

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, without strong reading skills, children will face difficult challenges into adulthood and throughout their lives; and

WHEREAS, reading is the gateway to learning, opening doors to new possibilities and promising futures; and

WHEREAS, shared book reading and access to books during a child's formative years are the strongest predictors of early literacy skills; and

WHEREAS, Start Making a Reader Today (SMART), founded in 1992, engages community volunteers to read with Pre-K through third grade children for one hour per week during the school year; and

WHEREAS, 5,000 volunteers help thousands of Oregon children each year develop the self-confidence, enthusiasm, and motivation to read and succeed; and

WHEREAS, the City of Salem seeks more than 350 volunteers annually to assist with local SMART programs in schools during the 2017-18 school year; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Chuck Bennett, Mayor, do hereby proclaim September 2017, as

SMART VOLUNTEER RECRUITMENT MONTH

and encourage all residents to consider supporting strong reading programs in local schools.

DATED this 14th day of August, 2017.

Chuck Bennett
Mayor

