

IMPACT REPORT 2024

Another amazing year of Kismet is in the books, completing **25 years** of making a difference in kids' lives! Over these years Kismet has had the privilege of providing nearly four hundred students from nine schools, and across three states with over one thousand days of climbing at no cost to the student! This level of commitment is possible because of the generous support of hundreds of donors throughout the years.

Most importantly, we record our critical impact as quality over quantity. We see the power and value in the Kismet experience repeatedly every week of the summer. There are no words to better describe the program than the words of our students. Here are a few reflections from the 2024 summer program.

"Kismet is a part of my life. It made me believe in myself and others. I love how much I have grown as a person." -'24 Kismet graduate - Berlin, NH

"I am so glad I was picked for this program, Thank you!" -1st year student - Manchester, NH (this was expressed repeatedly throughout the week)

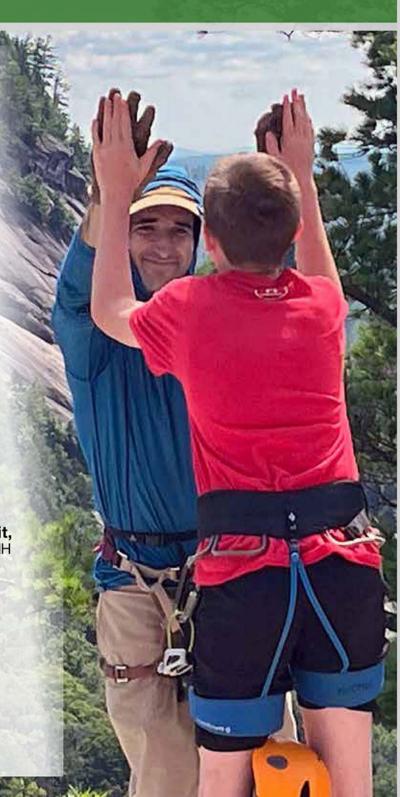
"Kismet is a place that I know how to be the happiest I can be." -2nd year student - Fryeburg, ME

"The most fulfilling part of the week was all of it, the unrelenting support." -2nd year student - Berlin, NH

It is an honor to work in a space that fosters deep empathy, collaborative problem-solving, and a collective courage that lends itself to empowerment and joy. Thank you for being a part of this world of Kismet through your continued support.

With Gratitude,

Krissy Fraser Executive Director 978.420.5831



Each program week is powered by a collaborative effort including students, staff, and volunteers. This summer we experienced an amazing seven weeks of climbing, hosting fifty-four students, and seven returning Kismet graduates as staff and interns.

Program Manager Owen McAndrew led the climbing curriculum each week, introducing techniques starting with the primary knots, belaying, and communication; progressing to rappelling, building anchors, and ultimately, multi-pitch climbing for the older groups. When the climbing wraps up, the group circles up to reflect, often sharing things from the day that made them feel accomplished and expressing gratitude for the peers in the group who made them feel supported.

The group then shifts gears to evening activities that include a special outing such as ice cream, star gazing, or swimming, along with a daily routine of a family-style dinner, house chores, lunch prep, one hour of phone time, and then the wind-down circle where the students discuss "Peaks and Valleys" of the day before turning in for the night.

The days are full, the weeks are fast, and the emotional growth, valuable interactions, and transformative moments are numerous.

"Kismet is one of the best weeks I've had. Meeting people, learning how to climb, and the bonding in only one week is impressive."

- 1st year student - Manchester, NH

The youth we serve represent an underserved, diverse population, with various ethnic backgrounds and gender identities. They are aged 13 to 17 and come from Fryeburg and Portland, Maine, areas around Boston, Massachusetts, and in Bartlett, Berlin, Conway, Gorham, and Manchester, New Hampshire.

Students are introduced to Kismet because they are recognized by a representative in their school system who sees a spark, a need, a special individual who will flourish when given an extraordinary opportunity. Many of the students have little exposure beyond the boundaries of school and home to explore not only an outdoor environment, but more importantly the freedom to speak freely, laugh loudly, and communicate boldly.

We visit the school and present to the students, who can then apply to be considered for a full four-year scholarship. They tell us they apply because otherwise they wouldn't leave their house all summer, they want to learn something new, or because they want the chance to meet friends.

Once selected it is a brave endeavor...leaving home often for the first time to participate in a climbing education, in an unfamiliar town, with all new people - a bold leap into an arena often far outside the scope of something they have ever done. Within days, because of this shared experience, there is a confidence and connection that defies logic and it is felt by all involved.











Our sights are now on to the next 25 years for Kismet and staying true to the invaluable mission. We continue to develop our strategic plan and build on a trusted foundation.

