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For Immediate Release

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The Children's Literacy Foundation Awards Ten VT & NH Organizations Literacy Grants for At-Risk Children

Waterbury Center, VT — The Children's Literacy Foundation (CLiF) awards ten organizations serving low-income and at-risk children in Vermont and New Hampshire its At-Risk Children literacy program grant for the Spring 2018 cycle. The grant provides a fun and inspiring storytelling session with one of CLiF's 60+ VT and NH children's authors/illustrators and storytellers; a new on-site children's library for the program; an optional literacy discussion for parents and family members to emphasize the importance of developing early literacy skills and tips for helping children do so; and two new high-quality books for each child to choose and keep. The grant's goals are to promote a love of reading and writing among children at high risk for growing up with low literacy skills. Literacy development is a critical early indicator of a child's future academic and professional success. The grant is awarded biennially in Fall and Spring cycles.

Out of more than forty deserving applicants this cycle, CLiF selected the following ten organizations to receive an At-Risk Children grant in Spring 2018:

- ANWSD Early Education Program, Vergennes, VT
- Bakersville School Title 1 Preschool at the Bishop O'Neil Center, Manchester, NH
- Boys & Girls Club of the Lakes Region, Laconia, NH
- Burlington School District Parent University, Burlington VT
- Concord 21st Century Community Learning at Broken Ground and Mill Brook Schools, Concord, NH
- Goodwin Community Health WIC Program, Tamworth, NH
- Littleton Head Start, Littleton, NH
- Montgomery Elementary School Early Childhood Program and Montgomery LEAPS Afterschool, Montgomery Center, VT
- RuralEdge, St. Johnsbury, VT
- Springfield Learning Garden, Inc., Springfield, VT

CLiF's At-Risk Children grant provides opportunities and resources for low-income and at-risk children in Vermont and New Hampshire to learn to appreciate and enjoy storytelling, reading

and writing, which encourages their successful development of literacy skills. According to the Annie E. Casey Foundation, children who are not reading and writing at proficient levels by third grade are more likely to drop out of school before high school graduation. The Children's Literacy Foundation aims to provide children with exposure to storytelling and a wide variety of reading materials both at home and in the locations where they spend time, such as the afterschool programs, childcare centers, and affordable housing communities that were awarded CLiF's At-Risk Children grant for Spring 2018.

About the Children's Literacy Foundation (CLiF)

CLiF is a non-profit organization whose mission is to nurture a love of reading and writing among low-income, at-risk, and rural children up to age 12 throughout New Hampshire and Vermont. Since 1998, CLiF has supported and inspired nearly 225,000 young readers and writers through six literacy program grants and has given away almost \$6 million in new, high-quality children's books. CLiF is now accepting applications for its \$25,000 Year of the Book program grant for elementary schools in Vermont and New Hampshire through January 31, 2018. For more information about CLiF, visit www.clifonline.org.

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