



# IMPACT REPORT FY2024





# Dear Friends,

I am thrilled to share CLiF's FY24 Impact Report with you. We are proud of our commitment and efforts to meet the literacy needs of children across New Hampshire and Vermont and create opportunities for all to thrive in life and learning.

- Inspired by the success of creative projects at our Year of the Book schools, we launched the Literacy Enrichment Grant to extend similar experiential literacy opportunities to more community partners and the children they serve.
- We also expanded our book giveaways through the Children of Incarcerated Adults program, enhancing the unique CLiF experience and fostering deeper connections for participants.
- In April, we returned to hosting the CLiF Community Literacy Conference in person, welcoming over 100 educators, librarians, and literacy advocates for an inspiring day of professional development.
- We continued to reach more than 20,000 children through our seven comprehensive literacy programs—just as CLiF has done consistently for many years.

While this past year marked a period of transition for CLiF, we remained unwavering in our mission and successful in our efforts. However, none of this would be possible without your generosity. You understand that every child, no matter their circumstances, deserves a bright future, and that the power of reading and writing can propel them forward. On behalf of all of us at CLiF, thank you for your continued support.

Laura Rice

CLiF Executive Director



# Dear Friends,

Storytelling, song writing, dancing, reading for pleasure – these joyful activities are more than fun!
When CLiF authors and presenters engage with kids, they inspire a love of reading and writing that forms a strong foundation for school and life success.

CLiF meets kids on their turf – in classrooms, town libraries, parks, and family centers throughout Vermont and New Hampshire. In the coming year, we are embarking on a community needs assessment to ensure that our literacy programming continues to meet the evolving needs of our partners in the communities we serve.

The importance of promoting an enthusiasm for reading and writing at an early age cannot be overstated. It is your generosity that enables CLiF to provide unique and enriching literacy programming to underresourced children at no cost. Your support puts books in the hands of kids who need them, and on their behalf, and ours, we thank you.

Lisa J. F

**Lisa Ferneau**Chair, CLiF Board of Directors

# BY THE NUMBERS

**CLiF SUCCESSES IN FY2024** 



**522** Events Hosted

19,484
Children Served







**49,597**Books Donated to Young Readers

**161**Grants Funded





179 Sites in VT & NH Visited

AND MUCH MORE, THANKS TO THE GENEROSITY OF OUR DONORS.



Scan the QR code to witness some of the joy you've helped to inspire.



# Community Viewpoint



At Tunbridge Public Library, we are dedicated to building community around reading. Our ultimate goal is that everyone feels safe, comfortable and welcome within our walls. Through the years, CLiF grants have been an incredible asset to our library, allowing us to add beautiful, diverse books to our collection, and to offer compelling new programs for children and families.

Some of our most rewarding work happens during our free after-school program. We have hosted comic clubs, fiber groups, cooking class, Dungeons and Dragons, and more. We're always trying to come up with fresh and exciting ideas so kids are eager to return to the library!

Last spring, our library used funding from CLiF's Literacy Enrichment Grant to create two kits of zine [A "zine" is a self-published, small-circulation magazine of original art, illustrations and text.] making supplies, including stamps, markers, pens, paper, washi tape, instruction booklets and typewriters. We had weekly workshops in our after-school programs (eight sessions in all) where we created and "published" our work on the photocopier.

Children were also able to check out the kits and create at home, making beautiful artwork with amazing storylines. One child exclaimed they went into "factory mode," creating dozens and dozens of zines. I heard from a teacher about one student who was inspired by the workshops, and made a zine apology book in school when she had made a mistake with a friend. I love that they took the time to fold, create and give this piece of writing to a friend. (I think I will try this next time I need to delve out an apology.)

Giving children the opportunity to identify as writers, authors and illustrators helped them build confidence, enhance their communication skills, and share important thoughts and opinions. They were able to read and relate to each other's stories, and take stories home to share with their families. Parents often sat down and participated in the whole creative process as well. The best part was seeing kids feel so much pride in themselves and their work. It was truly a wonderful and unforgettable experience! Thank you, CLiF, for supporting our young patrons' creative endeavors.

