

September 2016

# SHARP FOCUS

## Dear Friends,

The 2016-2017 school year has begun! We have been preparing for classes and are ready for a very productive year. We are anxious to build on the great progress that was made last year. Some highlights from last year were:

- In a 2015-2016 assessment student progress was measured in relation to a control group with similar demographics. Results show that SHARP students, on average, performed 2.5 times better than their non-SHARP peers on post assessment.
- Student performance gains on the SHARP assessment averages 25% from the pre to post assessment.



We are very excited about two new developments in our program for this year. We will be initiating a K4 pilot program to give our youngest students the best chance possible to reach their full potential as great readers and life-long learners. We are also welcoming Waukesha County into our program with one to four new schools being added this year. All of this is possible because of the support we receive from people like you. We look forward to sharing more great news with you as the year progresses.

Gratefully,  
Lynda Kohler  
President/CEO

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## NOVEL EVENT 2016



**A Novel Event 2016** will be held on Monday, October 17 at the Pfister Hotel and will feature keynote speaker John Quiñones, host of ABC's *What Would You Do?*

We are pleased to welcome this year's event co-chairs, Cecelia Gore of the Brewers Community Foundation and Dr. Earnestine Willis of the Medical College of Wisconsin. We are also honored to have as our Presenting Sponsor the Brewers Community Foundation and our Literacy Sponsors Richard and Joan Abdoo, Arvind Ahuja, M.D., BMO Harris Bank, and the Kelben Foundation.

**We are welcoming sponsors for this events—contact Suzy Wood at 414-410-3204 or [suzy@sharpliteracy.org](mailto:suzy@sharpliteracy.org) for more information about sponsorship packages.**



Students at Journey House show pride in the mural they produced in the summer program.

# Summer Learning Gain Initiative

From June through August, SHARP Literacy partnered with nine organizations for our Summer Learning Gain Initiative (SLGI). The program was a modified version of our school-year curriculum, maintaining the focus on building students' vocabulary through the use of literacy and visual art-based science and social studies lessons. Through the use of one of SHARP Literacy's "We Love to Learn" texts, *Explore MKE: Your Neighborhood, Our City*, students gained an understanding of the local community and the influence of local industries on that community. They then created art projects implementing these ideas using various media and art-making techniques. The culminating project was a mural incorporating the words and concepts they learned during the program. We would like to thank the Brewers Community Foundation and Ryan Braun for helping to make this program possible.



## Unwrapped

This past May, SHARP partnered with McDonald's for UNWRAPPED—a first-time event that challenged area chefs to create gourmet dishes from McDonald's ingredients. We had a successful event with over 180 people enjoying the delectable dishes. Save the date, May 18, to join us for our next UNWRAPPED event.

## Kids Run to Read

Returning for its third year, the Kids Run to Read allowed kids ages 3 – 12 to participate in a race that finished at the same Finish Line as the Summerfest Rock 'n Sole Run. Thank you to our sponsors for helping to make this another great run. We would also like to express our gratitude to Coach Wojo, his wife Lindsay and Shannon Simms at TMJ4 for their assistance in creating this wonderful experience.



## Books for Keeps

SHARP's MKE Kids Read: Books for Keeps program expanded this year to include library kiosks in 28 McDonald's restaurants within the City of Milwaukee. Milwaukee Police officers visited each of the restaurants to re-stock the mini libraries with a total of 8,300 books. The goal of this reading program is aimed at keeping children reading through the summer preparing them for school in September.



## New Board Members

We would like to welcome the following members to our SHARP Literacy Board of Directors:

James Burke, Milwaukee General Manager, Johnson Controls  
Kristy Casey, Principal, La Casa de Esperanza Charter School  
George Justice, Senior Vice President, Town Bank  
Brittany Lopez Naleid, Attorney, Reinhart Boerner Van Duren,  
Amy Kirschke, Director of Adult, Docent, and School Programs, Milwaukee Art Museum

Meghan Slocum, Vice President—Commercial Banking, BMO Harris Bank  
Anne Zizzo, President & CEO, Zizzo Group Advertising and Public Relations

## Share your heart!

Heart of Canal Street is Potawatomi Hotel & Casino's signature community program. Half of each \$3 or \$7 Canal Street Bingo game purchased goes to the Heart of Canal Street fund, which totaled more than \$1 million last year and provided funding to children's charities in southeastern Wisconsin. SHARP Literacy is a 2016 Canal Street charity. Help give the gift of a promising future by playing now through December 15. Visit [paysbig.com/heart](http://paysbig.com/heart).



This is a printed version of our email newsletter. To subscribe, email [suzy@sharpliteracy.org](mailto:suzy@sharpliteracy.org).



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