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## Media Kit

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[www.sharpliteracy.org](http://www.sharpliteracy.org)

## **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**

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1996 - 1997

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

2001 - 2003

- 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade students are added to the program
- Student mural projects are installed at St. Rose Catholic Urban Academy, Messmer Preparatory Catholic School, Urban Day 12<sup>th</sup> 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

- 1<sup>st</sup> grade students are added to the program
- Student mural projects are installed at Anna F. Doerfler Community School and Milwaukee Intermodal Station, and 1<sup>st</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> grade program
- 7,000 1<sup>st</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> grade students in 34 Milwaukee schools are touched by the SHARP Literacy program
- SHARP's 11<sup>th</sup> *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 12<sup>th</sup> *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 13<sup>th</sup> *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 14<sup>th</sup> *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 14 books in the *We Love to Learn* series including:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| • <b><i>Aloha Adventure: A Story of Two Friends</i></b>               | • <b><i>Circle of Life</i></b>                               |
| • <b><i>Explore MKE: Your Neighborhood, Our City</i></b>              | • <b><i>Pat the Great Cat: A Jaguar's Journey</i></b>        |
| • <b><i>There Grows the Neighborhood: Agriculture in the City</i></b> | • <b><i>Growing Up Strong</i></b>                            |
| • <b><i>A Great Lakes Adventure: Salmon's Journey Home</i></b>        | • <b><i>A Busy Bee: The Story of Bella the Honey Bee</i></b> |
| • <b><i>Bullying: Is Anyone Listening?</i></b>                        | • <b><i>Friends and Neighbors</i></b>                        |
| • <b><i>American Dream</i></b>  | • <b><i>Banking on Your Future</i></b>                       |
|   | • <b><i>All About Wisconsin</i></b>                          |
|   | • <b><i>All Around Milwaukee</i></b>                         |

## 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”**

“Communities”

**“Bee”**

“Discovering Waukesha”

**“Eagle Coders”**

“Connected by Code-Brianna’s Dream”

**“Lake Country”**

**St. Rose Catholic Urban Academy**

General Mitchell International Airport

**Milwaukee Lake Express Ferry Terminal**

Urban Day 12<sup>th</sup> 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**

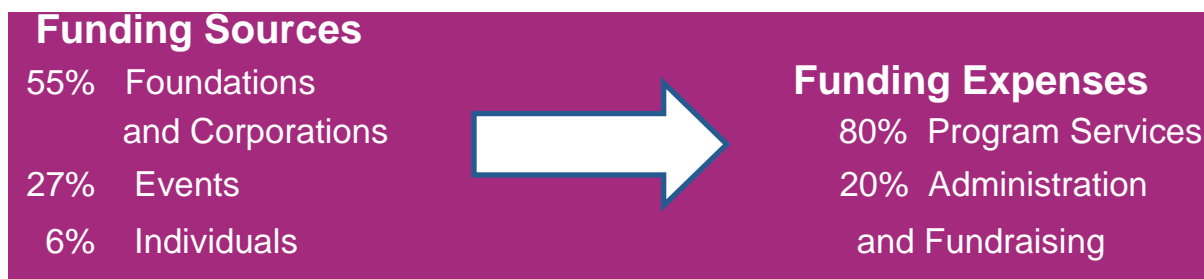
Carroll University Campus Center

**Forest Home School**

MSOE Grohmann Museum

**Shorehaven**

**Funding**



**Major Donors**

Gene and Ruth Posner Foundation, Inc.  
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Brewers Community Foundation  
 Quad/The Quadracci Family/Joel and Caran Quadracci  
 Greater Milwaukee Foundation’s Mary L. Nohl Fund  
 Northwestern Mutual  
 Rockwell Automation 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.

## **Contact**

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