



Send a Kid to Camp Success!



Special thanks to Mountain Hardwear, and to all of you for your many 'clicks' during the 'Send a Kid to Camp' online promotion. Kismet received a \$3,500 donation from Mountain Hardwear in conjunction with the promotion, plus 16 Mountain Hardwear Epic rainjackets to keep us dry this summer!



Chris, Hassan and Alvin take a break for a photo

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2009, 10:00 A.M.

A challenging, five mile race around beautiful Cathedral and Whitehorse Ledges. Come for the steep climbs and descents, technical singletrack, and stunning views, with approximately 1,100 feet of elevation gain. Starts and finishes at Echo Lake State Park. Great food from Matty B's, prizes and raffle after the race. This event is USATF sanctioned, and part of the Eastern New England Trail Running Series. Race proceeds benefit Kismet Rock Foundation. \$20 pre-entry, \$25 on the day of the race. Register at www.active.com or www.kismetrockfoundation.org. Special thanks to race founder and director Gabriel Flanders for this honor!



Many thanks to these recent major donors:

Anonymous Donor
Richard & Claire Devellian
Tony Iorfino, MD, PA
Robert T. Friedman Family Foundation
The Robert and Dorothy Goldberg Charitable Foundation
Michael & Kristina Lockhart
Mountain Hardwear
Ronald McDonald House Charities of Eastern New England

INSIDE:

Letter from a Board Member
Board Transitions
Q & A with a Board Member
Upcoming Events
2008 Financial and Donor Reports

Program Update

By Rob Vandegrift, Program Coordinator

We have several exciting changes to report this program season. The first is the official start of our intern program for Kismet graduates. We look forward to the contributions of this year's intern staff members Cassidy George, James Stone, and Nicole Gallien. Each will spend one week with our first year students, acting as liaison between new students, in-house staff and climbing instructors. They will impart their personal experience as a Kismet graduate, in essence, passing the torch to potential future graduates.

Kismet will also be breaking from the co-ed standard for two pilot weeks of single-sex programs, as part of our efforts to offer the most well rounded educational experience to our students. One week of all boy students will be followed by a week of all girl students, both of them beginner weeks.

We hope to realize a platform of greater peer acceptance and supports during that first year, and we are anxious to learn what effect this will have over the duration of each student's personal matriculation. Helping us in this transition will be our intern staff, our veteran in-house staff, and our wealth of tireless volunteers both new and old.



Climbing: A Personal Perspective

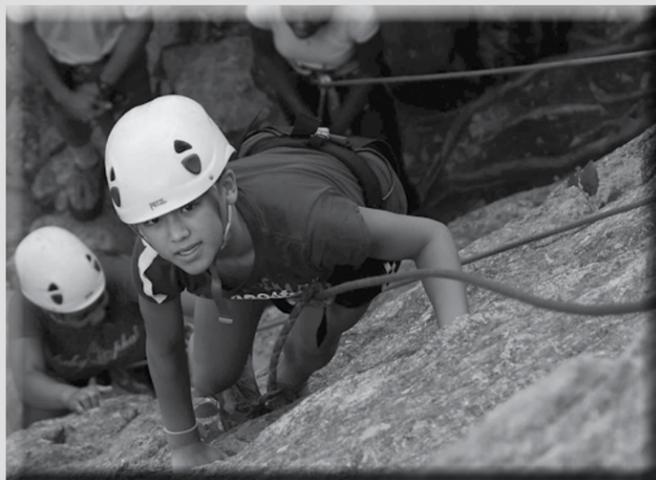
It's always been a fascinating question. Why go climbing? What's the attraction? Why introduce young people to an activity that for some of us has become a lifelong passion? More than forty years since I first strapped on a harness and, scared out of my mind, got hauled up a route called "Beginner's Delight" at the famous Shawangunks climbing area in New York, it is still, fortunately, a bit puzzling. And as a board member of Kismet, with grandchildren showing some enthusiasm for vertical terrain, it is still relevant.

"Delight" is a good word to use in regard to climbing. It's fun. Your senses, your movements, your thinking, your emotions are all engaged, more often than not heightened in the effort to go against gravity. I remember that first climb, and the smell of granite on my trembling hands; the free, effortless moves up routes here at home in Vermont I've done dozens of times over the years; the pleasure of solving a genuine puzzle--how to protect and get up a new pitch of my own making; and, oh yes, the emotions--the otherworldly excitement and awe of being high in the mountains; the hint of vertigo looking down from a stance on a frozen waterfall; and just the other day, the rush of wind and thunder, a summer storm closing in, as we hurried to get off the crag.

