



# KISMET ROCK FOUNDATION NEWS

Edition 1, 2009



Look inside for more program season photos by Brian Post!

Kismet's 2008 graduates. Congratulations to (L to R) Jordan Petro, Nicolle Gallien, Alex Desmarais, Chelsea Laguerre, Patrick Lord, Hayley Johnson, Josh Lee and Ashley Rodriguez

1 click = \$1

Send a Kid to Camp Program  
From February 1-April 15, Mountain Hardwear is donating \$1 (up to \$35,000 total) for every visit to [www.mountainhardwear.com/GivesBack.aspx](http://www.mountainhardwear.com/GivesBack.aspx), to be split between Kismet and 8 other nonprofit organizations. **One click is all it takes!**

## Another Successful Program Season

We are so thankful to all who made it possible!

Our generous, talented, invaluable volunteers: **Bob Ahearn, Angel Avila, Janet Bergman, Laurie Farrell, Steve Frechette, Marilyn Grant, Jeanie Holt, Dick Katzman, Jeannine Peterson and Brian Post.**

Our program staff, including **Alain Comeau, Heidi Lewis, Chris Magness, Jenn Ouellette, Richard Parker, Bayard Russell, Phil Thalheimer, Steve Thunstrom, Rob Vandegrift and Christine Willenbrock**, who consistently offer far more than we ask of them.

Kismet graduate **Alexandria Farrell**, our first intern, set the bar high

for future students with her knowledge and willingness to help.

**SOLO** generously donated first aid training (We are very excited about this new component to our coursework).

**Matty B's, The Spaghetti Shed, Pear Mountain Cafe and the North Conway Nike Store** donated excellent food and hospitality.

**Bob and Kim Hotarek and the Tracy family** generously opened their homes to host events for our students. **Dairy Queen, Hannaford, As You Like It Bakery & Cafe, and the Jackson Ski Touring Founda-**

**tion** helped to make our graduation celebration at the Tracy's a great success.

**Nereledge, Glen Oaks, and Riverside Inns** offered hospitality to Kismet parents.

The intelligent, fun-loving **Kismet students** who dedicated themselves to the curriculum.

...Our gratitude to countless other contributions before, during and after the program season.

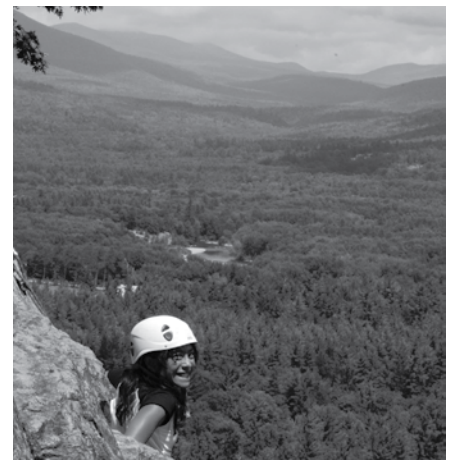
And, of course, we could not run the program without the generosity and trust of many **individual, business and foundation donors.**

- INSIDE:**
- Letter from the President
  - IRA Rollover Extended
  - Board of Directors Transitions
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Kismet is the benefiting charity at the 2009 Mount Washington Valley Ice Fest! Please join us at Cranmore Family Fitness Center



on **Friday, February 6** for a silent auction and slideshow by Kevin Mahoney. 100% of auction proceeds will be donated to Kismet. Special thanks to the International Mountain Climbing School for this opportunity. More at [www.icefest.blogspot.com](http://www.icefest.blogspot.com).



# Dear Friends of Kismet,

This is our ten-year anniversary and I know I share my enthusiasm and awe with Michael Jewell, our founder and official *Creator of Dreams*. Yes, *dreams*, because if it hadn't been for Mike's dreams that short decade ago Kismet would not have been born.

Kismet has reached heights that were once mere dots on the ceiling. From a one-program week beginning to a seven-week program now; a graduation rate of about eight students per year; an intern project with past students; an engaged and active board of directors; many focused and dedicated volunteers; a new and successful partnership with SOLO; and five sending-schools in Boston MA, Manchester and Bartlett NH, and (soon) Portland ME.

Add to that, our new collaborations with Mountain Hardwear's Send a Kid to Camp program, a generous matching challenge grant from the Great Circle Foundation and our continued relationships with our wonderful group of family foundations, local businesses and individual donors...and it is clear that Kismet is fully spreading its wings.

