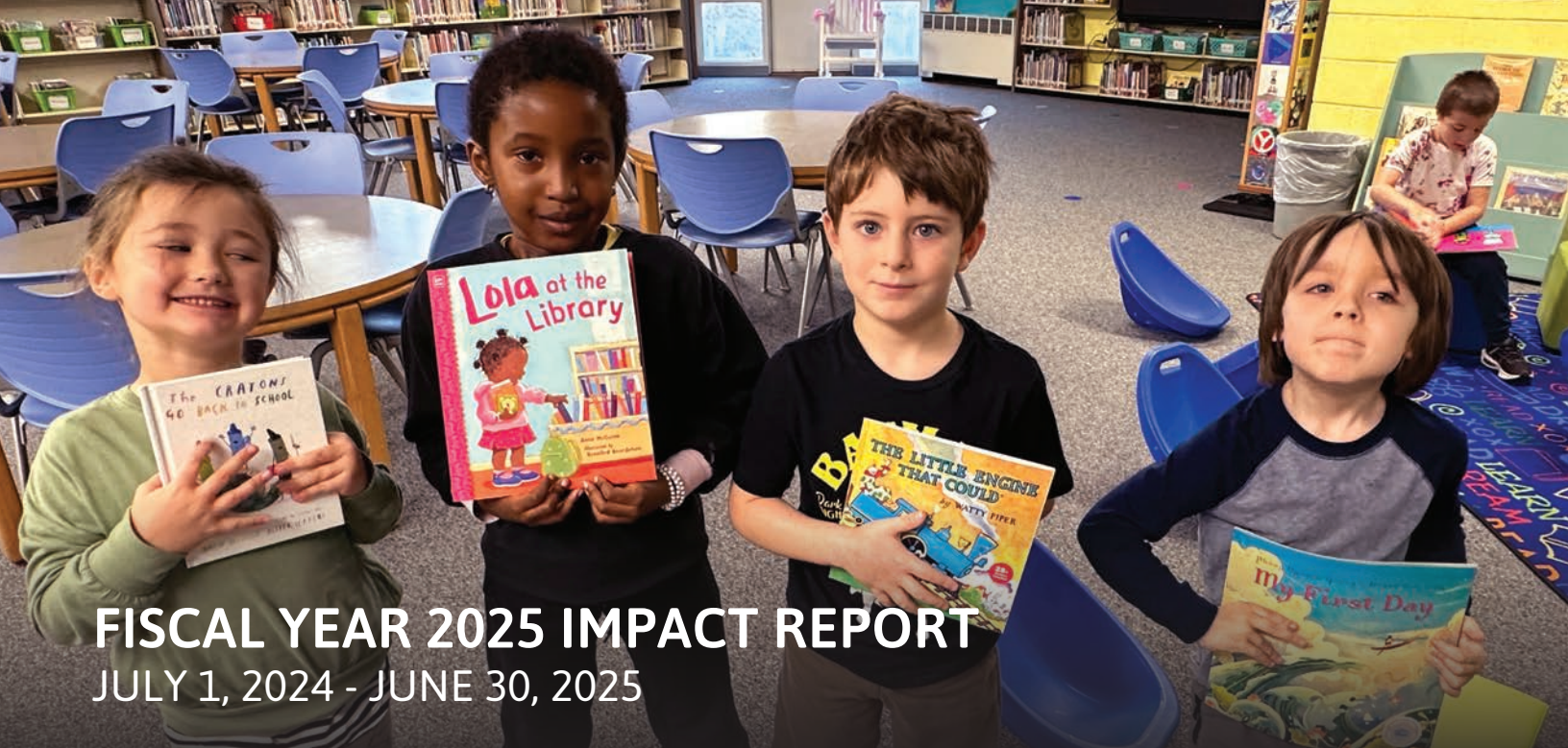




CHILDREN'S
LITERACY
FOUNDATION

IMPACT REPORT

FY2025



FISCAL YEAR 2025 IMPACT REPORT
JULY 1, 2024 - JUNE 30, 2025

Dear Friends,

We are delighted to share CLiF’s FY2025 Impact Report with you. This past year has been one of both purpose and planning. The challenges of our increasingly complex world only reinforced our commitment to addressing the literacy gaps faced by too many New Hampshire and Vermont children. Their futures depend on our willingness to provide strong foundations today. We are grateful for your shared belief in these deserving young readers and writers, and for your generous support throughout the year.