Mariah Lawrence is the director of the Tunbridge Public Library in Tunbridge, VT



Each of CLiF's unique literacy programs is specially designed to meet the needs of the community it serves. CLiF events occur year-round at sites across Vermont and New Hampshire.

# YEAR OF THE BOOK

The Year of the Book is CLiF's flagship grant program designed to support literacy at elementary schools across Vermont and New Hampshire. This grant provides up to \$25,000 worth of literacy programs, support, and new children's books over one school year to help build a culture of literacy within the school community. CLiF currently awards 12 Year of the Book grants each year. All Year of the Book partners are automatically eligible for a \$1,000 Momentum grant the following year for continued support of literacy activities.

In FY24, CLiF served 2,227 children and donated 23,500 books through Year of the Book.

"The opportunities and resources that the CLiF grant brought my fourth grade students were invaluable. Through our author and illustrator visits students learned techniques as writers and storytellers that enhanced our work in the writing classroom. Additionally, students demonstrated increased engagement during reading and writing blocks because of the connections we were able to make to our shared experiences with the literacy professionals that visited. The additional books that students were provided increased access to quality text for all students. This increased equity within my teaching practice and allowed for rich reading and discussion to take place in my classroom."

—Michelle Garvey, Teacher, Swanton Elementary School, Swanton, VT

# **RURAL LIBRARY GRANT**

CLiF's Rural Library grant supports rural public libraries in creating excitement around reading, increasing circulation, and strengthening relationships with the communities they serve. Over the course of one school year, CLiF works closely with the public library partner, their local elementary school, and area preschools. The grant includes \$2,000 in new, high-quality children's books for the public library (selected by public librarian); \$500 in new books for the school library (selected by school librarian); in-person author/illustrator visits, and book giveaways. CLiF currently awards 12 Rural Library grants each year.

"The most impactful part of the grant is receiving quality, hardcover new books. It was like winning the lottery! Certain titles are like old friends and hard to part with, but if a book has not been checked out in 30 years, it's time to weed with a vengeance and make room for updated titles. With nearly non-existent diversity in the collection before we received new books from CLiF, I am pleased to say we have a fabulous selection that depicts EVERYONE and addresses the world today."

—Deborah Thomas, Librarian, Alden Balch Memorial Library, Lunenburg, VT



In FY24, CLiF served 4,415 children, and gave away 4,869 books through Rural Library. An additional \$18,000 in books were selected by school and public librarians to add to their collections.

# CHILDREN OF INCARCERATED ADULTS

This program helps incarcerated adults stay connected with their children through literacy. CLiF provides resources to inspire confidence around reading, and to encourage the practice of reading together. Activities and support include storytelling presentations for incarcerated adults and their children; donated on-site libraries; books for parents to send home as gifts; book giveaways for children on visiting days; literacy seminars for parents to help them read with their children; and audio recordings of parents reading so they can share stories from afar. CLiF currently works with five facilities for men and women in New Hampshire and Vermont.

"My son is homeschooled, by his grandmother, and does not have a regular access to libirays [sic], and such, so on one of the christmas visits, clif books were available, my son saw some and was able to take two, he was over the top excited and by the time he made it home, a 3 hour drive, they had gone through each book twice. Clif, thank you so very much for all that you enable with this program."

—Anonymous inmate



In FY24, CLiF served 911 children and gave away 1266 books through Children of Incarcerated Adults.

# **SUMMER READERS**

CLiF's storytelling presentations and book giveaways at youth summer programs across the Twin States are designed to inspire kids to keep reading over school vacation, reducing the risk of "summer slide." CLiF typically partners with more than 75 sites during the months of June – August.

"We value our partnership with the Children's Literacy Foundation. It's a highlight of our summer for the children who get to participate in these events. Each kid is able to take books home with them to continue their reading. The fun-filled days of summer should always include pleasure reading in a child's most favorite subjects."