While a rock-climbing education is central to the work of Kismet, we also have opportunity to genuinely learn about each student and support their growth beyond the boundaries of their weeks at Kismet. One focus remains on providing year-round support for Kismet students to connect with the community and the sport, allowing for further growth and development opportunities. We are fully dedicated to every student involved in Kismet. We are a valuable resource to the students in their journey at home, school, and within their community. By expanding partner connections in each community we can introduce resources for our students through collaboration with other organizations.

We continue to expand our outreach efforts, to increase diversity in our donor base and incremental growth in our annual income. With this we have secured a full staff and will be increasing our summer programs to eight weeks and provide a more robust off-season program.



THANK YOU

FOR YOUR DEDICATION AND SUPPORT!

CLIFF VOLUNTEERS

Nick DeHass Deb Dunn Domenic Lentini (photog) Ara Morton Annemarie Orth Mia Shifrin Mia Valeriani

WEB SUPPORT

Brian Post

STAFF

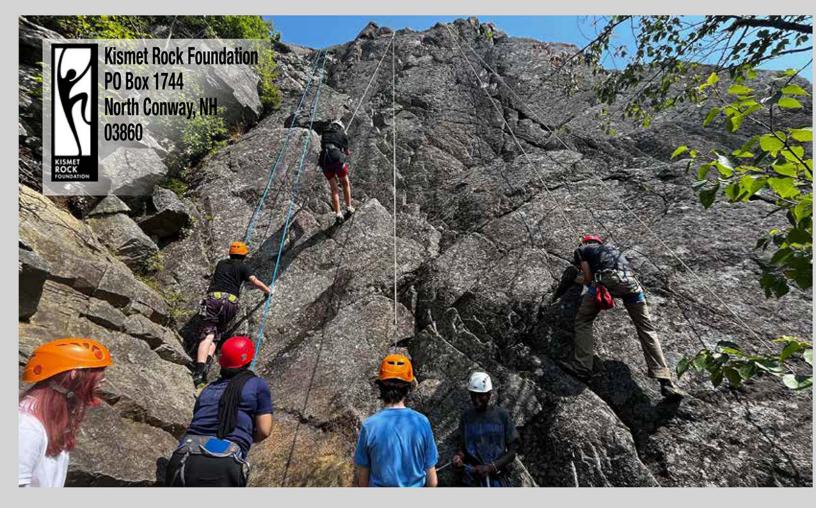
Bryanna Alley
Renee Brogan
Rowan Carroll-Christopher
Sharlah-Mae Day
Daniel Deis
Zoe Eisenberg
Krissy Fraser
Muna Mohamed
Owen McAndrew
Gashim Nyapir
Caleb Scott
Satya Som
Stuart Webb
Hayleigh Young

CATHEDRAL MT. GUIDES

Llam Byrer Aramy Cho Molly Mundy Grant Simmons Calvin Tague

BBQ HOSTS

Tom and Tina Boydston Rachel, Liz, Asa, & Wilder Eirman Paul, Lisa, and River McCoy Ted and Sharon Wroblewski Joe, Ardis, & Christine Yahna



Kismet Rock Foundation nourishes the physical, intellectual, and emotional development of rural and urban children throughout New England before they enter their formative teen years.

VISION

To create a pathway for underserved youth throughout New England to connect with each other through the exploration of rock climbing. To support their emotional and social growth in a diverse, multicultural community, enhancing their ability to thrive in life. Kismet Rock Foundation serves as a replicable model for other organizations with similar constituents and goals.



Dana Etra - Chair Donna McCluskey - Treasurer Carter Owens - Secretary

Pete Masterson Ara Morton David Packard Beth Phelps Jim Torpey Reed Van Rossum



THANKING OUR GENEROUS SUPPORTERS OF THE 2024 PROGRAM YEAR

CHARITABLE FOUNDATIONS

Clif Bar Family Foundation Cogswell Benevolent Trust Crocker Catalyst Foundation Davis Conservation Foundation Eversource Energy Foundation Hesed Foundation Kahtoola Inc.

Kiwanis Club of Mt. Washington Valley

New Hampshire Charitable Foundation (NHCF) Katherine Wells MacMillan Fund of NHCF Neil and Louise Tillotson Fund of NHCF Pequawket Foundation of NHCF Matthew and Martha Masiello Family Fund of NHCF The Ryan E. Bishop Outdoor Leadership Fund of NHCF NH Electric Cooperative Foundation

REI Cooperative Action Fund Sadie & Harry Davis Foundation Samuel P. Hunt Foundation The Agnes M. Lindsey Trust The DanPaul Foundation The Kendal C. and Anna Ham CF The Robert and Dorothy Goldberg CF Zeb's Charitable Fund

INDIVIDUAL DONORS

Parker Nelson Foundation or Citizens Bank, N.A.