This wonderful organization is comprised of an intelligent and dedicated community of donors, volunteers, friends, students, graduates and employees, all of whom blend to become Kismet Rock Foundation.

I thank all for your energy, your dedication, your generosity and your passion.

With warm regards,

Ted Wroblewski  
Board President



## ►► WISH LIST

- Climbing shoes of all sizes
- Climbing helmets
- Backpacks
- A digital projector
- Items for silent, live and online auctions
- Assistance for a video media project
- Jewelry parts: Local artist Kris Pastori-za donates 'nut' and 'cam lobe' jewelry to Kismet for auctions, we just need the climbing gear (small sizes) to give to her for making it!
- Host homes or offices for small outreach events in Boston, Manchester and the Mount Washington Valley

Contact us ([info@kismetrockfoundation.org](mailto:info@kismetrockfoundation.org) or call 603.986.9457) to learn more.



Levante climbing, photo by Rob Vandegrift

## IRA Charitable Rollover Extended

Note: The following is provided for informational purposes only and is not intended to serve as legal or tax advice. For specific information about provisions of the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 affecting charitable contributions, consult your tax adviser or attorney.

Congress extended the IRA charitable rollover as part of the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008.

"What exactly does this mean for me?"

This means, according to [www.guidestar.org](http://www.guidestar.org), that a charitable gift made directly from an Individual Retirement Account (IRA) will not be taxed as income as long as:

- the gift is made in 2008 or 2009;
- the IRA holder is age 70½ or older;

- the gift totals \$100,000 or less each year;
- the charity is eligible to receive tax-deductible contributions;\* and
- the withdrawal goes directly from the IRA to the charity.

The donor does not need to itemize his or her taxes to take advantage of the rollover. If the donor does itemize, however, he or she cannot also take the contribution as a deduction.

\*Kismet Rock Foundation is eligible to receive tax-deductible contributions and is not a section 509(a)(3) organization (it is a 501(c)(3) organization).

## Board Transitions

Kismet recently welcomed Sasha Eisele, Brian Post and Chris Graham to the board of directors.

"We are excited about the new energy Sasha, Brian and Chris will bring to the board," said **Ted Wroblewski**, President of the Board. "Their individual talents will be immensely important in the coming year as we build capacity to expand the reach of our programs."

**Sasha Eisele**, a consultant specializing in fundraising, marketing and organizational development

strategies for growing non-profits, comes to Kismet with a passion for young people and the outdoors. A graduate of Maine College of Art, she followed her interest in creative problem solving and community development to the non-profit sector. Sasha lives with her husband Erik in Glen. "I am thrilled to have the opportunity to put my skills to work for Kismet," said Eisele.

**Brian Post**, a professional photographer, has worked with Kismet in many areas over the years; as a program volunteer, a member of the event committee and by contributing pro bono photography and website administration. "As a person that has benefited greatly from the rock climbing experience, I think it's important to give back and pass that experience on," said Post. "Kismet's mission is important to me because not all students have positive educational and recreational opportunities in their lives. These opportunities can have a profound and positive effect on them."

**Chris Graham** has been teaching for 20 years, and currently teaches Art at Gorham Middle High School. His outdoor education experiences also led to the development of an Adventure Arts course he now teaches there, which introduces

students to the art of rock climbing. Chris hopes to focus his contributions to Kismet in the areas of program development, fundraising and media projects. He lives with his wife and three children in North Conway.

Kismet's current board, under the leadership of Wroblewski and newly elected Vice Chair, **Claudine Safar**, extends its sincere gratitude to long-time board member **Cheryl Rocheleau**, whose term recently came to an end. In addition to her governance contributions, Cheryl also spent time as a program volunteer.

For several years, she also organized and hired the live-in staff before each program season.

"Cheryl's voice was consistently grounded and undiluted by romanticism," said Mike Jewell. "She was realistic and always pressed for practicality. This made her contributions in decision making very valuable."

"Her contacts through the school system were invaluable, as well as her intimate knowledge as to how young folks think," added Wroblewski.

Thank you, Cheryl, for your multitude of contributions over the years. We miss you already! Please visit [www.kismetrockfoundation.org](http://www.kismetrockfoundation.org) to view the rest of the board of directors listing.



Kismet welcomes Brian Post, Chris Graham and Sasha Eisele to the Board of Directors.



Cheryl Rocheleau, shown here working with Shamus in 2007. Photo Rob Vandegrift

# Curriculum Notes

by Mike Jewell

Our students describe their time with us as being really fun, but Kismet is distinctive and profoundly effective largely because of the educational aspect of its mission.