"Scared" is another word that's often related to climbing. Our inherent fear of heights is part of it; and there is some danger, for sure, when leading or on terrain with unpredictable hazards. Over the years, if you're thoughtful or lucky or both, you learn about your limits, your possibilities, when it's ok to go for it and when it's a good idea to back off from uncertain risks. The reward is that your fear can be transformed; so the focus, the attention you bring to climbing can stay with you back in the mundane world as you make your way through the push and shove of everyday activities.

Enjoying life, learning better how to deal with real and imagined fears, developing some new abilities are all good things to get from climbing, and reasons enough to share the experience with kids from the cities and with my grandchildren. These days I think that climbing might also be a good way to help young people learn to deal with the stresses of modern times, and by connecting with the natural world, begin to wonder about the beauty of our planet Earth and the challenges she is facing. So I'll keep on climbing while I still can, and maybe someday get up one of those moderate routes on Cathedral Ledge, Kismet's home base, with a little more style. See you out there.

Dr. Dick Katzman, Kismet Board of Directors
D₇ July 2009



Rob Vandegrift Photo

UPCOMING EVENTS

Program season runs now through August 29

September 20: Kismet Cliff Run (*see page 1*)

October 15: Flatbread Company Benefit (*see below*)

November 7: Calienté! A Night of Salsa Dancing to Benefit Kismet Rock Foundation (*see last page*)



On October 15th, pizza sales at the North Conway Flatbread Company will benefit Kismet Rock Foundation. Special thanks to Flatbread Company's continued support over the years: benefit nights, gift certificates for silent auctions, discounted flatbreads for the entire program season and donated pizzas for events throughout the year. You always go above and beyond and we continue to appreciate it!

Q&A with Board Member Brian Irwin

A local family and travel Medicine physician, Kismet Board member Brian Irwin has been committed to under-served communities since his early medical training. He first learned medicine in urban, under-served areas of Philadelphia. Later, he designed a medical outreach program in a rural Andean village and finally settled in the Mount Washington Valley where he practices at Tamworth Family Medicine. He is active in the local search and rescue and ski patrol community. Brian is also a writer and climber, however his greatest passion is raising his two sons, Andy and Reid.

Q: How does your involvement on the Kismet board tie into your plethora of other pursuits - your medical practice, your other volunteer positions, your writing projects, being a parent, your outdoor activities, etc?

A: Working with Kismet gives me a unique opportunity to tie many of the things of which I am passionate about together. It's a way to contribute to an organization that embodies everything I hold to be most important: helping people experience the outdoors when they may not otherwise be able to do so; teaching younger people life skills, albeit indirectly through climbing; expose kids to a new, fascinating outlet through which they can learn, grow and challenge themselves.

Q: What has been going on at Kismet during your tenure on the board?

Special thanks to our volunteer curriculum committee who met several times this spring to review and streamline our four-year curriculum: Alain Comeau, Richard Katzman, Donna McCluskey, Richard Parker, Bayard Russell, Phil Thalheimer and Rob Vandegrift.

Many thanks to Gary Hunter, Corey Hebert and Vertical Dreams, and our many volunteers who helped pull together our first ever outreach event in Manchester on June 25!

A: Dramatic restructuring, transformation from a grass-roots organization to a well designed one with potential to exponentially extend its impact.

Q: What challenges do you see coming around the bend for Kismet as an organization?

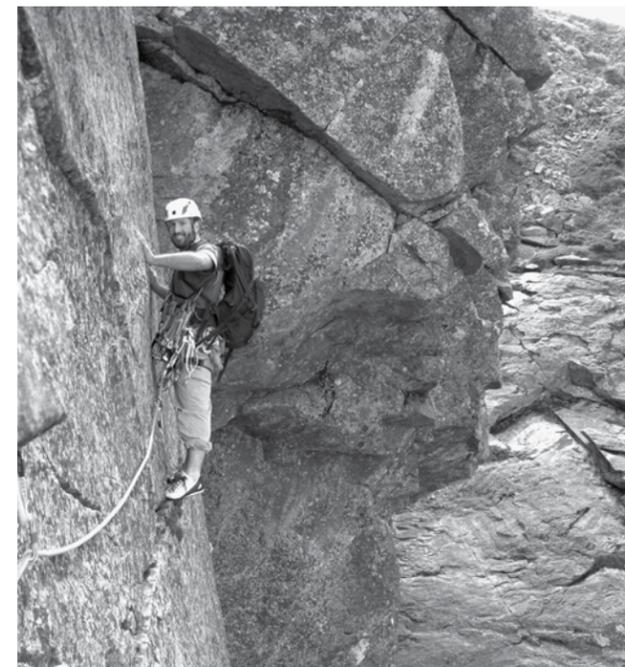
A: Finances are always a hurdle for not-for-profits, although we've been blessed with a very generous collection of contributors. Deciding how to expand the program is what I see as the next

