

“What I’ve noticed with my son since beginning with SHARP is what it’s done to really renew his interest in creative writing. He’s journaling at home now, he writes all the time and he even writes plays and makes the whole family participate. It’s been really fascinating to see him get such a spark and a new-found love for writing that he didn’t previously have.”

—Mother of a SHARP Second-Grader

SHARP Students Read and Write!



750 N. Lincoln Memorial Drive, Suite 311
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202



Student Historical Art Resource Program



The SHARP Mission

SHARP Literacy is committed to enhancing student skills in written and oral language, science and social studies by engaging young people in a creative learning experience that highlights art history and the visual arts.

Forging meaningful connections to children of diverse cultural backgrounds, SHARP Literacy focuses on reaching urban elementary students in grades one through five.

The SHARP Story

Since 1996, SHARP Literacy programs incorporating the visual arts have given thousands of Milwaukee elementary students an important edge in research, interview, 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 5,000 students in 30-plus public and parochial schools, SHARP educators collaborate with classroom teachers to “roll the presses” 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.



Elder and teacher Phil Bautista takes a short break with a fifth-grade participant during the April 2009 SHARP-sponsored Circle of Life discussion at Marquette University, a conversation focused on student solutions to racism and discrimination.

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 schoolteachers 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).** Annually 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 (outlined in the last few pages of SHARP student workbooks).
- 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 attractively bound 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, an excitement that 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.
- **“The SHARP Eight Building Blocks,”** a three-credit graduate course at **Cardinal Stritch University** offered to elementary teachers leading classrooms enrolled in the SHARP Literacy program, enters its fourth year in 2009–2010. ■



SHARP FOCUS

Literacy, Inc.  

VOLUME 10 | 2009–2010

SHARP Students Read and Write!

From the Executive Director

In difficult times for non-profits across the nation, we at SHARP Literacy consider ourselves fortunate to retain a passion for what we do because teachers, parents, independent testers — and, most gratifyingly, our young writers themselves — tell us we are making a difference in the lives of thousands of Milwaukee elementary students. We look forward to celebrating our **15th year** later in 2010, and with that important anniversary on the horizon, we find much to be excited about and much to be thankful for.

Our ability to make a difference recently received national attention when SHARP was selected as a 2009 **Coming Up Taller** Semifinalist by the President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities and its partner agencies: the Institute of Museum and Library Services, the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities. The original **Coming Up Taller** nomination came for SHARP's multi-year **Greater Milwaukee Circle of Life** project (detailed on Page 2 of this newsletter). The official notification letter announcing this special recognition said in part:

"We are highly impressed with the successful work your organization and other semifinalists have accomplished in ... arts and humanities learning."

... We reviewed more than 420 nominations from 46 states ... Your program's selection as one of the 50 semifinalists distinguishes it as one of the top arts- and humanities-based programs in the country serving youth."

In addition to our annual core programming connecting young authors to language arts skills, science, social studies and the visual arts, SHARP's 2009–2010 school year will showcase a brand new publication by our student researchers. Special highlights to look for this year include:

- The fall 2009 publication of **Growing Up Strong: A Kids'-Eye View of a Healthy You — and a Healthy World, Too!** This latest entry in SHARP's **We Love to Learn Book Series** — books written by children for children — offers student perspectives on important health issues.
- Student research and writing for the next **We Love to Learn Book**, a multi-faceted project celebrating **Technical and Trade Careers**.
- The second year of a **Pilot Project** exploring the expansion of the SHARP program into **first-grade classrooms**.

Any differences we are able to make in the lives of young people would not be possible without countless donors and volunteers who — on our behalf — willingly, gladly and regularly put all other aspects of their own lives on hold to help us nurture and celebrate the achievements of our students. During the past 12 months, we have worked with some very special people we are especially grateful for:

- **Kristine Rappé**, *Wisconsin Energy Corp.*
- **Charles Groeschell**, *Baird Advisors*
- **Curt S. Culver**, *MGIC*
- **Russ Darrow**, *Russ Darrow Group, Inc.*
- **Bev Greenberg**, *Time Warner Cable*
- **Patty Cadorin**, *M&I Bank*
- **Kathe Cavallo**, *Community Volunteer*
- **Kate Wilson**, *Community Volunteer*