There are few things regarding Kismet that I would change but one is that I very much wish that our donors could see our students on the cliff and see their growth within the context of the curriculum. It is, of course, unrealistic to expect every donor to join us while climbing but at least we can share details of our program in an effort to make more concrete our donors' understanding of what we do.



Mike Jewell with students

ing anchors on trees at the end of their first day! By the end of week one, our students have not only climbed many routes, but they have an excellent understanding of all basic skills used at the base of top-roped climbs. They are also familiar with communication and anchor transitions on multi-pitch climbs. During the second season, we review skills learned the previous year and then add skills relating to top-of-cliff safety, tree anchors and rappel anchors at the tops of climbs. Thus, by the end of the second year, Kismet students have quite a clear understanding of top-rope systems.

Here are a few notes about our curriculum:

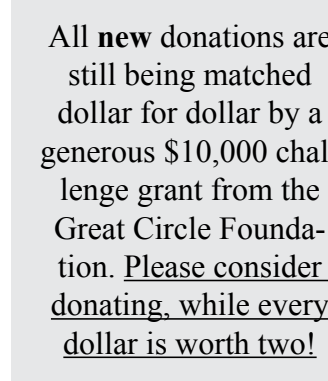
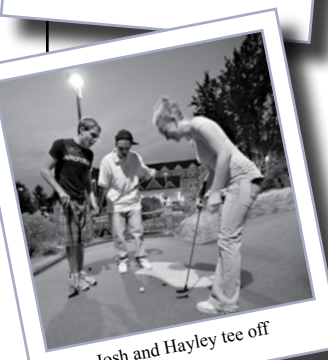
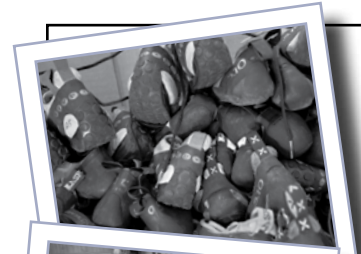
We teach our students one week per summer for four summers. Minus transportation days, this gives our students 24 days of instruction before they graduate. Our teacher-to-student ratio is typically 1:2 and most instruction is hands-on.

The first year is part of the interview process. Plus, our 12-year old students -- many of whom have never been away from home -- are thrown into a radically new environment (socially, culturally, geographically, ecologically, and dimensionally [verticality!]). Thus, it is important that fun and comfort are particularly emphasized during the first year. But in spite of this, our beginners are belaying, climbing, rappelling, tying all of our most commonly used knots, and construct-

The third-year curriculum combines the first two years by first, reviewing previous skills, and then going to new cliffs and having students find and set up their own climbs. We test every student individually.

It's during the fourth year that our students become truly transformed as climbers. This is difficult to explain but this transformation can be seen in students' body language, the ease with which they function with gear, and the confidence with which they carry themselves on the cliff.

When our beginners first arrive they are young, vulnerable and disoriented children. By the end of year three they are still climbing students. By the end of year four, they are climbers -- and I cannot overstate what a joy this transformation is to witness.



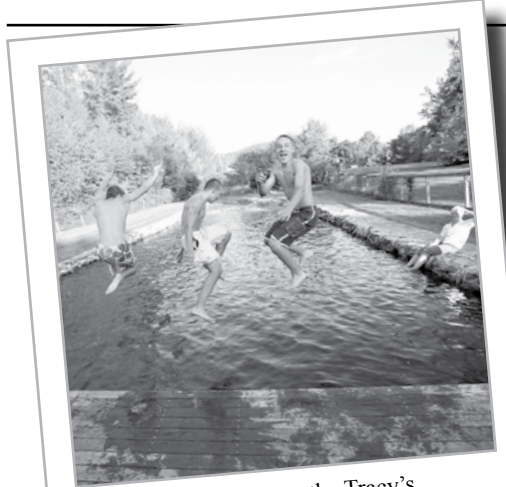
Dinnertime!

Alex, Josh and Hayley tee off

Chelsea and other students hiking to the cliff

Mike Jewell and Rob Vandegrift

Jordan climbing



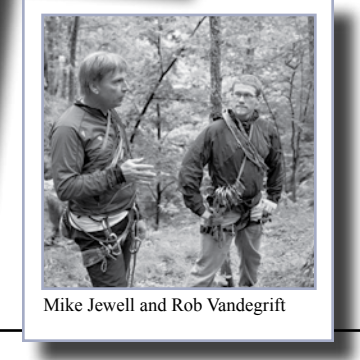
Photos from Week 5 of the program season by Brian Post



Marilyn, one of our super-volunteers



Hayley harnessing up



Mike Jewell and Rob Vandegrift



Jocelyn from SOLO works with students on First Aid. All of the '08 graduates received CPR Certification.