major metamorphosis. Do we extend our summer program? Expand into a summer and winter program? Or even think about opening another campus elsewhere, perhaps not even in the east? These are very far on the horizon, however, without an eye on that horizon we'd be lost at sea, which we are not.

Q: What do you feel is unique or important about what the organization does/strives to do that people may not immediately see or understand?

A: People may not grasp the indirect education and instillation of life skills that kids learn from our climbing programs. We don't give them lectures on risk management in school, trusting friends and others, balancing the environment with their recreation, etc. However, the kids learn these skills through climbing and considering how bright our students are, they easily

transfer those lessons over into the other parts of their lives. Even if they never rock climb again after Kismet, the lessons they learn help them to handle daily struggles with more ease and hopefully greater success.



Brian Irwin hard at work in and out of the office. Photo by Conrad Yager



A rainy start to the summer means our new Mountain Hardwear Epic rain jackets go to good use! Photo by Rob Vandegrift

WISH LIST

- Digital projector
- Laptop Computer
- eTapestry Subscription

Contact us (info@kismetrockfoundation.org or call 603.986.9457) to learn more.

Board Transitions



New board member Jess Soroka

Kismet welcomes Jessica Soroka to the board of directors. Jess is an attorney with Albrecht & Weegar, PLLC in Conway, NH. She graduated with a B.S. in Plant Biology from the University of New Hampshire and earned a J.D. from New England School of Law in Boston, MA. Jess is originally from Conway and is very excited to be living in the Valley again. She likes to spend as much of her free time as possible outside climbing, skiing, bicycling, and swimming. "I am really excited about being a part of Kismet because of the wonderful goals of the group and all of the great people involved," says Jess.

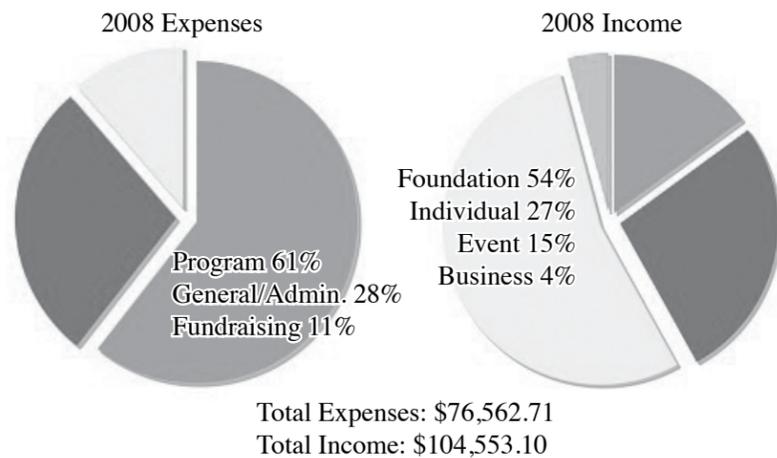
After more than five years of service on the board, we bid farewell to Claudine Safar. Claudine has taken a position with a law firm in Burlington, Vermont. Her contributions over the years included planning the first ever Jubilee event, time on the board resource committee, and untold hours of legal advisory work related to all of the organization's activities. We will miss you Claudine, best wishes in your new home!

Please consider supporting the Kismet Rock Foundation mission.

We are more than halfway to our Great Circle Foundation challenge grant goal of \$10,000 in first time donations for the year 2009, at which time the foundation will match 100% with an additional \$10,000. If you have thought about joining us before, now is the time, when your donation has double the impact. Thank you!

2008 Financial Report

We had a strong year in terms of fundraising, with huge increases in foundation and event income. This makes up for a deficit from 2007, and allowed for 30% program growth in 2009. On the expenses end, we offered the same number of programs in 2008 as in 2007, but had increases in general/admin. and fundraising because of our two-year capacity building initiative.