Thanks to these leaders and many others, SHARP will continue to devote itself to building vocabulary, readers, writers and better citizens — as we hold dear the incontrovertible fact that the gift of knowledge lasts a lifetime. ■

Melissa M. Deere

Growing Up Strong

The fall 2009 publication of **Growing Up Strong: A Kids'-Eye View of a Healthy You — and a Healthy World, Too!** is a welcome answer to a request from many SHARP teachers who saw a need for a student book project exploring assorted vital health issues facing children today. Aware that elementary pupils in the United States are experiencing sleep disorders, epidemic rates of obesity, Type 2 diabetes and other health conditions once thought of as adult issues, SHARP worked with teachers and children in grades two through five throughout the 2008–2009 school year, providing guidance for hundreds of students at 21 schools as they researched and wrote about 12 important local and world health topics:

1. *Water*
2. *Handwashing and Head-to-Toe Cleanliness*
3. *Home and Neighborhood Environment*
4. *Immunization and Vaccinations*
5. *Sleep*
6. *Nutrition and Food Choices*
7. *Weight Control and Heart Health*
8. *Diabetes*
9. *Dental Health and Dental Hygiene*

10. *Vision*
11. *Asthma and Allergies*
12. *Social and Emotional Health*

The focus of this newest **We Love to Learn Book** draws much of its inspiration from the *United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child* — a document drawn up and accepted by almost every country in the world, and one that promises, among other things, every child on the planet the right to healthcare, good nutrition and protection against violence. Health professionals who visited classes and assisted the creation of the book include doctors, nurses and others from **Aurora Medical Group, Cardinal Stritch University College of Nursing, Marquette University School of Dentistry, Marquette University College of Health Sciences, Marquette University College of Nursing** and the **Wisconsin Dental Association**.

SHARP is grateful for the support of **Mr. Richard Franz** and **Mrs. Joan Robertson**, both of whom are actively involved in the local chapter of the United Nations. The book, designed to



become a classroom staple, was also supported by generous grants from the **A.O. Smith Foundation, the Greater Milwaukee Foundation's Mary L. Nohl Fund, Rockwell Automation** and the **Steigleder Charitable Trust**. ■

These young SHARP authors researched the enormous public-health impact of thorough and regular handwashing.

Looking SHARP

A Year in Pictures



The impressive communication skills of SHARP students were on display during the 2008–2009 school year when three SHARP authors spent an hour on **AM1290 WMCS'** top-rated weekday morning drive-time show hosted by Joel McNally and Cassandra Cassandra. The young writers — there to discuss what they and their peers accomplished and experienced in researching SHARP's We Love to Learn Book **The American Dream** — were joined by SHARP Literacy Executive Director Marlene Doerr (top) and Clavon Byrd Sr. (bottom), principal of Lloyd Street Global Education School. The work of SHARP students was also recently highlighted in a six-column **Milwaukee Journal Sentinel** feature, **The Business Journal**, **Milwaukee Magazine** and **Today's Wisconsin Woman**, as well as on **Channel 6 WakeUp News**, Channel 4's **Morning Blend** and **Wisconsin Public Radio** — where host Kathleen Dunn devoted a full hour to SHARP on her statewide morning program.



SHARP's spring 2009 Family Achievement Recognition Events (FARES) — celebrating with students, teachers, parents and guardians the annual debut of SHARP's newest student-authored Writing Challenge Books — welcomed **Channel 4 Meteorologist Michael Fish** and **Milwaukee Police Chief Edward Flynn** as guest presenters. Chief Flynn, shown here at the Fifth-Grade FARE, called upon his own background as a history major and inspired his young listeners with a dynamic address stressing the importance of knowing your country's past. Costumed students at that same FARE performed a skit they wrote celebrating their SHARP **Building a Nation** lessons.



Young writers working on SHARP's **Growing Up Strong** book toured the Pediatric Clinic at Marquette University's School of Dentistry. These students from St. Martini Lutheran School met and interviewed professors and dental technicians. All the students, like the boy pictured here, had the opportunity to sink their teeth into the tour in a very hands-on way.



During Phase I of SHARP's First-Grade Pilot Project, students at Richard Kluge Elementary School excitedly line up to receive their very own take-home copies of **The Apple Pie Tree** from SHARP Director of Programs Jim Griswold.



