

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Children's Literacy Foundation Awards Rural Libraries Grants

*Waterbury Center, VT:* During the COVID-19 pandemic, public libraries have stepped up to the challenge to continue providing access to reading materials and other resources to their patrons. Many libraries have been using a curbside pick-up system. Many offer virtual programming to engage readers of all ages. Libraries are so much more than just books; they're community centers, particularly in small rural communities, and are more important than ever while communities can't come together.

The Children's Literacy Foundation (CLiF) partners with rural libraries in VT and NH towns of populations of 5,000 or less. We recognize the vital roles libraries play in our communities, particularly at a time when many are feeling isolated and lack access to reading materials and other resources. The CLiF Rural Libraries grant provides public libraries with new children's and young adult books, new books for the local elementary school, two storytelling events (virtual or outdoor and distanced), funds for special programs, and new books for each child to choose. The program is designed to supplement libraries' children's book collections, increase libraries' circulation and community engagement, strengthen libraries' connections to their local schools, and increase enjoyment of reading and writing among low-income, at-risk, and rural kids in VT and NH.

CLiF Program Director Meredith Scott says, "*CLiF is pleased to support rural public libraries as they experiment with ways to fulfill their important role as a community hub, even while working within COVID restrictions. With a partnership between schools, public libraries, and CLiF, we can inspire students to read and write.*"

The following libraries were awarded the CLiF Rural Libraries grant for the 2020-2021 school year:

- Cabot Public Library, Cabot, VT
- Effingham Public Library, Effingham, NH
- Jamaica Memorial Library, Jamaica, VT

- Weeks Memorial Library, Lancaster, NH
- Cobleigh Public Library, Lyndonville, VT
- North Hero Public Library, North Hero, VT
- Solomon Wright Public Library, Pownal, VT
- Arvin A. Brown Public Library, Richford, VT
- Davis Public Library, Stoddard, NH
- Tunbridge Public Library, Tunbridge, VT
- Wardsboro Public Library, Wardsboro, VT
- Ainsworth Public Library, Williamstown, VT

Each library will kick off the Rural Libraries grant this fall with a fun (virtual or distanced) storytelling session at the local elementary school. The program will conclude with another storytelling event and book giveaway in the spring.

### **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 almost 300,000 young readers and writers through its literacy program grants and has given away almost \$8 million in new, high-quality children's books. For more information about CLiF and to apply, visit [www.clifonline.org](http://www.clifonline.org).

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