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 ___ \$1,500 (sponsorship of one student) ___ other \$ _____

NOTE: Credit card donations are accepted online at 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
 Please do not publish my name in any donor recognition materials

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

2008 Donor Listing

Thank you for your continued support!

Memorial/Honorary Acknowledgments

- In memory of B. Roukes, grandmother of Janet Bergman**
Wayne Bergman
- In memory of Ben**
Gordon Davies & Betsy Brinson
- In memory of Bob McCluskey**
Donna McCluskey
- In memory of Rand McNally**
John Byrnes
- In memory of Ruth Ann Brofsky**
Mariam Greenfield
- In honor of Brian Post**
Bob & Michele Post
David & Jackie Post
- In honor of Claudine Safar**
Claire McPherson
- In honor of Danielle Connolly**
Noella Houde & Ronald Dipierro
- In honor of Janet Bergman & Freddie Wilkinson**
Barbara Bergman
- In honor of Mike Jewell**
Stanley R. Howe
- In honor of Richard L. Parker**
Dr. & Mrs. Kaighn Smith

2008 Donors

- Robert & Kim Adair
- Bob & Rona Ahearn
- Jennifer Ahn
- *Alberto Alesina & Susan Adler
- *Anonymous
- Mr. & Mrs. David & Rosemary Armington
- Dick & Mary Badger
- *Badger Realty, LLC
- Henry Barber & Jill Flint-Barber
- *Jerome & Leah Bass
- Ellen & Earl Baucom
- Barbara Bergman
- Wayne Bergman
- Brian Post Photography
- Emilio Briceno
- Brownlow Associates, Inc.
- Anne Buchi
- John Byrnes
- Robert A. Carlson
- Maryanne Carpenter & Joe Orsino
- Jeff & Karen Carr
- Alycia Cavadi
- William & Elizabeth Chapin Jr.
- *Chairman's Committee To Support Youth Activities
- Rainly & Kam Chow Yu
- Martha Coughlin
- Michael Couture, AIA
- Craig Davis Photography
- *Robert Crandall
- Ian Cruickshank
- *Custom Audio / Video
- Fred Dambrie
- *Gordon Davies & Betsy Brinson
- Juliet Dickinson & Paul Degliangeli
- Ann & Brooks Dodge
- Alex Drummond & Terry Young
- James & Jean Drummond
- Sasha & Erik Eisele
- *Evenor Armington Trust
- *Marilyn & Malcolm Grant
- *Great Circle Foundation Inc.
- Ken & Yvonne Farrell
- Laurie A. Farrell, DVM
- Michael Farrell
- Peter & Deborah Fauver
- Lori Feldman
- *FHLBBoston
- *Patrick & Anita Findlen
- *Flatbread Company
- Paresh & Renu Fondeker
- Steve & Kimberly Frechette
- Fryeburg Veterinary Clinic
- Sarah Garlick & Jim Surette
- Good Earth Gardening
- *Marilyn Geninatti
- Todd Goodman
- Richard Gould & Diana Stillwell
- Marilyn & Malcolm Grant
- *Jeff & Sally Graves
- Shirley & Philip Gravink
- Jean Greenberg
- Marc & Karla Greenwald
- Mariam Greenfield
- Lesley A. Hardy
- Bruce Hartleben & Mary Voda
- Richard D. Hill
- *Jeanie & Dennis Holt

- Noella Houde & Ronald Dipierro
- *Daniel Hildreth
- Stanley R. Howe
- Gary Hunter & Susan Houghton
- *Tony & Barbara Iorfino
- *Brian Irwin
- Abram Jacobs
- Steven & Corinne Jacovino
- Zebulon Jakub
- Todd & Sara Johnson
- Mary Ellen Jutras
- *Richard & Bonnie Katzman
- Marcia E. Keeney
- Steve Larson, Builder
- Jon LaValley
- Heidi Lewis
- Robert E. & Sandra Lloyd
- *Michael & Kristina Lockhart
- Patrick Lord
- David Lottman
- Mahoney Alpine Adventures
- Manchester Rotary Club
- J. Christopher Marshall & Jennifer Rood
- *Dave & Jeanne Mason
- *Donna McCluskey
- Chris McNamara
- Claire McPherson
- *Cronan & Penny Minton
- Joseph & Joanne Mulligan
- *Nelson Charitable Foundation
- *Nike, Inc.
- Frank & Leslie Nitkiewicz
- *Marie Odile Meunier-Bouchard
- Ike Okoli
- *Andrew Orsini
- Stephen & Susan Papanek
- McHugh
- Paul Pappas
- Richard L. & Laura S. Parker
- George & Elizabeth Pas-sela
- Kris Pastoriza
- David Penny
- *Pequawket Foundation
- Joe & Judy Perez
- Jeannine & Robert Peterson
- Travis Piper
- Jan Piscitelli
- Richard & Prudence Plusch