In spring 2009, SHARP students at Anna F. Doerfler Community School worked with Milwaukee artist and educator Sally Duback in using their research, language and social studies skills to create for the school a giant four-panel mural highlighting major cultural holidays enjoyed by Doerfler students: Thanksgiving, Three Kings Day, the Fourth of July and Day of the Dead.

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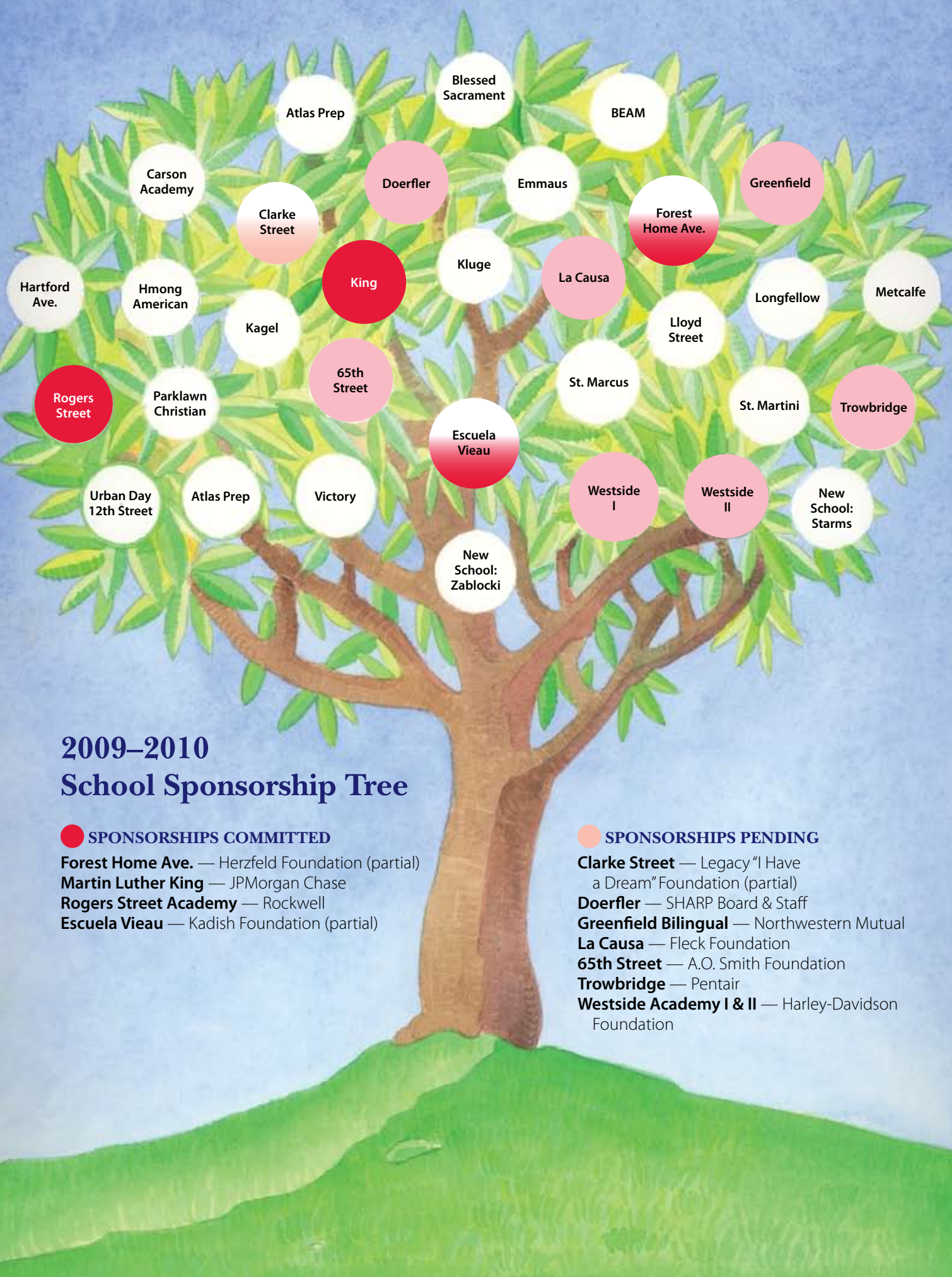
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**2009–2010
School Sponsorship Tree**

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Rogers Street Academy — Rockwell
Escuela Vieau — Kadish Foundation (partial)

SPONSORSHIPS PENDING

Clarke Street — Legacy "I Have a Dream" Foundation (partial)
Doerfler — SHARP Board & Staff
Greenfield Bilingual — Northwestern Mutual
La Causa — Fleck Foundation
65th Street — A.O. Smith Foundation
Trowbridge — Pentair
Westside Academy I & II — Harley-Davidson Foundation

Since 1996, SHARP Literacy has been a growing venture. Much like the tree pictured above, SHARP has "branched out," adding more schools and special book and art projects — all connected to the solid "trunk" of helping children learn to read and write.