As this report highlights, each of CLiF’s seven literacy programs cultivated **Empowerment; Ownership; Access; Community; Creativity;** and **Family** over the past year. Interwoven through our comprehensive network of literacy resources, these elements make a robust and lasting impact on the children we serve, as well as upon the teachers, librarians and community partners we work alongside. As one educator put it: “CLiF is essentially a glitter bomb of literacy.”

Our year was further shaped by an extensive strategic planning process, informed and enriched by the participation of dozens of literacy and education experts. We deeply appreciate their wisdom and insights, and move forward with new focus and fresh resolve.

Thank you for recognizing the transformative power of literacy, and for your vital role in CLiF’s impact. Together, we are changing lives.



Laura

Laura Rice
CLiF Executive Director



Lisa

Lisa Ferneau
Chair, CLiF Board of Directors

BY THE NUMBERS
CLiF SUCCESSES IN FY2025

 625
Events Hosted

16,849
Children Served

 50,982
Books Donated
to Young Readers

169
Grants Funded



 190
Sites in VT
& NH Visited

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



Program Overview

In FY25, the Children’s Literacy Foundation (CLiF) operated seven distinct grant programs across New Hampshire and Vermont, and hosted an annual professional development conference for educators and librarians. Throughout the year, we partnered with sites including schools, libraries, community centers, camps, social service providers, early education programs, affordable housing sites, and correctional facilities, providing new books, author visits, literacy resources, engagement strategies, and much more.

YEAR OF THE BOOK

Provides up to \$25,000 worth of new books, literacy resources and support over an academic year to public elementary schools in New Hampshire and Vermont. Throughout the year, events include author visits, family gatherings, writing workshops, and book giveaways.

RURAL LIBRARIES

A \$7,500 grant for small town public libraries in New Hampshire and Vermont to help boost circulation, build community ties, refresh and replenish book collections, and encourage positive associations with the library from a young age.

CHILDREN OF INCARCERATED ADULTS

Provides incarcerated parents with new books to share with their children during visits or send home as gifts, strengthening family bonds. Optional literacy workshops build parents’ own skills and confidence in reading with their children.

SUMMER READERS

Combats summer learning loss by bringing authors, storytellers, and book giveaways to youth programs so kids can continue to practice their literacy skills even when school is not in session.

LITERACY ENRICHMENT

A \$1,000 grant supporting project-based or experiential learning opportunities that bring literacy to life for children.

SPARK

A \$500 grant is provided to partners to spark interest and enthusiasm for literacy activities with the youth and families they serve.

COMMUNITY LITERACY

Partners with sites supporting children at highest risk of growing up with low literacy skills to provide in-person author visits, new books, and on-site libraries to increase access to age-appropriate reading materials.

COMMUNITY LITERACY CONFERENCE

Held in April in Fairlee, VT, the 2025 conference featured keynote speaker Kenneth Cadow, author of the award-winning book *Gather*. Over 100 educators, librarians and literacy professionals participated in a day of collaborative professional development that included workshops, panel discussions, and networking opportunities.

EMPOWERMENT

Throughout the calendar year, CLiF programs provide children with the tools, resources, and confidence to see themselves as readers and writers, laying the foundation for improved outcomes, brighter futures, and new opportunities. Our work is grounded in the knowledge that literacy is a powerful conduit for children to articulate their thoughts and feelings; find their own voices; strengthen problem-solving skills; and develop empathy for others. The benefits of these skills extend far beyond the classroom, preparing children to meet challenges, forge connections, and contribute meaningfully as adults.