- Bob & Michele Post
- David & Jackie Post
- Allison Powell
- Betsey Powers
- Randy Rackliff & Ruthann Brown
- *RE/Max Presidential Rhinoceros Mountain Guides
- *Mark & Teresa Richey
- Cheryl & Michael Roche-leau
- Mats Roing
- *Margaret Ross
- *Valerie Rossetti & Tollie Miller
- *Rotary Club of North Conway
- Brett & Cindy Russell
- Claudine Safar
- Paul & Lynda Schuepp
- Nickie Sekera
- Shannon Door Pub
- *Matthew Shove & Stacy Kellogg-Shove
- *Richard & Deb Sincere
- Philip & Sally Skidmore
- *Sky Ambitions
- Dr. & Mrs. Kaighn Smith
- Maggie Solomon
- Ellen Spadafora
- Bob Tafuto
- *The Kate Risley Foundation
- *The Kendal C. and Anna Ham Charitable Foundation
- *The Stare Fund
- Bob & Lorraine Tilney
- *Jack Tracy & Joanne
- *The Robert and Dorothy Goldberg Charitable Foundation
- Mike Wagner
- Holly Weber
- Wild Things
- Cherra Wyllie & Marko Beznosiuk
- Vertical Dreams
- *West Cambridge Science Park, LLC
- *Bradford & Mary Wilkinson
- *Ted & Sharon Wroblewski
- Wendy & Conrad Yager
- 2008 In-Kind Donors**
Anne Skidmore Photography
Attitash

- Badger Realty, LLC
- Bear Notch Ski Touring
- Becca Van Fleet Pottery
- Boston Museum of Science
- Bouret Photography
- Brian Post Photography
- Café Noche
- Chinook Café
- Chris Noonan Oriental Rugs
- Chuck Roast
- Cold Stone Creamery
- Conway Historical Society
- Cranmore Mountain Resort
- Creative Expressions
- Dairy Queen
- Debony's Healthy Hair
- Dutch Bloemen Winkel
- Eastern Mountain Sports
- Flatbread Company
- Steve Frechette
- Frechette Tire Company
- Frontside Grind
- Glen Oaks Inn
- Handbook Publishing
- Hannaford Food & Drug, Store #352
- Amee Hinkley
- Horny Toad Outfitters
- Horsefeathers, Inc
- Bob & Kim Hotarek
- Inn at Thorn Hill
- International Mountain Equipment
- Tony & Barbara Iorfino
- Robert Irwin
- Isis for Women
- Jan Smith T. Murray Wellness Center
- Jay Philbrick Photography
- Joseph's Spaghetti Shed
- Julbo Inc.
- Laura Johnson
- Dan & Judy Kennedy
- Chelsea Laguerre
- Lupine Pet Collars & Leads
- Mammutt USA

*Many thanks to these donors for their outstanding contributions

Contributions from January 1 - December 31, 2008. We apologize for any misprinted or omitted contributions; please contact us so we can correct our records.



Kismet Rock Foundation

P.O. Box 1744
North Conway, NH 03860

Board of Directors

Ted Wroblewski, President
Ken Lydecker, Treasurer
Sarah Garlick, Secretary
Sasha Eisele
Chris Graham
Brian Irwin, D.O.
Richard Katzman, M.D.
Donna McCluskey
Brian Post
Jessica Soroka

Staff

Mike Jewell, Founder, Director
Janet Bergman, Project Director
Heidi Lewis, Admin. Coordinator
Rob Vandegrift, Prog. Coordinator
Alain Comeau, Climbing Instructor
Richard Parker, Climbing Instructor
Phil Thalheimer, Climbing Instructor
Danika Gilbert, Climbing Instructor
Bayard Russell, Climbing Instructor

Caliente!

A Night of Salsa Dancing to Benefit Kismet Rock Foundation

Join us to celebrate Kismet's tenth year of service to New England youth with this brand new event. November 7, 2009 will be a night to remember: live salsa band and professional salsa dance lessons; a selection of delectable hors d'oeuvres and desserts from the valley's best restaurants; and eclectic and fun live and silent auctions. We'll see you there!

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 education in technical rock climbing.

www.kismetrockfoundation.org