## Great Circle Foundation Matching Challenge Grant

All new donations are still being matched dollar for dollar by a generous \$10,000 challenge grant from the Great Circle Foundation. Please consider donating, while every dollar is worth two!

- Dates and Notes:
- February 1-April 15: Visit [www.mountainhardwear.com/GivesBack.aspx](http://www.mountainhardwear.com/GivesBack.aspx). Every visit is worth one dollar! (see page 1)
  - February 6: MWV Ice Fest Silent Auction/Slideshow to benefit Kismet Rock Foundation (see page 1)
  - What about the Jubilee? There will be no Jubilee this year, but we will be introducing a fresh and fun fall-season event in 2009. Stay tuned for more!
  - The events committee seeks hosts/venues/sponsors for outreach events (and possibly a film festival!) in North Conway, Boston and Manchester. Please contact us to get involved: [janel@kismetrockfoundation.org](mailto:janel@kismetrockfoundation.org) or 603.986.9457
  - Finished with this newsletter? Please pass it on!

Kismet Rock Foundation depends on the support of individual, business and foundation donors in order to operate.

**Please consider making a contribution today!**

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Organization \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my tax deductible contribution of:  
 \_\_\_\$50 \_\_\_\$100 \_\_\_\$250 \_\_\_\$500 \_\_\_\$1,200 (sponsorship of one student) \_\_\_other \$\_\_\_

NOTE: Credit card donations are accepted online at [www.kismetrockfoundation.org](http://www.kismetrockfoundation.org)

- I am interested in hosting a small outreach event in my home/office
- Please make my gift in \_\_\_honor/\_\_\_memory of: \_\_\_\_\_
- Acknowledge the honor/memorial gift to (name and address): \_\_\_\_\_
- My matching gift company form is enclosed
- Please contact me about other giving options (event sponsorship, planned giving)
- Please remove my name from your mailing list

Kismet Rock Foundation is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization. All contributions are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law.  
 PO Box 1744 North Conway, NH 03860 [www.kismetrockfoundation.org](http://www.kismetrockfoundation.org)

Thank you for your support!



# Kismet Rock Foundation

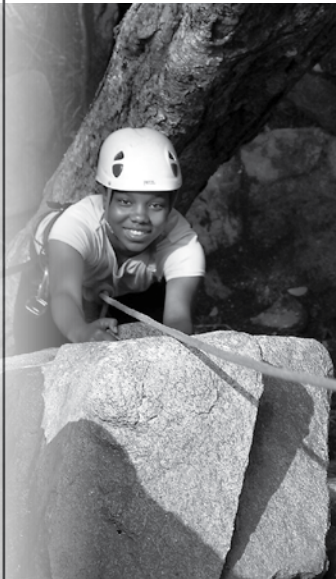
P.O. Box 1744  
North Conway, NH 03860

## Board of Directors

Ted Wroblewski, President  
Claudine Safar, Esq., V.P.  
Ken Lydecker, Treasurer  
Sarah Garlick, Secretary  
Sasha Eisele  
Chris Graham  
Brian Irwin, D.O.  
Richard Katzman, M.D.  
Donna McCluskey  
Brian Post

## Staff

Mike Jewell, Founder, Director  
Janet Bergman, Project Director  
Heidi Lewis, Admin. Coordinator  
Rob Vandegriff, Prog. Coordinator  
Alain Comeau, Climbing Instructor  
Richard Parker, Climbing Instructor  
Phil Thalheimer, Climbing Instructor



Thank you for your generosity during the recent Kismet Annual Fund Drive. Our students would not have the opportunity to attend Kismet programs without the continued support of our community of donors.

We've done well so far - but we are not quite there yet. If you have not already, please consider donating today. Every dollar *does* make a difference!

Simply return the enclosed form with your check  
or

Donate online at [kismetrockfoundation.org](http://kismetrockfoundation.org)

Plus, all first time donations are currently being matched 100% by a generous challenge fund from the Great Circle Foundation!

Kismet Rock Foundation enhances the physical, intellectual and emotional development of well-functioning but economically disadvantaged children by providing access to the immense value of a comprehensive and multi-dimensional education in technical rock climbing.

[www.kismetrockfoundation.org](http://www.kismetrockfoundation.org)