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SHARP LITERACY, INC. EXPANDS INTO WAUKESHA COUNTY SCHOOLS FOR 2017/2018 SCHOOL YEAR

MILWAUKEE, Wis. (October 31, 2017) – SHARP Literacy will now offer its educational program in five Waukesha County schools in an effort to reach more students in under-served neighborhoods. The program will be offered at three locations in the School District of Waukesha - Banting Elementary School, Summit View Elementary School and Whittier Elementary School - as well as La Casa de Esperanza and St. Jerome Parish School.

With the addition of Waukesha County schools, SHARP will be delivering its education program to approximately 9,000 K4 through fifth grade students in 38 of Milwaukee and Waukesha Counties' most at-risk schools. Depending on grade level, the program will include various themes from the study of plants, bees and urban agriculture, to the Great Lakes and the state of Wisconsin. Older students will study works by American poets and authors. Corresponding with core curriculum themes, the program will incorporate several of SHARP Literacy's *We Love to Learn* books including: *A Busy Bee: The Story of Bella the Honey Bee*; *A Great Lakes Adventure: Salmon's Journey Home*; *There Grows the Neighborhood: Agriculture in the City*; and *All About Wisconsin*.

Partnerships helped make the expansion possible, according to Lynda Kohler, president and CEO of SHARP Literacy. "Our partnership with the School District of Waukesha and these Charter and Choice schools allows us the opportunity to reach even more students with SHARP Literacy's program. For the outside-the-classroom component of our program, we've also partnered with Sharon Lynn Wilson Center, Waukesha County Museum, Carroll University's Prairie Springs Environmental Education Center, Retzer Nature Center, and SDW Recycling Center for educational tours." Kohler went on to say, "We are so grateful for these partnerships, as well as the continued support SHARP Literacy receives from the community."

In addition, SHARP's program for Waukesha County schools will include a unique partnership with Carroll University. During the first semester of the school year, SHARP Literacy's Artist in Residence Sally Duback will lead 130 second grade students from the above-mentioned School District of Waukesha

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schools in the design and creation of three bee-shaped mosaic murals to be installed at Prairie Springs Environmental Education Center at Carroll University. Next spring, Duback will work with third grade students from the same schools on a mural to be installed on the University's campus in April, 2018. SHARP has also partnered with the Carroll University's men's Pioneers basketball team through "Reading with the Pioneers," a program in which players read with students in SHARP's Waukesha County schools throughout the 2017/2018 school year.

SHARP Literacy, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) Milwaukee nonprofit educational program whose mission is to enhance future life success by energizing urban children, motivating them to identify themselves as confident, capable scholars and lifelong learners by inspiring engagement in reading, writing and research through hands-on interaction and visual arts. The primary goal of SHARP Literacy is to provide elementary school students with an imaginative learning experience that builds confidence, self-esteem, and a greater awareness of the world. This year SHARP Literacy, Inc. will impart foundational literacy skills to approximately 9,000 elementary school students in 38 of Milwaukee and Waukesha Counties' most at-risk schools. For more information, visit www.sharpliteracy.org.

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