—Mike LaChance, Chief Executive Officer, YMCA of Greater Nashua, Nashua, NH







# LITERACY ENRICHMENT GRANT

CLiF's newest grant offers up to \$1,000 in funding toward experiential or project-based learning opportunities designed to bring literacy to life. After receiving substantial interest, we were able to fund 11 projects including a dragon day celebration, puppet-making workshops and performances, and a special pollinator-themed library program. CLiF will offer 15 Literacy Enrichment grants in FY25.

"I think the most impactful part of the grant is that it provided an opportunity to continue to build on our commitment to providing a wide variety of reading materials to our patrons and to celebrate the benefits of this form of literature. We even had some adults stop by the program without kids who were really engaged with the webinar program and immensely enjoyed learning about the benefits of graphic novels."

—Katie Male-Riordan, Library Director, Lawrence Memorial Library, Bristol, VT. (The library used grant funds to host a "graphic novel cafe," with a cozy on-site reading area, an educational webinar for families, new books for the library collection, and books for children to choose and keep.)

In FY24, CLiF served 1,240 children and awarded \$9,361 in funding to 11 recipients of the inaugural Literacy Enrichment Grant.

# **COMMUNITY LITERACY GRANT**

(Formerly known as At-Risk Youth Grant)

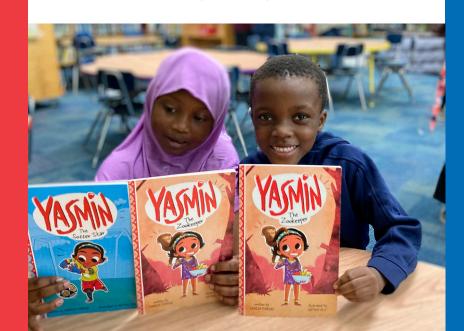
CLiF offers this grant to organizations that serve children at higher risk of growing up with low literacy skills, including affordable housing sites, shelters, English language learner classrooms, refugee programs, and community centers. Activities and support include in-person storytelling presentations; a literacy seminar for parents and caregivers that models storytelling strategies; donated onsite libraries; and book giveaways. CLiF funds 20 Community Literacy grants each year.

"It was exciting to see the children identifying many books they'd like to read and then narrowing it down to their two favorites. They were so excited to jump into multiple books, it was hard for them to limit the adventures! In a world where reading often takes a back seat to technology, CLiF events do a wonderful job reminding and reawakening families to the joy of reading a good book!"

—Aimee Lussier, Program Director, Ossipee Central School, School's Out!, Ossipee, NH



In FY24, CLiF served 1,512 children and donated 3,023 books through Community Literacy.





# **SPARK GRANT**

(Formerly known as Revive Grant)

This grant provides \$500 to past CLiF partners to help reignite enthusiasm for reading and writing programs. Grants are often used for author/illustrator visits, book giveaways or a family literacy event. CLiF typically funds eight to ten Spark grants each year.

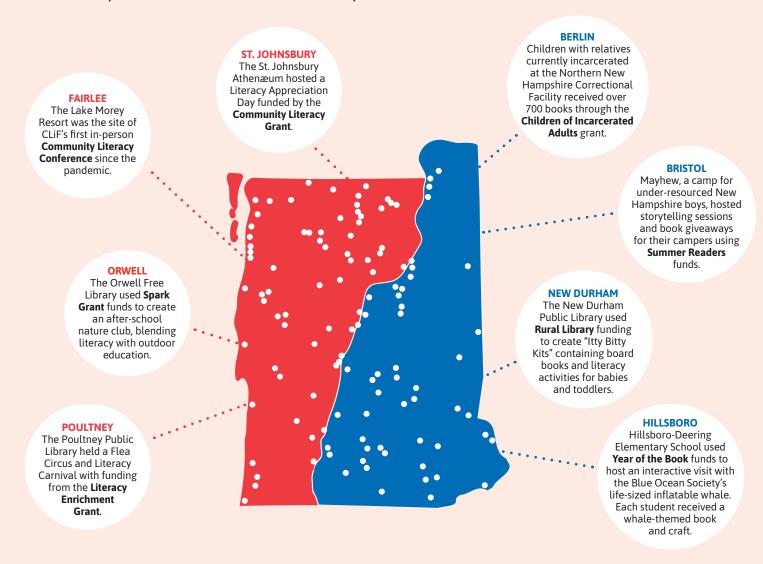
"This grant funded book giveaways with additional themed items to extend the children's literacy/learning. The vast majority of children and families we serve live in poverty, and it is meaningful to be able to provide them with free, high-quality books"

