

We are excited to share our story of success and wonder in the Kismet journey. The past few years have been a period of growth and stability. This summer, we returned to eight weeks of programming, allowing us to serve more youth. In addition, we increased our school-year day programs to deepen our connection with the students and communities we serve. Fiscally, we have diversified and strengthened our fundraising revenue base to ensure long-term sustainability.

As a nonprofit in this current climate of uncertainty, it is reassuring to know that Kismet is on steady ground and will not falter, remaining steadfast in our commitment to the youth we serve. The Kismet model is straightforward and powerful:

- Each day is a commitment to genuinely listening and fostering continued communication and support with everyone involved.
- Providing a platform for students to learn, grow, and build connections through rock climbing.
- Creating a space where each student understands we are committed to them and empowering them to flourish.

At Kismet, we repeatedly witness moments of emotional strength, kindness, determination, courage, joy, and endless beautiful exchanges.

Within this Impact Report, we will share participant reflections and wonderful photos to bring you into the Kismet space for a few minutes and deliver how critical this work is to all involved. Together, we will continue to impact the lives of our Kismet students thanks to a deeply committed and supportive community.

Thank you for being a part of Kismet.

On another note, I will share that this will be my final year as the Executive Director of Kismet. I need to step down to focus on family and health, but will remain involved in supporting the vital work of Kismet. I am genuinely grateful for my time here and the opportunity to be surrounded by so much love and kindness. It has been an honor and a life-changing experience. Thank you all for your support over the years.

With Gratitude,
Krissy Fraser
Executive Director
978.420.5831





Kismet Rock Foundation
PO Box 1744
North Conway, NH
03860



MISSION

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.



the program

We are deeply committed to every student who is invited into the Kismet program. This summer, we were thrilled to return to providing eight weeks of programs, welcoming fifty-four students. As an expansion of the program, we also hosted six day programs during the school year in our student communities to foster deeper connections.

Each week-long program is filled with transformational moments, challenges, and joy. Every Sunday, a new cohort of up to nine students arrived at the “Kismet House”, some for their first, some returning, and some entering their fourth year, ultimately graduating from the program. As the students and staff gather, the excitement is kinetic. Day one is busy with a group circle, gear distribution, lunch preparation, and group planning for the week’s evening activities and meals; all before circling up to develop a “core value contract” to set the stage for the week. This contract, created by the students, promises a journey filled with respect, safety, and kindness.

The weekdays are jam-packed, with an early morning start for a full day of climbing. With an intensive climbing curriculum at the core of Kismet, Program Manager Owen McAndrew alongside guides from Cathedral Mountain Guides, leads the students to area cliffs, including Cathedral Ledge, White Horse, and Echo Crag, to name a few. Each day of climbing brings new challenges and accomplishments as the students set personal goals, overcome obstacles, and cheer each other on, providing a sense of camaraderie, support, and empowerment.

Following a day of climbing, the group packs in a flurry of activities, including swimming or a visit to the ice cream shop or the park, followed by a lively, family-style dinner and maybe stargazing. The days wind down with shared chores and a discussion around the “core value contract,” where the group reflects on the highs and lows of the day, listening and sharing their most impactful moments.

Saturday always comes too soon as the students say goodbye until next summer. We close each week by gathering feedback from our students, reflecting the impact of Kismet in their own words.

“Rock climbing is an experience worth more than gold to me. It presents full body engaging physical challenges in so many ways and it makes me so curious due to it’s versatility. I really want to incorporate it into my future.” -’25 graduate, Manchester, NH

“Kismet teaches not only how to rock climb, but techniques that actually help you in other situations, and you have so much fun while doing so. I felt so accepted and valued in the group. I really found people that make me feel like I can be me.” -2nd year student, Conway, NH

“[Kismet] taught me I love rock climbing, and showed me how to be more vocal in a handful of ways. I will never forget the sense of community I felt here.” - ’25 graduate, Manchester, NH



the youth we serve

We work with nine schools across four communities: including Portland ME, and the Mount Washington Valley, Coos County NH, and Hillsborough County NH. Our students, ages 13 to 17, represent a range of ethnic, cultural, and gender identities. They are from underserved communities and often lack access to extracurricular experiential opportunities due to intractable circumstances. We enroll students who are recognized for their character and resilience, but because of their circumstances often remain in “the shadows” (as described by them).