As we enter our 14th year of service and look ahead to our 15th anniversary, we are seeking organizations

and individuals to sponsor the 32 schools we serve.

We need your help to turn each and every apple on our tree bright red with sponsorship support. If you would like to sponsor the SHARP program at a school listed below or would like more information, please contact Executive Director Marlene Doerr or Edie Boatman, Director of Fund Development, at (414) 270-3388.

**A SHARP
Wish List...**

**To Better Serve Our
Students and Schools**

- A heavy-duty, multi-function, high-volume **Photocopy Machine** (\$5,000)
- New **Computer Server** (\$3,000)
- Off-site **Back-up Storage Device** in case of office computer failure (\$2,500)
- **Color Printer** linked to office computer system (\$1,000)
- Two **Digital Cameras** (\$400 each)
- Small **Educational Toys and Games** SHARP educators can hand out during classroom presentations as rewards to students for good answers (\$500)

2008–2009 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
Dr. George Washington Carver Academy of Mathematics and Science
1900 N. First Street
Clarke Street School
2816 W. Clarke Street
Anna F. Doerfler Community School
3014 W. Scott Street
Emmaus Lutheran School
2818 N. 23rd Street
Excel Academy Elementary
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
Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Elementary School
3275 N. Third Street
Richard Kluge Elementary School
5760 N. 67th 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

2008–2009 SPECIAL PROJECTS SCHOOLS

Steffen Middle School (Mequon, Wis.), Indian Community School of Milwaukee.



Ready for Our Close-Up

In Helping Bring "The SHARP Story" to DVD, the Forest County Potawatomi Community Foundation Continues its Dream of Healing Racism Through the Eyes of Children

Educators and others can now learn more about SHARP's core-curriculum offerings and the impact of its periodic special projects through a new tool. **The SHARP Story — Literacy Through the Power of Art**, a DVD exploring SHARP's measurable results, was released in July 2009. The DVD gives a general overview of the SHARP Literacy program and uses the multi-year **Greater Milwaukee Circle of Life** project to illustrate the capabilities of SHARP students and the program's success.

The Circle of Life is a sacred Potawatomi symbol embodying many important Potawatomi values, including the equality of all people. SHARP started the **Greater Milwaukee Circle of Life** project in 2006 in close collaboration with the Forest County Potawatomi Community Foundation (FCPCF). The Foundation is committed to making children the nation's leaders in ending racism and discrimination. As a key step toward that goal, the FCPCF funded in 2006–2007 an enormous **Greater Milwaukee Circle of Life** mural — researched and created by hundreds of SHARP elementary students from five different cultures — now hanging permanently in Marquette University's Alumni Memorial Union.



Some of the students who participated in a special SHARP Circle of Life discussion at Marquette University gather together at the end of the day's memorable conversation.

SHARP third- and fourth-graders kicked their interviewing, vocabulary, research and writing skills into high gear the second year of the project when the FCPCF funded creation of a powerful 2007–2008 student-authored, student-illustrated book: **Greater Milwaukee Circle of Life: Elimination of Racism and Discrimination — Healing Through the Eyes of Children**. (In Rochester, N.Y., the 116-page book even won the Best in Show Award at one of the country's top book printing/book design competitions, meriting a write-up in a national trade magazine praising the work of SHARP students and their commitment to ending racism.)

For the project's third year (2008–2009), the FCPCF funded production of the DVD, which in part traces the history of the **Greater Milwaukee Circle of Life** project and preserves "on screen" a bit of a moving 2009 SHARP Circle of Life discussion at Marquette University featuring African-American, Asian-American, European-American, Hispanic-American and

Native American students from five different schools. Resolute words from a persuasive fifth-grader — "Don't judge people by just seeing them. Actually meet them, talk to them." — are typical of poignant student discussion quotes captured by the DVD.