A core goal across all CLiF programming is to create meaningful literacy experiences that build positive associations with reading and writing. Through in-person author visits, interactive workshops, enriching activities, and diverse book giveaways, CLiF ensures that all children encounter the excitement, creativity, and possibilities of literacy via multiple formats.



“Over the course of the year, our literacy test scores have shown an improvement from 40 percent proficiency in the fall to half of the school now scoring proficient in reading—a huge improvement in a short amount of time. We are really changing the culture of literacy at the school, and the CLiF Year of the Book Grant was so instrumental in allowing us to keep up a steady stream of exciting opportunities for our students.”

“There was one fourth grader who hated coming to the library. He hated listening to stories and anything literacy related. During the writing workshop something clicked. He began drawing, and drawing, and drawing. He is now working with a classmate on a graphic novel.”



OWNERSHIP

The over 50,000 new books that CLiF donated in FY25 to young readers in New Hampshire and Vermont represent much more than “just” reading material. For many children attending CLiF giveaways, the books they choose are often the first they have ever owned.

Research shows that children who grow up with books at home have better academic outcomes, but the benefits of ownership go far beyond that. When children choose their own books, they are more likely to read independently and engage with material that interests them. CLiF’s giveaway collection is mindfully curated with the goal of offering every child books and stories that resonate.

“Providing access to a diverse array of literature to children who otherwise may not receive that was a huge benefit. The children were SO overly excited on the book giveaway days that they got to keep those books forever! The excitement to read and explore new books was amazing.”

“With our book giveaways my students, many of whom are low income, were able to pick and keep books that they love and take them home, increasing their love of reading and curiosity.”

ACCESS

Many, if not most, rural public and school libraries in New Hampshire and Vermont operate on tight budgets, limiting their ability to update collections in keeping with the needs of evolving communities.

In FY25, CLiF awarded a record 13 Rural Library grants to small-town libraries, helping to ease budgetary constraints, enable the acquisition of diverse, high-quality books, and support programming that encourages engagement. In response to increased demand, CLiF has expanded the 2025-2026 Rural Library grant, adding additional funding and event support for partners.

“We received so many great books for children and juveniles. We used this opportunity to create a new genre subsection, which is called ‘Stories of Us.’ This section holds books that represent diverse people of different colors, family make-ups, disabilities and such. We bought books for the folks who don’t often see themselves depicted in books.”

“For us, the infusion of high-quality children’s books was the biggest impact for the library. Our annual book buying budget for the whole library is \$1000, so this was huge.”

COMMUNITY

CLiF is dedicated to creating meaningful literacy experiences that benefit communities. In FY25, these efforts included constructing StoryWalks in public spaces, fostering partnerships between schools and libraries, sponsoring literacy-infused field trips to local landmarks, and inviting community members into schools as guest readers. These activities, and many others, help children develop a deeper understanding of the role literacy plays in their daily lives.

By design, almost all of the professional authors and illustrators who present on CLiF’s behalf live in New Hampshire or Vermont, adding a powerful sense of connection and relatability for young audiences. Meeting a real-life author from a community much like their own can inspire a child to re-imagine what’s possible.

“The most impactful part of this grant has been the way it fostered a strong sense of community and connection around reading. By engaging students, staff, and families in a shared reading experience, the program not only improved literacy skills but also encouraged meaningful conversations about empathy, kindness, and neurodiversity.”

“The entire day was amazing! Students were excited to meet a real live author. The town is thrilled about the new StoryWalk, and students of all ages came with their families to pick up free books!”

CREATIVITY

CLiF cultivates creativity by helping educators, librarians, and community partners bring literacy to life in fun and innovative ways. In FY25, CLiF awarded 16 Literacy Enrichment grants of \$1,000 each to support project-based and experiential learning tied to reading and writing. Year of the Book and Rural Library grants also include mini-grants for literacy activities that spark enjoyment.

