



FALL 2014 BOYS TO MEN NEWSLETTER | OCTOBER 14, 2014

**A Message from Matt Theodores,
Executive Director, Maine Boys to Men**



Dear Friends,

Over the past month, I've learned how wonderful it feels to follow my heart into a job. I am honored to lead **Maine Boys to Men**, an organization that I've admired and supported for its unique and critically important work. We don't have to look very far these days to see horrific reminders of our need to engage boys and men in the fight against interpersonal violence. **However, I find great hope in knowing that all boys have the potential to develop into emotionally healthy, respectful, and non-violent men.**



Thank you for your continued interest and support! With your contributions, **Maine Boys to Men** has touched the lives of over **10,000 participants through our programs, workshops and events**. It is your generous support that allows us to help so many boys build true strength and reach their potential.

I am excited about our multi-generational work with boys, their peers, and adult influencers in their lives... all of which is needed to break the cycle of interpersonal violence. This newsletter highlights our strong momentum with each program; **Boys Outdoor Leadership Development program (BOLD)** serving 7-10 year olds, **Reducing Sexism and Violence Program (RSVP)** serving middle school, high school and college students and **Boot Camp for New Dads, serving men of all ages**.

I will continue to communicate through quarterly newsletters with more frequent updates through **Facebook** and **Twitter**. Please follow us on  or .

I can be reached at matt@maineboystomen.org. I welcome your thoughts, ideas, and suggestions as we continue to shape priorities and increase the impact we have.

Sincerely,

Matt Theodores
Executive Director

Reducing Sexism and Violence Program (RSVP)

Reducing Sexism and Violence Program (RSVP) is a coeducational program for middle school, high school and college students that raises awareness and understanding of interpersonal violence and teaches new ways to become part of the solution.

As we begin the '14-'15 school year, **Boys to Men** is working closely with schools in several communities to implement RSVP. Active communities and schools include **Windham, Freeport, Portland, Westbrook, Gardiner, Maranacook, North Yarmouth Academy** and **Thornton Academy**. Our modular **RSVP** curriculum provides flexibility to train students during school hours with multiple interactions over the course of the academic year.

We continue to see **RSVP** groups carry this work forward to reduce sexism and promote violence prevention in their schools and communities. Many **RSVP** students make presentations across their districts to educate others. **North Yarmouth Academy** male students worked within their school to influence the culture of middle school sports teams by maintaining a positive presence in the locker room. **Freeport RSVP** students provided training for sports teams, staff, and middle school students. Increasingly, schools are beginning to collaborate across school districts to amplify the impact of the work they are doing.

Boys Outdoor Leadership Development (BOLD)



2014 was a great year with almost 30 boys attending **BOLD** at the beautiful Mallet Barn in Freeport. **BOLD (Boys Outdoor Leadership Development)** is an outdoor leadership program for boys 7-10. The boys enjoy learning practical outdoor skills while expanding their knowledge and capacity for leadership. With the doubling of participants this year, we welcomed many new attendees who fostered friendships with some familiar faces from prior years. **BOLD was led by Chris Kelleher**, who combined his knowledge of the outdoors with amazing energy, teaching skills, and kindness to make this a wonderful experience for all!

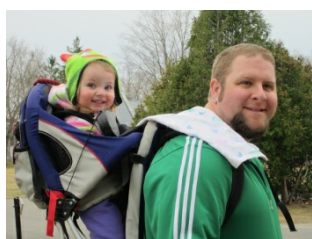
The boys learned outdoor skills including map and compass, **Leave No Trace Principles**, and shelter building. They played team building games and made crafts, all while continuing to discuss character traits of what makes a good leader and person: **respect, tolerance, trust, loyalty, and courage**. Each day, we reflected on how the traits were used and what this meant to each boy. It was wonderful to see the boys share so openly.

A highlight from the week was a visit from **Wind Over Wings (www.windoverwings.org)** a nonprofit that takes in birds for rehabilitation. Each bird had an amazing story of recovery and resilience; very touching and inspirational. Special thanks to **Hope and her volunteers** for making this such a special and meaningful experience.



Thank you to the families that let us share time with these wonderful young men. **Stay tuned for community service events for BOLD participants and their families as well as 2015 schedules!**

Boot Camp for New Dads - Boys to Men Interview with WMTW News 8



By the end of 2014, approximately **1,350** new fathers in Greater Portland will have attended **Boot Camp for New Dads**, a program we run in cooperation with **Maine Medical Center and Mercy Hospital with support from Unum**. **Boot Camp for New Dads** provides basic instruction and practical advice on basic baby care, household safety, and healthy relationships for new dads to be. Special thanks to our Boot Camp Coaches; **Bill Gould, Sean Hanson, Scott Mazuzan, Jake Roberts, Victor Ross, Aaron Schuit, Cody Seguin and Richard Thompson**.

In a September 17th interview with **WMTW-News 8**, **Matt Theodores** describes **Boot Camp** as a program that "teaches new fathers a different way of parenting than they might have been exposed to as children. It opens up their eyes on how they can be an equal participant in the parenting of their child and how they can make their own decisions about what attitudes and behaviors they want to carry forward in the parenting of their kids." Check out Matt's [interview here!](#)



Boys to Men and The Edge ~ 2nd Annual Golf Tournament "Building True Champions"

A great day was shared by **100** golfers at our **2nd Annual Golf Tournament**, co-hosted with **The Edge Academy** at the **Falmouth Country Club**. Thank you to all the players, sponsors, donors and our amazing volunteers who made this day a success and **helped us raise close to \$15,000 to benefit the youth of Maine!**



[Click here to watch this video with Professional Athletes supporting "Building True Champions"!](#)

WE HAVE MOVED!!

~ We have moved; our new address is ~

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Stay Connected:

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