Other **Greater Milwaukee Circle of Life** and DVD highlights:

- Some 3,300 copies of the **Greater Milwaukee Circle of Life** book were distributed free to third- and fourth-graders at all 32 SHARP schools in January 2009.
- Professional production services for the DVD were provided by **Time Warner Cable**. Nationally renowned broadcast veteran **Jim Peck** provided narration for the production. Others who enlivened and enhanced the DVD process and are owed a debt of thanks include FCPCF Executive Director **Thomas Boelter**, SHARP board member **Dr. Patricia A. Ellis** of Cardinal Stritch University, and **Phil Bautista** of Five-Hawk Enterprises. ■

SHARP by the Numbers

Test scores show that the vocabulary and writing skills of SHARP students continue to **increase by 40 to 70** percent in the course of a year compared to peers not in the program. Other key 2008–2009 numbers:

8,400 Books distributed for **A Book in Every Child's Hand** initiative. Thanks to generous underwriting by the **Daniel M. Soref Charitable Trust**, all SHARP students at the beginning of the school year receive their very own book — a special extra social studies or science title — to use in class as a springboard for the second-semester SHARP Writing Challenge. At the end of the school year, all children are given the book to begin their own personal libraries at home.

5,747 SHARP-created Student Workbooks and Teacher Guides were distributed.

5,479 Students and teachers from 32 schools were served by SHARP Literacy.

4,285 Students took part in more than 300 SHARP Literacy Tours of the Milwaukee Art Museum led by SHARP-trained docents.

89.4% of SHARP students responded to SHARP's annual year-end Writing Challenge.

49,000+ Urban students who have had their lives touched by SHARP Literacy since 1996.

Formal assessment of the SHARP Literacy program by **Applied Measurement and Evaluation Services** has also shown the following:

Students in the SHARP Literacy Program have increased writing skills and comprehension of material learned.

The SHARP program is an effective tool in decreasing discipline problems for many at-risk students. ■

First-Grade Pilot – Phase II

In response to requests from several teachers, SHARP launched a "pilot project" at four schools during the spring 2009 semester to explore the possibility of expanding SHARP programming into first-grade classrooms. The response from teachers and students was encouraging enough to extend the pilot for a second year, with SHARP lesson plans covering both semesters of the 2009–2010 school year.

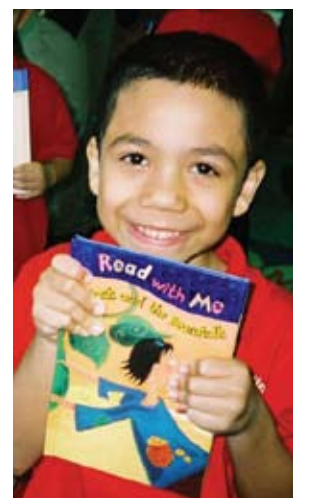
The inaugural SHARP-designed first-grade programs received high marks and warm reviews from educators, but the 2009–2010 editions of the first-grade lesson plan packets include some revisions and suggestions made by first-grade teachers during SHARP's June 2009 Teacher Workshop. The lesson plans — complete with Writing Challenges for first-graders — cover a major part of the state-mandated first-grade science curriculum: **the birth,**

growth and reproduction life cycles of living things.

Taking full advantage of the apple harvest season, vocabulary and activities in the fall 2009 first-grade lesson plan were designed to explore the life cycle of this favorite autumn fruit. Along with this first-semester packet, SHARP provides every classroom teacher with a copy of **Apples** — by well-known children's author Gail Gibbons — to read aloud in class, and first-semester SHARP classroom presenters give every child **The Apple Pie Tree** by Zoe Hall, a book children can read in class, read with their families and keep for their very own. Second-semester lesson plan packets have been designed to coincide with the spring planting season — writing and science activities highlight the growth of bean plants, and each student is given their very own take-



SHARP first-graders spread out on the floor of their classroom to devour their very own take-home copies of **Jack and the Beanstalk**.



home copy of **Jack and the Beanstalk** as retold by Nick and Claire Page.

