

Children's Literacy Foundation

News Item

November 9, 2017

CLiF Contact:

Erika Nichols-Frazer, Communications Manager

(802) 244-0944

communications@clifonline.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Children's Literacy Foundation Awards Community Building Literacy Grants to Eight Organizations in Vermont and New Hampshire

Waterbury Center, VT — The Children's Literacy Foundation (CLiF) offered a Community Building grant for the second consecutive year to classrooms and organizations serving low-income, at-risk, and rural children aged twelve and under in Vermont and New Hampshire. Applicants chose between launching Senior Reading Buddies programs, "1,000 Books Before Kindergarten" challenges, and the Young Writers Project's new digital writing platform, "My Community Story." Through the Community Building grant, CLiF seeks to inspire communities to come together through a shared love of reading and writing.

CLiF is delighted to announce both ongoing and new programs provided by this grant.

New programs to be launched by the grant have been awarded to:

- Ingalls Memorial Library in Rindge, NH — *"1,000 Books Before Kindergarten"*
- Cutler Elementary School in West Swanzey, NH — *My Community Story*
- Wolfeboro Area Children's Center in Wolfeboro, NH — *Senior Reading Buddies*
- Newport City Elementary School in Newport City, VT — *Senior Reading Buddies*

For the second year, CLiF has funded Senior Reading Buddies partnerships at the Belmont Public Library in Belmont, NH; J.J. Flynn Elementary School in Burlington, VT; and Morristown Elementary School in Morrisville, VT, as well as the "1,000 Books Before Kindergarten" challenge led by Building Bright Futures in Bennington, VT.

"Research shows that the relationships made between kids and books and kids and other community members can help reduce the likelihood of participation in dangerous activities. CLiF offered this grant to help organizations make purposeful and meaningful partnerships to support kids in their social development and in their literacy skills," said Meredith Scott, CLiF Program Director.

More information on each of the programs sponsored through this grant:

Senior Reading Buddies: Elementary-aged children connect to local senior citizens through retirement homes, elder-care facilities, or sites where seniors meet regularly, such as the local Meals on Wheels lunch sites. Children can read with a different senior each visit or develop a more regular reading partner. The CLiF grant provides a professional training given by one of the 60+ authors, illustrators, poets, and graphic novelists CLiF works with; \$500 in new books for the program; and two new books for each child to choose and keep.

“1,000 Books Before Kindergarten”: “1,000 Books Before Kindergarten” is a Nevada-based nonprofit that operates a nationwide challenge for children to read or have read to them 1,000 books before they enter kindergarten (this includes books read more than once). The idea is to encourage families and children to read regularly and expose kids to a wide range of vocabulary and stories to develop strong early literacy skills. CLiF’s Community Building grant offers an inspiring storytelling presentation given by a CLiF presenter to excite children and families about stories and books, \$500 in new books for the program site, and two new books for each child.

“My Community Story”: Vermont’s Young Writers Project has developed a dynamic new digital platform for inspiring and sharing original student writing. Cutler School in West Swanzey, NH has been awarded CLiF’s Community Building grant to support writing in its third-grade classes throughout the school year. The grant provides a writing workshop with one of CLiF’s presenters, secure access to the digital platform, and funds for an end-of-year celebration to showcase students’ work with their families and school community.

Each of these programs is designed to give the classroom or organization the resources, inspiration, and support they need to build ongoing partnerships that encourage a love of reading and writing in their communities.

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 more than 200,000 young readers and writers through six literacy program grants and has given away almost \$6 million in new, high-quality children's books. For more information about CLiF, visit www.clifonline.org.

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