—Beth Travor Adolphus, Director, Oak Hill Children's Center, Pownal, VT



# Programs across VT and NH

Each year, CLiF partners with sites across Vermont and New Hampshire to promote the joys of literacy to under-resourced children. This map illustrates the locations our free grant programs reached in FY 2024, and highlights just a few of the many creative ways our partners used CLiF funds to inspire the children in their communities.



### **VERMONT**

Albany Arlington Barre Barton Benningtor Bradford Brighton Bristol Burlington Cambridge Charleston Chester Colchester Coventry Danville Derby Derby Line **Enosburg Falls**  Fairlee

Glover

Groton

Hancock

Hardwick

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Florence

Granville

Middlebury Milton Morrisville New Haven Newport

Greensboro Newbury North Bennington North Ferrisburgh Orwell Pittsford Plymouth Island Pond Poultney Pownal Jeffersonville Proctorsville Putney Richford Richmond Lvndonville Rochester

# Rutland

S. Burlington Shaftsbury Sheldon Springfield St. Albans St. Johnsbury Stockbridge Swanton Tunbridge Walden White River Wilder Wilmington Winooski

### **NEW HAMPSHIRE**

Allenstown Farmington Newport Alstead Franconia North Haverhill Rath Franklin Ossipee Belmont Harrisville Pittsburg Berlin Hillsboro Plymouth Bethlehem Jaffrey Rochester Jefferson Seabrook Bristol Canaan Laconia Somersworth Center Ossipee Lancaster Stewartsville Claremont Lebanon Walpole Clarksville Lincoln Washington Whitefield Colebrook Littleton Manchester Windsor Concord Marlborough Conway Woodstock Danbury Merrimack Nashua Deering Nelson Derry **New Durham** 

# **STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION, AS OF JUNE 30, 2024**

ASSETS			
Current Assets			
Cash Money Market Building Campaign Funds Inventory Asset - Books Prepaid Expense  Total Current Assets	287,035 23,763 158,224 92,574 4,209 <b>565,805</b>		
		Fixed Assets	
		Land	241,547
		Building	1,579,745
		Equipment	68,858
		Website	3,750
Total Fixed Assets	1,893,900		

### **Other Assets**

Investment Accounts	1,184,810
Investment Annuity	50,298

**TOTAL ASSETS** 3,694,813

1,235,108

3,694,813

### LIABILITIES AND EQUITY

**TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY** 

**Total Other Assets** 

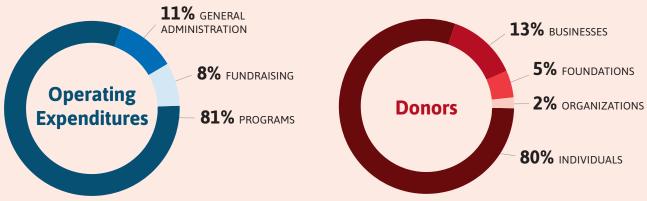
## **Current Liabilities**

Accounts Payable	10,484
Credit Cards	9,667
Total Liabilities	20,151

### **Equity**

· <b></b>	
Restricted Net Assets	65,298
Unrestricted Net Assets	2,514,625
Board-Designated Reserve Funds	890,207
Net Income	204,532
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**Total Equity** 3,674,662





Phoenix Books

rk MILES

Architects

The Bookstore

Thermo Fisher

TS Peck LLC

The Eloquent Page

The Omidyar Group

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Thank you for helping to inspire a love of reading and writing among children at higher risk of growing up with low literacy skills throughout New Hampshire and Vermont.

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please let us know so we can correct our records. Thank you!

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### **CONTACT:**

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