The Shadow Project

Annual Review

2015-2016

Changing Lives for Children with Learning Challenges
Dear Friend,

What a pivotal year for The Shadow Project! We strengthened our signature goal-setting program that builds confidence, motivation, and strong academic habits for children with learning challenges. In addition, we created Oregon’s first SuperSensory Literacy Spaces,* where audio libraries make books come alive for discouraged readers, and sensory tools improve self-regulation and focus.

But, there’s still more work to be done. Today, only 1 in 2 Oregon students with disabilities graduates with their class.

Together, we can change that equation. Children with learning challenges need access to tools and strategies, as well as appreciation for their diverse learning needs. Students with dyslexia, autism, ADHD, and other learning challenges can grow up to have powerful, fulfilling lives when they are supported to learn in their own unique ways.

Thank you for championing our children.

Christy Scattarella, M.A.,
FOUNDER & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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Program Highlights

★ Developed and installed 12 SuperSensory Literacy Spaces—unique multi-sensory libraries that help children take ownership of their learning. The cozy spaces include audio books, high-interest, low-level print books, and a variety of multicultural reading materials, as well as sensory tools such as kinetic sand, fidgets, weighted lap pads, and massage pillows.

★ Expanded our audio book support to further engage struggling readers—who completed a record 34,369 audio pages.

★ Conducted 15 family and student literacy events at seven schools to empower parents to support their students.

★ Moved from donated office space to our own headquarters.
The Shadow Story

The Shadow Project—the only nonprofit of its kind in the country—teams with teachers in 35 schools in the Portland area to make school more accessible and engaging for children with learning challenges so they can achieve their full potential. By equipping schools with innovative tools and strategies tailored to diverse learning needs, The Shadow Project has helped foster success for more than 10,000 students in grades K-8 who typically read one- to- three-years below grade level due to disabilities such as dyslexia, ADHD, and autism.

Founded by a mother whose son has learning disabilities, The Shadow Project became a 501(c)3 organization in 2003. It is in its third year as a community partner in the Portland Public Schools’ Read Together program to strengthen third grade reading at high needs schools.

Advancing Equity

Two-thirds of Oregon children with disabilities miss a critical milestone that predicts high school graduation: third grade reading proficiency. With the right supports, young people with learning challenges can graduate and become productive members of society.

With a new three-year Strategic Plan focused on equity, diversity, and inclusion, The Shadow Project is strengthening its commitment to increasing educational opportunities for the students it serves, the majority of whom attend low-income schools and are overrepresented by communities of color.

Shadow is collaborating with schools to support children with learning challenges inclusively throughout the day. The organization is also making its first foray into Head Start, helping preschoolers get ready for kindergarten.
Mia struggled to read, but learned to persevere through The Shadow Project’s goal setting program.

“If you try and don’t give up, many problems go away.”—Mia

Johnny pretended to read in class until The Shadow Project gave him access to audio books that inspired the courage to “read with his ears” and jump two grade levels in reading.

“The audio books help me. I love reading now!”—Johnny

Isaac used to avoid school but after he found confidence in his school’s Shadow Project-designed SuperSensory Literacy Space, his attendance soared.

“Reading is my new favorite subject!”—Isaac

Shadow Student Demographics
1,612 Total Students

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Demographic</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>27%</td>
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<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>48%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Asian / Pacific Islander</td>
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<tr>
<td>Native American</td>
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<tr>
<td>Title I Schools</td>
<td>64%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Languages Spoken</td>
<td>19</td>
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<tr>
<td>English Language Learners</td>
<td>21%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

36% Female
64% Male
80% Title I Schools
19 Languages Spoken
21% English Language Learners
Evaluation

In a May 2016 survey of teachers in The Shadow Project:

★ 97% with K-3 students reported that the program strengthens third grade reading proficiency
★ 93% with Shadow’s SuperSensory Literacy Spaces say the multisensory libraries contribute to student success
★ 98% agree that Shadow improves the educational experience of students with dyslexia
★ 100% would recommend Shadow to a colleague!

Financial Summary

July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016

INCOME

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<th>Source</th>
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<td>Foundations</td>
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<td>Individuals</td>
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<td>Corporations</td>
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<td>Earned Income</td>
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<td>Government</td>
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<td>Gifts In Kind</td>
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<td>Other</td>
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<td><strong>$355,141</strong></td>
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EXPENSE

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<td>Development</td>
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<td>Administration</td>
<td>30,244</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$352,841</strong></td>
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</table>

“The Shadow Project has provided me with so many new resources that I didn’t have access to before. The new resources allow me to provide the best learning environment for my students, and helps me meet their needs.”

—Shara Klein, M.S.
Rosa Parks Elementary
Did you Know?

For every $1 invested in The Shadow Project, at least $26 in benefits is returned to students and the community.

Source: Harvard Business School of Oregon

The Shadow Project’s mission is to make school more accessible and engaging for children with learning challenges, so they can achieve their full potential.

The Shadow Project
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On the cover: Portland Special Education Teacher Beth Brod, M.S., helps third-grader Christopher “read with his ears” on an audio book provided by The Shadow Project. Since using audio books, Christopher has increased his reading proficiency and enjoys books more.

For more information, or to make a gift visit shadow-project.org.