These flexible funds allow partners to pursue ideas beyond their usual budgets, giving students fresh perspectives, hands-on learning, and memorable experiences.

“We used the Schoolwide Dollars Flexible Funds to help pay for an all-school field trip to our local theme park that is built around nursery rhymes and fairy tales. The regular cost for this park can be prohibitive for many of our families, so it was a highlight to be able to offer this to all of our families.”

“I started a winter break theater camp in 2024 but due to being a small public library, I had to do it with no funds. This grant took a lot of stress off me and the kids loved having costumes and a real stage set.”



FAMILY

Because CLiF recognizes that strong family connections are fundamental to children’s literacy development, creating opportunities for families to celebrate literacy together is central to our mission. When parents and caregivers share books and stories with children, they create lasting bonds and build essential literacy skills that extend beyond the classroom.

In FY25, CLiF hosted Family Literacy events for parents, caregivers, and children at sites across New Hampshire and Vermont. These interactive gatherings typically include a shared meal, storytelling with a professional CLiF presenter, a parent seminar on the importance of reading at home, and a book giveaway for families to choose new titles to enjoy together. For our school partners, these events help boost family engagement and build stronger community ties—two factors linked to better student outcomes and overall academic success rates.

CLiF’s Children of Incarcerated Adults program (CHiA), helps incarcerated men and women stay connected with their children through literacy. During CLiF visits to correctional facilities, parents can select books to share with their children during visits, or send home as gifts with a note. Other activities and support include storytelling presentations, and seminars for parents to help them read with their children.

By providing access to a wide range of diverse books that highlight different cultures, lifestyles and identities, CLiF strives to ensure that every family we serve sees themselves represented, and also to provide windows into how other families live. Exposure to different perspectives helps nurture empathy, understanding, and a sense of belonging.



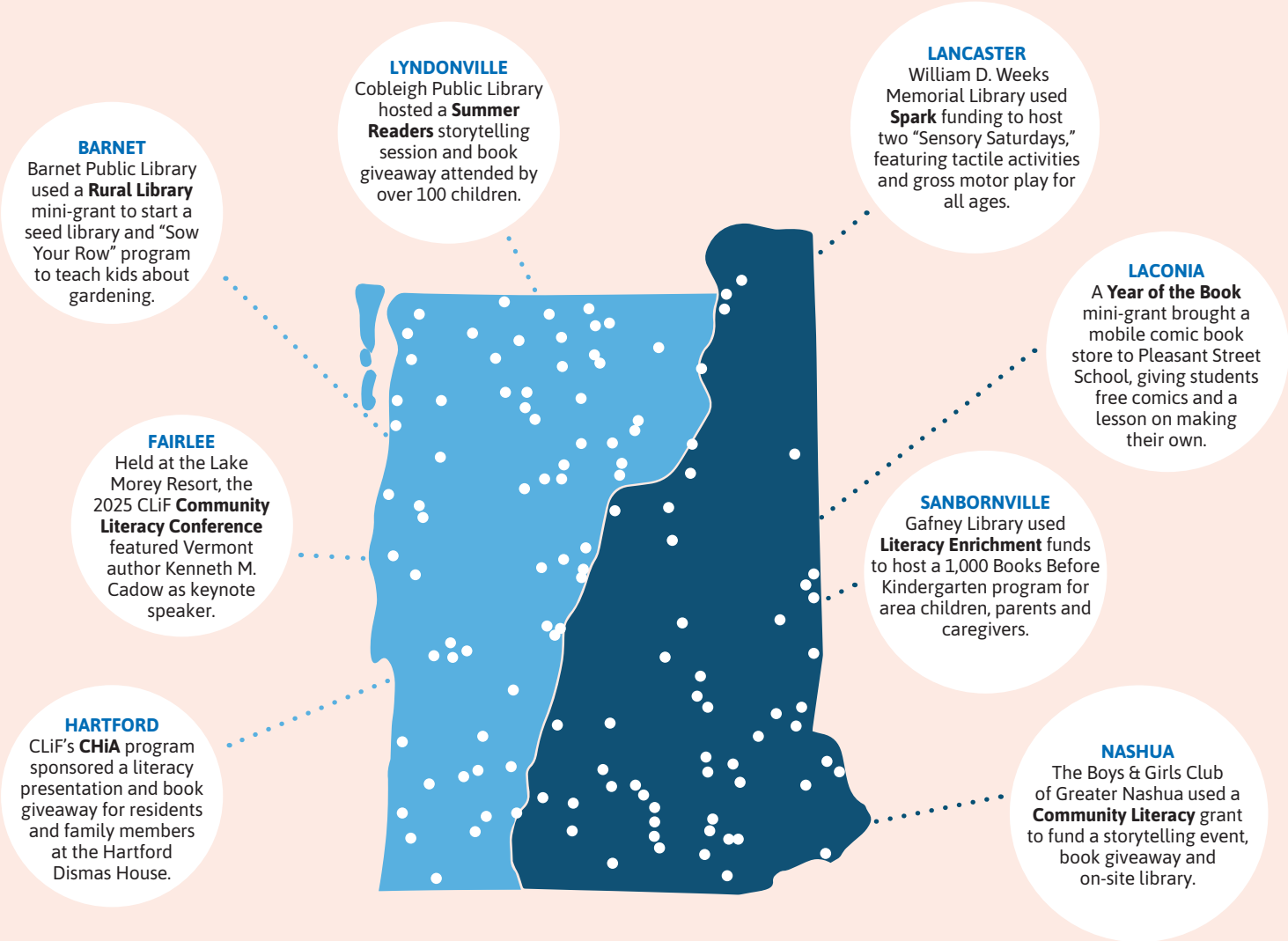
“We have had a really great response to books that represent diverse families and books that depict folks with disabilities. We have one family in particular who have neurodiverse children. They have blown through some of the books that are relevant to their particular family issues. Based on their love for this section, I have been able to expand, knowing there is a home for these books.”

