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SMART Youth Advisory Board Wins Oregon Governor's Volunteer Award

Klamath Falls, Ore. -- SMART (Start Making A Reader Today) is pleased to announce that the SMART Youth Advisory Board, based in the Klamath Falls area, has received the Oregon Governor's Volunteer Award in the Youth Category for its service to SMART.

The Oregon Governor's Volunteer Awards honor the state's most respected individuals and organizations for their commitment to voluntary service benefiting Oregon and its people. The Youth Advisory Board was nominated for the award by Holly Stork, SMART's South Central Area Manager.

The SMART Youth Advisory Board is composed of 44 teen leaders who volunteer their time to support the SMART program in Klamath and Lake Counties. The Youth Advisory Board has helped SMART through increasing literacy awareness, local fundraising, and expanding SMART's literacy services to hundreds of additional children in the Klamath Basin.

In the last year of their service, each member of the SMART Youth Advisory Board devoted a minimum of 90 hours to help SMART. The collective 3,960 hours have gone to a myriad of activities, including decorating venues, setting up silent auctions, soliciting much-needed financial support and sponsorships, stuffing mailings, overseeing SMART sessions, and providing recognition to community partners and volunteers.

Members of the SMART Youth Advisory Board and SMART staff will attend the Oregon Governor's Volunteer Awards Luncheon to receive recognition for this prestigious award on Nov. 4 in Salem.

About SMART® (Start Making A Reader Today)

SMART, Start Making A Reader Today, is a statewide nonprofit organization that envisions an Oregon where every child can read and is empowered to succeed. We partner with schools around the state and engage community volunteers to read one-on-one with PreK-3 children, helping strengthen literacy skills and encourage a love of reading. Over the past two decades, SMART has steadily grown to become Oregon's largest volunteer literacy program. In 2011-2012, we will serve 7,700 children statewide with the help of 5,000 community volunteers. Children in the program receive 14 new books throughout the school year to keep and read with their families. Together, with support from communities and schools around the state, SMART is improving the reading capacity of Oregon's children. Visit www.getsmartoregon.org or call 1-877-598-4633 to learn more about SMART.

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