Brightening Futures for 25 Years
Over the past six months we have shared many stories about SHARP Literacy, our mission and accomplishments since 1996. We’ve talked about the things that make SHARP unique, how art can inspire young students and help connect them to their own creativity and “artistic thinking,” and the impact this program has had on students and educators in the classroom and beyond.

But what about the future? What is SHARP’s role in shaping the future of these young minds? While we don’t track the lives of our students as they move on to middle and high school, SHARP provides students with exposure to mentors, community leaders and experiences that can help them understand and get excited about what is possible in their futures.

In early 2020, just prior to the pandemic, we celebrated the unveiling of the 15th We Love to Learn book, at the Quad plant in Burlington, WI. More than 200 SHARP 3rd graders from five Waukesha County schools researched and helped create the book, Discover Waukesha, which provides young readers with the story of the beginnings of Waukesha, from the first inhabitants to the diverse population of today.

Employees welcomed our students to their facility to watch the books being printed, a service generously donated by Quad. As part of their tour, Chairman, President and CEO of Quad Joel Quadracci showed students the massive, technical equipment in action and helped them learn about the printing process. They were able to interact with and ask questions of the employees who explained what they do, their education, experiences and path to their careers. The students got to see the book they helped write and publish being printed. It was a moment of pride for all which will likely resonate with them forever and perhaps even inspire them to pursue a career in writing, manufacturing, or technology!

SHARP donors and corporate partners like Quad see great benefit in making sure that all students are given the opportunity to succeed in school, graduate and continue their education to become career ready. This is important now more than ever for employers, students and our communities. The key is to inspire, creating the passion, curiosity, confidence and understanding of what is possible at an early age. That’s where SHARP makes a difference.

SHARP partners with educators to foster a love of learning and brighten children’s futures through programs that expose students to science, technology, engineering, arts and math (STEAM) concepts that are exciting and fuel creativity and curiosity. SHARP provides those experiences in elementary school, when the mind is open to understanding and believing that anything is possible. And while we don’t know exactly where our students will go in their lives, the smiles, laughter and looks of curiosity certainly tell a positive and impactful story!