grade: Social Studies – Wisconsin
- Fifth grade: Social Studies – American Stories

Fall and spring In-school workshops: SHARP staff members visit classrooms, working together with students to elicit understanding and concepts in the curricula, and preparing students for their field studies and the Student Writing and Art Project (SWAP).

Student Writing and Art Project: SHARP students produce stories, poems, essays, and artwork that are published. The books are cherished by the students and their families.

Curriculum-based Educational Tours
Milwaukee SHARP students tour Urban Ecology Center, Lynden Sculpture Garden, Milwaukee Park Horticultural Conservatory (The Domes), Museum of Wisconsin Art (MOWA), Discovery World, Keep Greater Milwaukee Beautiful, the Milwaukee Art Museum, Brinn Labs and MIAD (Milwaukee Institute of Art and Design).

Waukesha SHARP students tour Urban Ecology Center, EB Shurts Environmental Education Center, Prairie Springs Environmental Education Center, Museum of Wisconsin Art (MOWA), Waukesha County Historical Society and Museum - Intergenerational Heritage Fair, and Quad.

Racine SHARP students tour River Bend Nature Center.

We Love To Learn
Students are given the opportunity to help research, write and illustrate a book. The book projects, which are always aligned with state-mandated curricula, have focused on science and social studies. To date, SHARP has published 15 books in the We Love to Learn series including:

- Aloha Adventure: A Story of Two Friends
- Explore MKE: Your Neighborhood, Our City
- There Grows the Neighborhood: Agriculture in the City
- A Great Lakes Adventure: Salmon’s Journey Home
- Bullying: Is Anyone Listening?
- American Dream
- Circle of Life
- Pat the Great Cat: A Jaguar’s Journey
- Growing Up Strong
- A Busy Bee: The Story of Bella the Honey Bee
- Friends and Neighbors
- Banking on Your Future
- All About Wisconsin
- All Around Milwaukee
- Discover Waukesha
SHARP Murals
SHARP murals start with research and study of a particular topic. Students then write about what they have learned and further express this through the visual arts. Working together to create a large-scale mural helps students learn to work as a team. The art assignments further reinforce learning on the topic explored. Each publicly displayed mural becomes a beautiful, visual exploration of a specific subject as seen through the eyes of our children.

“Four Seasons”
“Communities”
“Wisconsin”
“Building a Nation”
“Automation”
“Celebration of America”
“Circle of Life”
“Transportation”
“Freedom”
“Communities”
“Communities”
“Building a Nation”
“Automation”
“Celebration in America”
“Movable Feast”
“Drop to Dinner”
“Urban Agriculture”
“Communities”
“Communities”
“Bee”
“Discovering Waukesha”
“Eagle Coders”
“Connected by Code-Brianna’s Dream”
“Lake Country”

St. Rose Catholic Urban Academy
Milwaukee Lake Express Ferry Terminal
Urban Day 12th Street School
Rockwell Automation
Greenfield Bilingual Elementary School
Alumni Memorial Union, Marquette University
Milwaukee Intermodal Station
Milwaukee County War Memorial Center
Messmer Preparatory Catholic School
Ceria M. Travis Academy
Forest Home Elementary School
Discovery World Museum
Anna F. Doerfler Community School
Miller Park
Neighborhood House Garden Park
Neighborhood House Garden Park Benches
Our Next Generation
Journey House
Silver Spring Neighborhood Center
Prairie Springs Environmental Education Center
Carroll University Campus Center
Forest Home School
MSOE Grohmann Museum
Shorehaven

Funding Sources

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Major Donors

Gene and Ruth Posner Foundation, Inc.
Brewers Community Foundation
Milwaukee Bucks, Inc.
Quad/The Quadracci Family/Joel and Caran Quadracci
Anon Charitable Trust
Greater Milwaukee Foundation’s Mary L. Nohl Fund
Herzfeld Foundation
Northwestern Mutual
Northwestern Mutual Foundation
Rockwell Automation Foundation
Wells Fargo Foundation
Community Partners

- Milwaukee Art Museum
- Discovery World Museum
- EB Shurts Environmental Education Center
- Jewish Museum Milwaukee
- Keep Greater Milwaukee Beautiful
- Lynden Sculpture Garden
- Museum of Wisconsin Art
- Prairie Springs Environmental Ed. Center
- Retzer Nature Center
- Sharon Lynne Wilson Center
- Waukesha Co. Historical Society & Museum
- Milwaukee Succeeds
- Carroll University
- Marquette University
- Milwaukee School of Engineering
- COA Youth Center – Riverwest
- Journey House
- Kluge School
- Milwaukee Christian Center
- Neighborhood House of Milwaukee
- Neu-life Community Development
- Our Next Generation
- Silver Spring Neighborhood Center
- St. Joan Antida High School
- Ovation Community: Sarah Chudnow & Chai Point

2015-2016 Program Results

- Student enrollment in the SHARP program has risen 42% over the last four years.
- The percentage of students enrolled in the SHARP program with both pre- and post-assessment results has risen by 17 percentage points over the last four years.
- Student performance gains on the SHARP assessment averages 25 percentage points from the pre to post assessment.
- Five schools (Northwest Catholic, Victory, Blessed Sacrament, Trowbridge, Doerfler) in the SHARP program had performance gains (from the pre to post assessment) which were 10 percentage points higher than the average increase in at least two grades or more and with an overall post assessment which also was at least 10 percentage points higher than the average performance level.
- In a special Control Group Analysis comparing student performance of students enrolled in the SHARP program with students not in the SHARP program, in all but one grade, a greater percentage of students enrolled in the SHARP program generated much larger performance gains than in the Control Group.
- An additional analysis of students matching the Control Group pre assessment resulted in SHARP program students generating performance gains which were 2 ½ times greater than comparable students in the control group.

*Click for a complete list of Participating Schools

2016-2017 Program Goals

At least 70% of SHARP students will show a 40-45% improvement in their scores (percentage of words answered correctly) from the pre- to post-vocabulary assessments.

70% of SHARP curriculum-aligned workbooks will be completed by participating students based on a representational sample.

80% of educators who receive professional development conducted by SHARP will report that the workshops provided useful academic support.

90% of SHARP schools will participate in at least four components of SHARP’s core literacy program.

100% of SHARP’s core literacy program and assessment tools will be aligned to the Common Core State Standards and the National Core Arts Standards.
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