



# KISMET ROCK FOUNDATION

## IMPACT REPORT — 2021 —



# RECAPPING OUR 2021 SUMMER PROGRAM

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Your generosity this past year has made a profound impact on our programming and we want to shine a light on how those resources were used. So, with authenticity and honesty, I will escort you through our summer 2021 program season.

You may remember that, due to the ongoing pandemic, we had to transition to a virtual program in 2020. Three groups of new students had the opportunity to meet one another, meet staff, learn about Kismet, and engage in relationship-building activities that created a clear pathway for their return in 2021. Though it paled in comparison to what we typically do, it was vital to the success of this year's programming. That said, this summer we had a 5-week season, shorter than we anticipated because this past winter and spring we were not able to go into our sending schools and build new groups.

Our two youngest groups of the season consisted of 13-year-olds, all unique with their own stories and backgrounds. They found companionship in one another and adventure in rock climbing. Their connection to one another was so great that by departure on their final day, you would have thought they had known each other for several years, not just seven days. The third new group had similar bonds but were a year older, and their maturity allowed them to form strong connections not only with each other but with rock climbing as well. Every day they patiently learned from our climbing guides and tested their abilities at the cliff. They cheered each other's victories, advised one another during challenging routes, and progressed in their climbing abilities, leaving a sense of great satisfaction among both themselves and the guides. The house staff did an incredible job making every student feel safe, comfortable, and accepted.

The remaining two weeks of the program were fourth-year groups. These students returned to Kismet with established relationships, climbing knowledge, and an understanding of how to contribute to the Kismet family house life. Both weeks ended with a graduation ceremony to celebrate their accomplishments: accumulated knowledge of rock climbing, their consistent bravery of trying something novel, their openness and acceptance of other people, and their general contribution to the loving culture of the Kismet community.

This season radiated joy and love. It was the utmost privilege to watch new students experience Kismet for the first time and graduating classes make the most of it for their final season. I believe our mission was accomplished, as the lives of every student and staff were touched.

With Gratitude,

*Alyssa Riley*

Former Executive Director and Current Board Member



# YOUR DOLLARS IN ACTION

**45 STUDENTS** accepted KRF scholarships

**5 WEEKS** of programming

**200 HOURS** of professional rock climbing education

**25 NIGHTS** of family-style meals

**5 EVENTS** hosted by our community



**11 STUDENTS** identified Kismet as important to them because it provides a sense of *belonging to a new family*.

**22 STUDENTS** identified *satisfaction from learning how to rock climb*.

**25 STUDENTS** identified their favorite part of the week as *being around new people*.

**16 STUDENTS** identified that Kismet will help them at home because it motivated them to *get out and try new things*.



**100% of students reported a desire to return in 2022!**

## BALANCE SHEET - as of 8/31/2021

### ASSETS

Bank Accounts	\$ 153,053.00
Insurance Refund	\$ 3,241.00
Ford Van *	\$ 3,746.00

**TOTAL ASSETS** \$ 160,040.00

### LIABILITIES AND EQUITY

Payroll Payable	\$ 1,959.00
PPP loan	\$ 10,112.00

**TOTAL LIABILITIES** \$ 12,071.00

Retained Earnings	\$ 103,935.00
Net Income	\$ 44,034.00

**TOTAL EQUITY** \$ 147,969.00

**TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY** \$ 160,040.00

* Original Van Cost	\$ 37,451.00
Depreciation	(\$ 33,705.00)

## INCOME STATEMENT - 9/1/2020 - 8/31/2021

### INCOME

Donations	\$ 107,814.00
Grants	\$ 43,301.00
PPP Loan Forgiven	\$ 10,210.00
Interest	\$ 13.00

**TOTAL INCOME** \$ 161,338.00

### EXPENSES

Depreciation Expense	\$ 7,490.00
Fees, Memberships, Training	\$ 2,870.00
Insurance	\$ 7,658.00
Office Expenses & Rent	\$ 6,141.00
Payroll and Taxes	\$ 62,078.00
Climbing Guides	\$ 13,000.00
Program Rent & Expenses	\$ 18,067.00

**TOTAL EXPENSES** \$ 117,304.00

**NET INCOME / LOSS** \$ 44,034.00

# MEET OUR NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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Hello friends of Kismet Rock Foundation,

I am Krissy Fraser, the new Executive Director of Kismet. Thank you for the opportunity to be an integral part of the Kismet family.

For years, I have admired the work of Kismet. Recently, I had the opportunity to discuss vision and direction with founder Mike Jewell, many of the Trustees, and new colleague and Program Manager Ara Morton, and it has been truly inspiring. I am beyond excited to meet the returning and new students. In addition, I can not wait to connect with you, who have made this organization a success through your continued support and belief in the mission. Our opportunity to be a part of a formative life experience for these amazing kids is an extraordinary gift, and joining in this effort is a life opportunity for me.



For the past 10 years, I worked for the nonprofit Mount Washington Observatory and focused on development, events management, marketing, and communications. While working with a small team, we problem-solved, moved through successes and failures, and constantly adjusted to do what we could to help the organization achieve its goals. I am honored to have the opportunity to bring my experience to Kismet and to grow with this extraordinary organization.

For now, have a happy holiday season, and I look forward to connecting in 2022!

Cheers,

*Krissy Fraser*

Executive Director

[director@kismetrockfoundation.org](mailto:director@kismetrockfoundation.org)

## Board of Directors 2021

Dana Etra - *Chair*, Donna McCluskey - *Treasurer*, Lindsey Garland - *Secretary*, Peter Masterson, Jim Torpey, Lisa Woodbury, Ara Morton, & Marty Markenson

# MEET OUR NEW PROGRAM MANAGER

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Kismet Supporters,

My name is Ara Morton and I am honored to introduce myself as Kismet's new Program Manager. Having served on the Board of Directors for the past two years, I am excited for this new role in such a magnificent organization that intersects my passion for rock climbing, mentorship, and community service.

First, I would like to thank you for believing in the power of Kismet and investing in our cause. I have been a climber for 15 years, worked in climbing gyms for just as long, and managed indoor and outdoor youth climbing programs for several of them. I discovered climbing while studying theater at Boston University (SOT 2010 alum) and have since led youth programs in theater music as well. What I have observed is that climbing offers a unique and powerful arena for personal growth, particularly for children. However, the ultimate truth is that no matter their age, race, gender, ability, or access, every human desires and deserves to be seen and respected. I believe that as an educator and mentor, one has the power to change the course of a child's life simply by honoring their individuality and speaking to their dignity. As a donating member of the Kismet community, I know you feel the same way.



Two years ago, I moved from New York City to Portland, ME with my wife and our then two-year-old daughter. I had accepted a job as the head coach of Salt Pump Climbing Co. in Scarborough, ME, where I met Mike Jewell and learned about Kismet Rock Foundation. His vision of providing a support system to underserved children while offering climbing as a tool for growth resonated deeply with me. I immediately knew I wanted to be involved and am truly grateful for the opportunity now to build upon that vision. I am so excited to get to know our students, as well as all of you. Climb on!

Sincerely,

*Ara Morton*

Program Manager

[programs@kismetrockfoundation.org](mailto:programs@kismetrockfoundation.org)

## Thank you to our 2021 Team!

**Executive Director** - Alyssa Riley; **House Staff** - Gashim Nyapir, Connor Goudreau, Jaeylnn Laudenbach, Renee Brogan; **Interns** - Izayah Moody, Muna Mohamed, Ashlin Lopez, Sharlah Mae Day; & **Cathedral Mountain Guides** for their professional and excellent services this summer! Our students learned SO much!