

# the Ecology Learning Center

**For Immediate Release**

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## **Ecology Learning Center Announces Fundraiser for New Clifford Arts & Student Center**

*Located in Unity, new building needs \$150,000 to support a farm-to-cafeteria program, in addition to covering capital and operating expenses*

**UNITY, Maine** – Today, the [Ecology Learning Center](#) — a public charter high school based in Unity, Maine — announced a new fundraising campaign for the Clifford Arts & Student Center, which was gifted to the school in February. The campaign hopes to raise \$150,000 by Sunday, June 30th, supporting a “farm-to-cafeteria” program, in addition to covering capital and operating expenses. Every donation to our capital campaign will be doubled.

Gifted to the school on Valentine’s Day, the Clifford Arts & Student Center spans more than 8,000 square feet, featuring a theater that seats 200 people, ceramics studio with 12 pottery wheels and two kilns, classrooms, and office space. The new funds will allow the building to advance the Ecology Learning Center’s mission of deeply rooting students in Maine’s ecological and cultural landscapes, fostering authentic real-world



*Senior class presidents, Ada Dennison (in front, left) and Emma Wallace (back, right), opening the door for the first time with the key.*

learning while cultivating compassionate, resilient leaders who can engage in the challenges of today and tomorrow.

The Clifford Arts & Student Center is located at 42 Depot Street in Unity. Interested donors can give money in the following ways:

1. Visit our [website](#); send cash or check to “Ecology Learning Center” (230 Main Street in Unity)
2. Sponsor or attend a [Community Program](#)
3. Donate an auction item and attend our live auction in the theater on Friday, April 26th at 5:30 pm

The Clifford Arts & Student Center hosted a grand re-opening last Sunday, March 10th, with The Al Corey Big Band playing music — showcasing the theme of “Some Enchanted Evening” — and the Ecology Learning Center’s student-chefs serving island fare, inspired by the South Pacific. The building was originally opened in December 2000 by Bert and Coral Clifford.



*Junior, Etta Hughes, at one of the two grand pianos in the building.*



“From our administrators to teachers and countless students, the Ecology Learning Center is beyond excited to open our new Clifford Arts & Student Center to the public,” said Lēza Packard, Head of School at the Ecology Learning Center. “By promoting real-world learning, the new building will be instrumental in turning the next generation of Maine leaders into a compassionate, resilient force, while also bringing our Unity community even closer together. Of course, fundraising will be key to our success, so we humbly ask for the community’s support as we plan for the future. We are also extremely appreciative of the generosity that we have seen already.”

***To schedule an interview, please contact Lēza Packard,  
[leza.packard@ecologylearningcenter.org](mailto:leza.packard@ecologylearningcenter.org).***

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**Editor’s Note:**

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