



Children's Literacy Foundation

News Item

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For Immediate Release

Twelve New Hampshire, Vermont Libraries Win Grants from the Children's Literacy Foundation (CLiF)

WATERBURY CENTER, Vt: Six New Hampshire and six Vermont libraries won 2016-2017 Rural Libraries grants from the Children's Literacy Foundation (CLiF). Grants include \$2,000 in new books for public libraries, \$500 in new books for school libraries, literacy presentations for local elementary school and preschool students, and \$250 mini-grants to support library programs.

In New Hampshire, the grantees are:

- Libbie Cass Library (Springfield)
- Milton Free Public Library (Milton Mills)
- Gay-Kimball Library (Troy)
- Stephenson Memorial Library (Greenfield)
- Jefferson Public Library (Jefferson)
- Monroe Public Library (Monroe_

In Vermont, the grantees are:

- Greensboro Free Library (Greensboro)
- Salisbury Free Public Library (Salisbury)
- Westminster West Public Library (Putney)
- Cabot Public Library (Cabot)
- Coventry Village School (Coventry)
- Poultney Public Library (Poultney)

Rural Libraries grant programs begin fall 2016. The grants are intended to create excitement about reading, increase library book circulation, improve the number and quality of books available to children and help connect small public libraries and the school community.

The grant is also intended to smooth gaps in library budgets. Funding shortfalls mean rural librarians must often choose between offering programs and updating old, outdated or insufficient children's book collections.

The Rural Libraries grant helps small libraries provide both books and programs. Each town librarian selects new, hardcover children's books for the public library and each town's elementary school librarian selects new books for the school library.

"Stephenson Memorial Library is honored to be selected for the CLiF Rural Libraries grant. The grant will provide the financial and programming support needed to broaden our relationship with our community partner, Greenfield Elementary School, and expand the reach of our literacy initiatives. We are very grateful and so excited for the children of Greenfield!" says Julie Steenson, Director of Stephenson Memorial Library.

Schools also receive visits from professional storytellers who give presentations, introduce children to their local librarians, and sign children up for library cards. A second round of presentations in spring 2017 will inspire students to participate in library summer reading programs and provide every child a book of her or his choice to keep.

Libraries in towns of fewer than 5,000 residents are eligible to apply for grants. Grants are awarded annually each spring. For more information about Rural Libraries grants visit www.clifonline.org.

About the Children's Literacy Foundation (CLiF):

CLiF is a nonprofit organization founded in 1998. Its mission is to nurture a love of reading and writing among low-income, at-risk, and rural children in New Hampshire and Vermont. Over 18 years CLiF has supported and inspired 180,000 young readers and writers through five literacy program grants and has given away more than \$4 million in new, high-quality children's books.

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