Quimby Family Foundation

Sarah Arsenault Leanne Avery Marty Basch

Peter and Emily Benson Bradford and Susan Berenson

Rick Blank Paul Boissonneault Nivea Bona

Richard Bowe and Karen Nemeth

Tom and Tina Boydston Mark Boydston Torey Brooks Derek Buckowsky

Gelean and Holly Campbell

Bill Cantwell Jenny Castle

Nancy Chandler - Brett Beyerle

Memorial Fund Romy Choi Jason Cirino Darcy Davidson Nick DeHaas Max Dittelman Diane Dovle Mark Duda Aileen Dugan

Dana Etra* and Pete Lindahl Minxie and Jim Fannin Patick and Anita Findlen

Leonard Forvs Mark and Mary Fraser

*indicates Trustee

RAD Cameron Fraser, USN, Ret. Eina Fraser Krissy Fraser Lindsey Garland

Andrew Geller and Mary Waite

Ray Gilmore Chris Graham Charlie Gunn Susannah Halpern

Donna and George Harrington

Clarisse Hart

Berthold and Valerie Horn Al Hospers - NEclimbs.org Michael Jewell - Founder Drs. Bengt and Kathryn Karlsson

Katrin Kasper

Mary Keegan- Dayton Willow Keeler

Dan and Judy Kennedy Mark and Samskriti King

Malika Ziemba Sandy and Joan Kurtz

Jim Kuryan Li Lee Josh Lemay

Judith and Kirk Leoni Robert and Sandra Lloyd

Don Lynch

Gary and Karen MacDonald Corey and Stephanie Madden

Christine Mann Marty Markenson

Dave and Jeanne Mason

Peter* and Jennifer Masterson Patricia Mattox-Larson Owen McAndrew Nolan McAndrew Colin and Pam McCarthy

Good Earth Gardening - The McDermott's

Marie Odile Meunier Anastas Michos Ross and Mary Mitchell Deborah J Moffett

Ara Morton*

Dan and Amy Mulkern Robert and Jean Murphy Cynthia Murray-Beliveau and

Severin M. Beliveau Alan and Doreen Nemeth Christopher Nichols Priscilla Ogren Cheryle ONeill

Carter Owens* **Hugh Owens** David Packard*

Kerrie and Ellison Patten John and Alice Pepper Ross and Liv Perry Andrei Petircio Dr. Bruce Pettersen Beth Phelps*

Christine Piper Brian Post Jordan Revis Alyssa Riley

Anita and John Rogers Jennifer Rosenlund

Heather Russo Leslie Schomaker Stephanie Seller Donna McCluskey* Kathleen Seward

Russ and Dot Sevbold Tiffany Skogstrom Peter Sohier

Aaryanna Souza Andrew Spero

Duncan and Amy Stuart James Sweeney

AMC Grants Team Rickie Tibbetts

Lorraine Tilney Fund of NHCF Marsha Carlin and James Torpey*

Robin Tost

Marana Webber Tost Charitable Fund

Emari Traffie John Ulizio

Jim and Karen Umberger Peter and Sally Vacca Earle and Mary Wason

Weastmeadow Foundation of NHCF

Susan and Larry Weiner Janet and Freddie Wilkinson The Stare Fund - Brad & Mary Wilkinson

Janice Wolf

B.B. and Timothy Wright Ted and Sharon Wroblewski

Cherra Wyllie James Zukowski

CORPORATE PARTNERS

Bank of New Hampshire **Northeast Delta Dental**

E.G. Chandler Inc. Central Maine Power Chalmers Insurance Group Cormack Construction Management **EVO Rock & Fitness** Equinox Guiding Flatbread Company Gamwell, Caputo, Kelsch & Co. Nucar Family Dealership Saco Canoe Rental Company Martini Northern Northway Bank

> White Mountain Oil and Propane IN-KIND SUPPORT

Adventure Medical Kits Christmas Loft & Tricks and Treats Appalachian Mountain Club Cheese Louise Highwater Farm Matty B's Mountainside Cafe North Country Climbing Center Salt Pump Climbing Co. The Revolving Closet The Sunrise Shack Trails End Ice Cream White Mountain Puzzle Company

THANK YOU

PO BOX 1744 NORTH CONWAY, NH 03860 KRISSY FRASER ~ DIRECTOR@KISMETROCKFOUNDATION.ORG ~ 978.420.5831 KISMETROCKFOUNDATION.ORG