The original four schools (Dr. Benjamin Carson Academy of Science, Forest Home Avenue Elementary School, Richard Kluge Elementary School and St. Martini Lutheran School) — along with two or three additional

schools — are scheduled to be part of the pilot's Phase II. In the spring 2009 Phase I of the pilot, first-graders were given vocabulary "pre-quizzes" before beginning the SHARP lesson plan and then given identical quizzes after the lesson plan was completed. The second quiz showed a student improvement rate of 30 to 58 percent. ■

Another SHARP Book Introduces Young Authors to the Necessity of a High School Diploma

The 2009–2010 elective book enrichment project for teachers who want to give their fourth- and fifth-grade students additional research and writing experiences will focus on the richness, rewards and very necessity of **technical and trade careers**. Immediately realizing the value of such a project, **Legacy Bank Foundation** has stepped up as a major sponsor of this initiative. As always, students will

discover you can have no real "earning life" as an adult unless you have a good command of writing, reading and vocabulary skills — skills demanded by just about every kind of job that can provide a livelihood, skills that come with receiving a high school diploma.

Students will also discover that to get a job to support yourself or a family, they'll also need education beyond

high school. For some students, the best choice is a four-year college featuring traditional academic majors. Another choice — one equally important, equally necessary and equally fulfilling — is education in a technical or trade career. Young researchers and writers will have the opportunity to learn that in the economy, all occupations — white collar and blue collar — are utterly



reliant upon one another, and that society collapses without enough good women and men wearing either collar. ■

2008–2009 Donors

To all who have contributed to SHARP Literacy's success, we owe a great debt of gratitude. As crucial partners in the work we do, we appreciate your support and encouragement. Through your generosity, we were able to meet our budget in a trying financial year. Thank you!

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Wisconsin First Lady **Jessica Doyle** — 2008 Novel Event keynote speaker — is presented with a special student-created gift by some of SHARP's *American Dream* authors.

2009 Novel Event Takes a Novel Approach on October 15

The problem of bullying in America continues to escalate, affecting the ability of children to learn and feel safe in school. Because this problem needs attention, SHARP Literacy's annual and only fundraising event will focus on the recently published *Bullying... Is Anyone Listening?* Written and illustrated by SHARP students, this book is a poignant reflection of the impact bullying has from the perspectives of children who are bullied, bystanders and even bullies themselves.

This year's event is taking an even more "novel" direction with the theme, "Step Up To Stop Bullying." The guest speaker is internationally-recognized shoe designer **Jerome C. Rousseau**. Mr. Rousseau has received significant press and industry acclaim for his shoe designs. He will help us "kick off" our expanded Bullying Project by speaking about the issue of bullying.



Especially for the event, Mr. Rousseau has created a spectacular one-of-a-kind "SHARP Shoe." He has generously agreed to donate 10 percent of the income from the sale of the SHARP Shoe to SHARP

Literacy. In addition, as the exclusive resource for Jerome C. Rousseau shoes in Greater Milwaukee, Russell Levin of Picardy Shoe Parlour will donate 10 percent from each pair of Jerome C. Rousseau shoes sold through his shops during the event timeframe — including the SHARP Shoe.

This year's Novel Event is co-chaired by **Kate Wilson** and **Kathe Cavallo**, with **Mary Kellner** as honorary chairperson. Thank you to all three extraordinary women for what is sure to be an extraordinary event. For more information, contact the SHARP Literacy office at (414) 270-3388. ■



Time Warner Cable's **Bev Greenberg** (left) — co-chair of 2008's A Novel Event fall luncheon — is joined at that annual SHARP Pfister Hotel fundraiser by husband **Marty Greenberg** of Greenberg & Hoeschen, LLC, and Wisconsin Energy Corporation's **Kristine Rappé**, co-chair of SHARP's 2008–2009 Annual Campaign.

A Successful Campaign in an Unprecedented Year

The 2008–2009 year was an unprecedented one for nonprofit organizations. The economic turmoil was felt at large organizations and small. Yet SHARP Literacy was able to meet its budget for the 13th straight year, thanks to the wonderful leadership of our Annual Campaign Co-Chairs, **Kristine Rappé** and **Charles Groeschell**.

Kris and Charlie's unwavering commitment to SHARP and the students we serve enabled us to reengage past donors and open doors to donors new to SHARP.

We are ever grateful for their leadership during an unprecedented time.

We are also proud to announce **Corey Hoze** — Senior Vice President Director of Corporate Communications for Associated Bank — as chair of SHARP's 2009–2010 Annual Campaign. The level of care and attention Corey brings to SHARP's fourth Annual Campaign is just an extension of his outstanding reputation for years of service given to Milwaukee citizens young and old. ■