

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Children's Literacy Foundation Aims to Serve 10,000 Children Through Summer Readers Program

Waterbury Center, VT: Since 2007, the Children's Literacy Foundation's Summer Readers program has grown more than 1500%. In summer 2017, the Children's Literacy Foundation (CLiF) served 9,254 kids at 127 program sites across New Hampshire and Vermont. Summer Readers sites included food shelves and summer meal sites, public libraries, summer schools, camps and recreation sites. CLiF brings professional authors, illustrators, and storytellers to excite kids about reading and each child chooses two new books for themselves.

The program is designed to combat the summer slide learning loss that disproportionately impacts low-income children, who typically lose two months of learning gains during the summer months. The program aims to give kids high-quality reading material during the summer and to engage them through stories.

This summer, CLiF aims to serve 10,000 kids at more than 140 sites. CLiF returns to many program sites each summer. Partnering program sites this summer include a mobile meal site in Newport, VT; the annual foster children program in Northfield, NH; public libraries in Jaffrey, Bath, Franconia, Laconia, and Lancaster, NH and Highgate Center, Bradford, and Pittsford, VT; summer camps in Bristol, Claremont, and Nashua, NH and Richmond and Derby, VT; Burlington School District's SOAR summer program, among many more.

CLiF Program Manager Jana Brown says, "CLiF will be visiting thousands of children across NH and VT this summer to bring professional storytellers, authors, and poets to their summer program sites along with free book giveaways. Most of all CLiF wants to promote summer reading fun and engagement with books of all types during vacation! Also, research has shown that children who don't read over the summer vacation tend to lose literacy skills while children who do engage in summer reading actually make gains in their reading levels. Cumulative summer learning losses among children who aren't reading over vacation can be a significant contributor to the achievement gap."

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. For more information about CLiF, visit www.clifonline.org.

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