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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **CLiF Summer Readers Program visits Laraway**

“That was awesome!” said one of Laraway’s Summer Program participants.

What was awesome was a visit from Duncan McDougall, Executive Director of the Children’s Literacy Foundation (CLiF), for storytelling and a giveaway of brand new, quality children’s books at Laraway’s campus in Johnson.

Children and staff sat on the edge of their seats as McDougall acted out a picture book story about a fictional bear’s unconventional approach to fishing. He also shared a page from his own life story, speaking to the children about the power of books to transport us to amazing destinations.

McDougall fielded questions from the children, deftly reeling back in the occasional audience member needing gentle refocusing. He held this audience’s attention and then, made the big announcement: “Each one of you gets to choose any two brand new books.”

CLiF laid out a beautiful display of gleaming books spanning ages and abilities as part of their Summer Readers Program. *Amelia Bedelia* was there. So was Miss Frizzle of the *Magic School Bus* science series. History kids in the room were invited to take home books from Mary Pope Osborne’s *Magic Tree House* series.

A youngster in the room who said she didn’t like to read was enchanted by the storytelling. She was among the first to make her selections, before settling in for quiet reading with a Laraway staff member.

CLiF is an independent non-profit organization founded in 1998. Its mission is to nurture a love of reading and writing among low-income, at-risk, and rural children in New Hampshire and Vermont. Over 17 years, CLiF has inspired 175,000 young readers and writers through literacy program grants and has given away more than \$3.5 million in new, high-quality children’s books. For more information, visit [clifonline.org](http://clifonline.org) or email [clif@clifonline.org](mailto:clif@clifonline.org).

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