Each Kismet student comes with their own story, all having experienced some level of inequity and adversity. Our students are often identified as “flying under the radar”, never creating waves but exhibiting a special spirit and earnestness as they seek peer connection, new experiences, and challenges that they aren’t finding in their day-to-day lives.

While at Kismet, our students build their self-confidence, develop aspirations, and see new opportunities. We are honored to be a part of their journey as we observe them stepping into this new environment, being open to meeting new people, and tackling a rigorous rock climbing program, all while being away from their home.

As we enter this time of uncertainty, the population we serve will be impacted more dramatically as access to resources changes. Kismet will remain steadfast as a consistent and reliable friend and confidant, ensuring each of our students knows they have a place in this program and a network of staff committed to advocacy and support.



our impact

Kismet provides a space for youth to feel their value, through face-to-face experiences shared both in the dynamic world of rock climbing and through working together in a collaborative living space.

Owen shared this reflection on what he is most proud of while thinking back on the summer and the impact of our work.

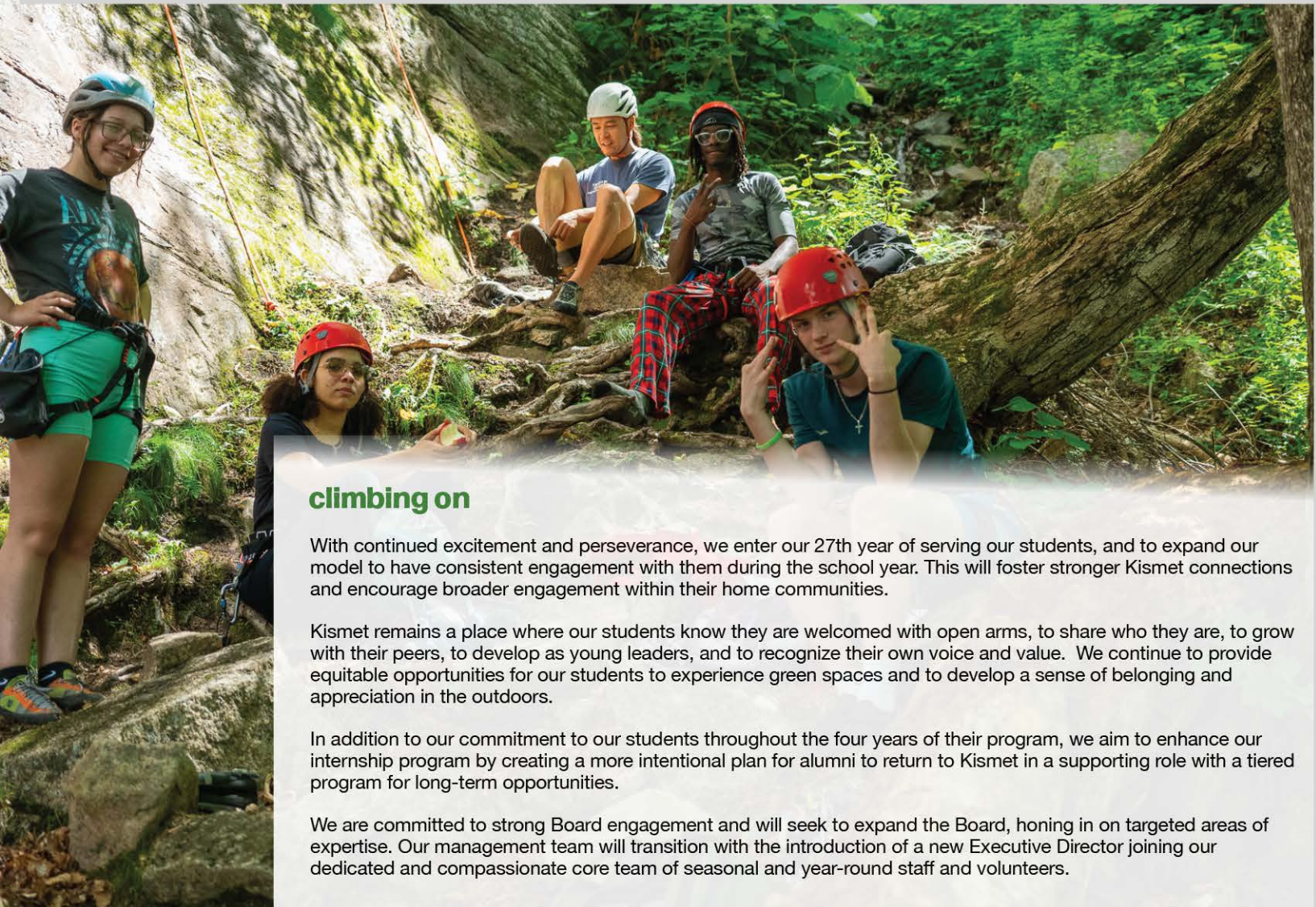
"In our eight weeks of summer programming, we bare witness to countless moments that carry an intangible magic - a feeling that captures our attention and fills us with equal parts hope, joy, and gratitude. Some of these moments result from individual breakthroughs, some from peer to peer connections, and others are shared between staff and students. The moments we are most proud of are the ones where we feel this magic, and we know this magic is felt by our students. Occasionally, we directly facilitate these moments, but often, they occur naturally and on their own. We believe that the courage of our students and our unique program design enable these moments to occur."

