

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Children's Literacy Foundation Selects 12 Schools for its 2023-24 Year of the Book Grants

Waterbury Center, VT: The Children's Literacy Foundation is pleased to announce the 10 schools in New Hampshire and Vermont selected to receive its noteworthy \$25,000 CLiF Year of the Book literacy grant during the 2023-2024 school year.

- Hillsboro-Deering Elementary School in Hillsboro, NH
- Integrated Arts Academy in Burlington, VT
- Lin-Wood Elementary School in Lincoln, NH
- Maple Avenue School in Claremont, NH
- Marlborough School in Marlborough, NH
- Mount Pleasant Elementary School in Nashua, NH
- Putney Central School in Putney, VT
- St. Albans City School in St. Albans, VT
- Swanton Elementary School in Swanton, VT
- Union Street School in Springfield, VT

Two additional schools, Albany Community School in Albany, VT and Pittsburg School in Pittsburg, NH, were awarded a modified version of the grant for small rural schools with approximately 75 students or less in grades K-6.

The CLiF Year of the Book is awarded to elementary and middle schools serving pre-K through grade 6 that have demonstrated a commitment to literacy and creative ideas for celebrating reading and writing. Schools have a significant percentage of students below proficiency on reading and writing assessments, as well as students from under-resourced backgrounds.

"Our Swanton staff is very excited about the idea of this grant and all of the opportunities it will afford our school community," stated Swanton Elementary School librarian Joanne Allen. "We consider this Year of the Book grant only planting the seed which will continue to grow and flourish as we work together with our families and community to strengthen Swanton's culture of literacy."

Since launching the Year of the Book program, CLiF has partnered with 115 elementary schools in towns across the Twin States. This landmark grant program is designed to encourage reading and writing, integrate literacy into other areas of the curriculum, increase family engagement in literacy, and make high-quality books accessible to all students. The program offers author and storyteller visits, inspiring literacy activities, fun family events, new books for both the school and local public library, new books for classrooms, and 10 new books for each student to choose and keep.

“CLiF’s Year of the Book Grant program has a proven track record of creating a culture of literacy within a school community,” said CLiF Program Manager Cassie Willner. “The excitement that comes from new ideas, new books, and new connections makes this an invigorating grant for schools. Our ultimate goal here at CLiF and through this grant is to inspire kids to love reading and writing.”

The small school grants are an additional element to honor the special needs of rural schools, marking an increase in the total number of grantees for 2023-24.

“These 12 schools have made tremendous steps, with limited budgets, to bring literacy activities to their schools,” explained Willner. “Combining the CLiF Year of the Book grant with their existing initiatives will have incredible and long-lasting impact. CLiF is very proud to partner with the dedicated staff, faculty, students, and families in these diverse schools.”

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 350,000 young readers and writers through its literacy program grants and has given away \$9 million in new, high-quality children's books. For more information about CLiF, visit www.clifonline.org.

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