

Fall 2015

SHARP FOCUS

Dear Friends,

As we start the 2015-2016 school year, SHARP Literacy thanks all of our partners and donors who make our work possible! The last few months have been a whirlwind of lesson plans, special events, and orientations, and the result is an exciting year of programs ahead. We've updated our third grade curriculum to focus on urban agriculture. We completed the first summer of our Summer Learning Gain Initiative and are already planning for next year. All of this is possible because of your continued support of our work! We hope you enjoy this update on SHARP's recent activities!



Gratefully,

A handwritten signature in cursive that reads "Lynda Kohler".

Lynda Kohler
President/CEO



the latest SHARP mural, created by artist Sally Duback and the students. This colorful piece of public art is permanently displayed in their community garden and was featured in a piece on Milwaukee Public Television's *The Arts Page*.

Summer Learning Gain Initiative

This summer, SHARP held its first Summer Learning Gain Initiative in partnership with seven community organizations and schools across Milwaukee. This program included an urban agriculture-themed program based on the *We Love to Learn* book *There Grows the Neighborhood*. At Neighborhood House of Milwaukee, art and literacy lessons from our summer pilot program were the inspiration for

2015-2016 Curriculum: Learning by Doing

SHARP is proud to introduce some exciting curriculum changes as we revamp our program. While still focusing on teaching literacy through the arts, SHARP is incorporating original academic and art lesson plans based on experiential learning. In-school presentations will have a dynamic hands-on approach to capture the curiosity of our students. Our students will also continue to take educational tours that reinforce their classroom lessons. We've added tours of Growing Power and Keep Greater Milwaukee Beautiful for our third graders, and other grades will tour the Milwaukee Art Museum, Discovery World, Lynden Sculpture Garden, and the Museum of Wisconsin Art.



A Novel Event

Over 500 guests, 30 volunteers, and one amazing speech by Henry Winkler came together to make A Novel Event 2015 a huge success! **Your support helped us raise over \$235,000** towards SHARP's programming for this school year. We're especially grateful for the ongoing partnership of our sponsors, especially our presenting sponsors, Dr. Arvind Ahuja and BMO Harris Bank.



Battle at Best Place

On October 15, SHARP was the beneficiary of Yelp Milwaukee's second annual Battle at Best Place, an Iron Chef-style competition and evening of entertainment at the Historic Pabst Brewery. **300 guests generously contributed over \$8,000** to the SHARP Literacy program while sampling delicious treats from area restaurants and bidding on fantastic silent auction baskets! Thanks to everyone who donated to or attended the event!



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A 501(c)3 organization