“One of the dearest moments for me [at our family literacy night] was seeing a 3rd grader show his great-grandmother his [writing] project, which was about her.”

“The grant not only supported literacy but also strengthened family bonds and encouraged emotional expression, making a meaningful difference in the lives of the children and their families.”

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 2025, and highlights just a few of the many creative ways our partners used CLiF funds to inspire the children in their communities.



VERMONT

Albany	Ferrisburgh	Morristown	St. Albans
Andover	Greensboro	Morrisville	St. Johnsbury
Bakersfield	Groton	New Haven	Stamford
Barnet	Hartford	Newport	Statewide
Barre	Highgate	North Ferrisburgh	Swanton
Barton	Highgate Center	Orleans Co	Thetford
Bennington	Hyde Park	Pittsford	Tunbridge
Bradford	Irasburg	Plainfield	Vershire
Bridport	Island Pond	Plymouth	Walden
Burlington	Jay	Proctor	Wardsboro
Cabot	Jeffersonville	Putney	Waterford
Chester	Johnson	Richford	West Charleston
Colchester	Ludlow	Richmond	West Dover
Danville	Lyndon Center	Rupert	West Fairlee
Derby Line	Lyndonville	Rutland	West Rutland
Dover	Manchester	Salisbury	Westfield
East Corinth	Center	Shaftsbury	White River Junction
East Dover	Middlebury	South Burlington	Wilmington
Enosburg Falls	Montgomery	South Londonderry	

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Allenstown	Franconia	North Stratford
Alstead	Freedom	Northfield
Antrim	Gilmanton	Pittsburg
Ashland	Gilsum	Rochester
Barnstead	Greenfield	Sanbornville
Bath	Hillsboro	Seabrook
Belmont	Laconia	Somersworth
Bennington	Lancaster	Stewartstown
Berlin	Lincoln	Stewartsville
Bristol	Londonderry	Tamworth
Chichester	Madison	Temple
Claremont	Manchester	Troy
Clarksville	Marlborough	Washington
Concord	Milford	West Stewartstown
Ctr. Ossipee	Milton	Whitefield
Deering	Nashua	Windsor
Derry	New Bedford	
Dover	New Durham	
Farmington	Newport	



CHILDREN’S LITERACY FOUNDATION

DONORS JULY 1, 2024 – JUNE 30, 2025

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.