Our truest measure of success is hearing from the students. Here are some further reflections from our students.

"Kismet was an out there opportunity for me that I'm glad I didn't pass up on. It's been an undeniably thrilling and exciting experience to learn so much in such a short time. Kismet has been so fun due to climbing practice AND the connections made along the way." -'25 graduate, Manchester, NH

"Kismet helped me talk more and be more social and even brought me more people to care about and trust." -2nd year student, Fryeburg, ME

"...the confidence and happiness will be held on to for life." -'25 graduate, Berlin, NH



climbing on

With continued excitement and perseverance, we enter our 27th year of serving our students, and to expand our model to have consistent engagement with them during the school year. This will foster stronger Kismet connections and encourage broader engagement within their home communities.

Kismet remains a place where our students know they are welcomed with open arms, to share who they are, to grow with their peers, to develop as young leaders, and to recognize their own voice and value. We continue to provide equitable opportunities for our students to experience green spaces and to develop a sense of belonging and appreciation in the outdoors.

In addition to our commitment to our students throughout the four years of their program, we aim to enhance our internship program by creating a more intentional plan for alumni to return to Kismet in a supporting role with a tiered program for long-term opportunities.

We are committed to strong Board engagement and will seek to expand the Board, honing in on targeted areas of expertise. Our management team will transition with the introduction of a new Executive Director joining our dedicated and compassionate core team of seasonal and year-round staff and volunteers.

THANKING OUR GENEROUS SUPPORTERS OF THE 2025 PROGRAM YEAR

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Clif Bar Family Foundation
Crocker Catalyst Foundation
DCU For Kids
Granite United Way
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Kiwanis Club of Mt. Washington Valley

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Salt Pump Climbing Co. Stuart Webb Studio The Revolving Closet The Sunrise Shack Vertical Dreams White Mountain Puzzle Company

THANK YOU

Kismet is proud to be entering its 27th year of programs thanks to the trust and support of countless friends over the years.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Kismet Rock Foundation's operating funds come from four main funding sources: revenues from charitable foundations, Board support, contributions, and corporate and event support.

With continued successful years of fundraising and investments, we have accrued a reserve account to ensure future sustainability.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

BALANCE SHEET

As of 8/31/25

Assets

Northway - Checking \$201,054
Northway Money Market 248,219

Total for Bank Accounts \$449,273

Accounts Receivable

Grants Pledge Multi-Year \$210,000
Corporate Pledge Multi-Year 5,000

Total for Accounts Receivable \$215,000

Total for Assets \$664,273

Liabilities and Equity

Fund Balance Unrestricted \$259,431
Fund Balance Restricted 215,000
Board Designated Reserve 189,842

Total for Liabilities and Equity \$664,273

INCOME STATEMENT

Fiscal year-end 8/31/25

Grants \$209,500

General Support 69,796

Board Support 31,937

Corporate Sponsors 13,384

Events, Interest 8,960

NH Lottery 10,552

Total Revenue \$344,129

Office, Storage Rent \$ 9,715

Payroll 175,737

House Rent, Exp., Guides 44,161

Insurance & Fees 29,538

Total Expenses \$259,151

Net Revenue/Expenses \$ 84,978

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ENTHUSIASM AND DEDICATION BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND STAFF

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