

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Children's Literacy Foundation Selects Ten Vermont and New Hampshire Elementary Schools for \$25,000 Year of the Book Literacy Program

Waterbury Center, VT: The Children's Literacy Foundation (CLiF) is pleased to announce that ten elementary schools in Vermont and New Hampshire have been awarded the \$25,000 Year of the Book literacy program for the 2018-2019 school year. The program promotes a culture of literacy within schools and encourages a love of reading and writing among children.

The Year of the Book program provides \$25,000 in literacy support to each selected school, including new books for the local public and school libraries and classrooms; many exciting literacy presentations and workshops by local authors, illustrators, and storytellers; funding for classroom literacy projects; family literacy celebrations; professional development opportunities for teachers; and ten new books for each student to choose and keep over the course of the school year. Criteria for the program include at least 30% of students qualifying for free/reduced lunch and at least 25% underperforming in recent reading and writing assessments, as well as a demonstrated commitment to improving literacy in the school.

Susan Greenlaw, Library Media Specialist at Bethlehem Elementary School in Bethlehem, NH (2016-2017 Year of the Book school), says, *"Being a recipient of the \$25,000 Year of the Book grant has opened many doors to literacy for our children. Author and illustrator visits helped our children to realize the accessibility of words and the power that they possess...Year of the Book ignited a love of books and words at our school... As a school who strives to celebrate literacy every day, we now have access to any book a child might desire!"*

Since 2011, the CLiF Year of the Book program has served 60 schools across Vermont and New Hampshire. CLiF is proud to offer the program to ten schools (five each in New Hampshire and Vermont) for the second year in a row. We are also pleased to be able to offer additional funding and support for Year of the Book schools in the year following their Year of the Book program to help keep their literacy momentum going. Additionally, representatives from each Year of the Book school are invited to CLiF's upcoming free Community Literacy Conference in perpetuity, which gives school personnel the opportunity to connect with other educators and share ideas for improving literacy.

The schools chosen for the 2018-2019 schoolyear are:

- Allenstown Elementary School, Allenstown, NH
- Boscawen Elementary Schools, Boscawen, NH
- Bristol Elementary School, Bristol, NH
- Castleton Elementary School, Castleton, VT
- Derby Elementary School, Derby Line, VT
- Eden Central School, Eden, VT
- Hillside Elementary Schools, Berlin, NH
- JFK Elementary School, Winooski, VT
- Milan Village Elementary School, Milan, NH
- Morristown Elementary School, Morrisville, VT

We are looking forward to partnering with these schools and to spreading the joy of literacy throughout the Twin States.

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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