BUSINESSES		INDIVIDUALS	
Audax Matching Grant Program Bartleby's Books Bear Pond Books Ben & Jerry's BL Mosher Consulting, Inc. Bridgeside Books Cambridge Pacific Capital One Clear Solutions Community Bank of Waterbury Concept2 Cultivate PR Domus Everyone's Books Gibson's Bookstore Haynes & Garthwaite Architects HiEmployment Hubbardton Forge IBM Corporate Matching Grants Program IBM Employee Charitable Contribution Program Inklings Children's Books Ivek Corporation Lawson's Finest Liquids Ledyard Bank Liberty Mutual's Give With Liberty Program Little Village Toy & Book Shop Main Street Landing MainStreet BookEnds Morgan Hill Bookstore Next Chapter Bookstore North Country Donuts NorthCountry Federal Credit Union Northern Stage Norwich Bookstore Oliver Wyman Group Phoenix Books Sheerr McCrystal Palson (SMP) Architecture, Inc. Sleepy Hollow Post & Beam, LLC Still North Books & Bar Target Circle Community Giving The Bookstore The Eloquent Page The Yankee Bookshop Thermo Fisher Toadstool Bookshop TS Peck LLC Vermont Mutual Insurance Company VTDigger	Emily Landecker Foundation, Inc. Entrepreneurs Fund of NH Francis T. and Louise T. Nichols Foundation George W. Mergens Foundation Helen G. Hauben Foundation HOPE Foundation Jane B. Cook 1992 Charitable Trust Jockers Family Foundation Kettering Family Philanthropies Mascoma Bank Foundation National Life Group Charitable Neil and Louise Tillotson Fund Nordblom Family Foundation Northeast Kingdom Fund Pritchard Foundation Rona Jaffe Foundation Rosenfeld Foundation Saul O Sidore Memorial Foundation Scripps Family Fund for Education and the Arts Sorg-Vogt Charitable Foundation Stadler Fund The Allen Hilles Fund The Sid and Cecelia Lance Family Foundation The Starbucks Foundation Three Sisters Foundation Town Fair Tire Foundation Inc Windham Foundation, Inc.	Anonymous (49) Brooke & Jim Adler Shyam Akula Mary & Jerry Albert Ruth Allard & Erik Schickedanz David & Mary Allen Steven & Cindy Allen-Berson Carol Anderson & Stephen Crane Sandie Anderson & Reeve Williams Scott & Julia Andrews Tucker & Robin Angier Philip Annacone & Olivia Grosvenor Katherine Arden Steve & Kim Arndt Laurie Bacon Banfield Family Charitable Fund Wendy & Tom Barney Barrette Family Fund Scott & Joan Barthold Jonathan & Ciara Bartholomew Malia Bartholomew Martha Bates & Mike Mazzaschi Mark & Ann Beams Martha & Jim Beattie Tim & Wende Beck Gerald & Gail Bednarowski Steve & Judy Bender Marek Bennett Alice W. Bennett Karen Benz Iris Berezin Judy & Jim Bernat Peter Bestenbostel & Ann Hunsicker Jerry & Grace Bird Katherine & Mark Blanchard Tiffany Bluemle & Elizabeth Shayne Laura Block Ray Boas Mr. & Mrs. Bud Booth Emily Boren Jennie Boudreau Katherine Bourne & Laurence Dodge Marc Bousquet Tom & Nancy Brock Mary & Scott Brown Chess Brownell Diane & Clyde Brownstone William Brundage & Lisa Scagliotti Kristin Brynga Rodney & Sandra Buck Elizabeth Bullard & Richard Morse Jill & Martin Butler Michael Caduto Jack Calhoun & Beth Healy James & Sarah Callanan Peter Carini & Jo Knowles Debbie & Chris Carley Kathleen A. Carroll	Terry Cauthorn Nancy Chickering & Kris Hammer Jason Chin & Deirdre Gill Dave & Ann Cioffi Gail M. Clauson Jim Comley Onita Connington & Dr. Vijay Thadani Jacqueline Connors Conroy Giving Fund Lucie Cook Sophie Cook Katherine L. Coppock Lisa Correa Sharon Cowen Tom Crouse & Kay Enokido Jacob & Lizzie Crumbine Karlyn Curran Glenn & Susanne Currie Jack Daggitt & Anne Stellwagen Jane Darrach Jay Davis & Sonja Hakala David Sayre Dayton Joe Deffner & Sarah Martel Jonathan Dorfman Robert Dostis & Chuck Kletecka Catherine Drake & Richard Levine Bari & Peter Dreissigacker Dick Dreissigacker & Judy Geer Lawrence & Dori Dugan Rosi Dupre Danielle Dyer & Alexander Kloman Clare & Steve Earley Ashraf Eassa Judith Eaton Nancy Cook Eddy Stephen Elgert & Ann Hoey Midge & Tim Eliassen Jack & Judy Elliott James Ely Stephen Ensign Nicholas Espey Barbara & Carl Esser Olivier & Cecile Fainsilber Mallory Falvey Abigail D. Faulkner Alan Feibelman Philip & Lisa Ferneau Jackie Fischer & Ronald Miller Vicky Fish & Hugh Huizenga Jim Fortmuller & Julia Trotter Mr. & Mrs. William S. Frago Steve & Tricia Frary Mr. & Mrs. James Fronheiser Milt & Carolyn Frye Frank & Meredith Fuller Harry Gahagan Walt Gahagan Laurie & Keith Gee Janice Gendreau Gail Gentes & Phil Hanlon Roger & Betty Lameyer Gilmore Ronald & Lena Goldberg
FOUNDATIONS			
Anonymous (3) Blair Fund Brooke Foundation Couch Family Foundation Cricenti Family Charitable Lead Unitrust			

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LEGACY CIRCLE

We would like to express our deepest appreciation to those who have included CLiF in their planned giving:

Anonymous (4) Mary & Jerry Albert Dr. Robert W. Christie+ Carol Bennett Crocker+ Anne M. Hartmere+	Bruce Hauben & Joyce Brinton Beth Healy & Jack Calhoun Mary Catherine & Eric Jones Harriet Kaufman Carol Wilkinson Keenan+	Liza Ketchum Phil Kolvoord+ Allegra Lubrano Duncan & Belle McDougall Willa McDougall+	Genevieve Rusterholz Morgan+ Winifred W. Morrissey+ Kathy Powell Eleanor Bisbee Pratt+ Matt & Margaret Rightmire	Molly Potter Scheu Dr. Ethan Allen Sims+ Betsy Sylvester+ Ruth Sylvester+ Jennifer & Stan Williams
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STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

AS OF JUNE 30, 2025

ASSETS

Current Assets

Cash	270,998
Inventory Asset - Books	73,346
Prepaid Expense	4,575

Total Current Assets 348,919

Fixed Assets

Land	241,547
Building	1,503,686
Equipment	46,623

Total Fixed Assets 1,791,856

Other Assets

Investment Accounts	1,536,040
Investment Annuity	42,670

Total Other Assets 1,578,710

TOTAL ASSETS 3,719,485

LIABILITIES AND EQUITY

Current Liabilities

Accounts Payable	15,295
Credit Cards	4,644

Total Liabilities 19,939

Equity

Restricted Net Assets	163,236
Unrestricted Net Assets	2,543,763
Board-Designated Reserve Funds	890,207
Net Income	102,340

Total Equity 3,699,546

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY 3,719,485

