



## JUNE 2017 Quarterly Newsletter | [Visit our website!](#)

Dear Friends,

When I first got involved with Maine Boys to Men in 2012, my three sons were just 12, 11, and 7! It's been a pleasure to do this work for the past five years, alongside them, as we all continue to navigate the many unwritten rules that so many boys and men feel pressured to live up to. I am thankful to be part of this unique organization which makes the important connection between the emotional well-being of boys and reducing gender-based violence.

As we transition into summer, it feels appropriate to reflect on the significant impact we've had over the past school year. Thank you for your involvement and support in making this happen! I hope you'll take a look at our programming highlights below.

We also recognize there is much more to do, and demand for our work continues to grow. We are committed to responding. During the upcoming school year, you will see us take specific steps toward making our programs more broadly accessible by increasingly delivering our work through others — something many of you have been asking for. We will share these directions in an August email entitled 'Maine Boys to Men - A Vision for Bigger Change'.

Thank you for your continued interest, ideas, and support. We cannot do it without you!

With Gratitude,

Matt Theodores  
Executive Director  
Maine Boys to Men



## 2016/2017 School Year in Review

The following audiences were served during the 2016/17 school year:

- **1,120 middle school boys** and nearly 50 faculty members in 18 schools participated in our 4-hour [Reducing Sexism and Violence Program \(RSVP\)](#) where they worked with their peers in small, facilitated workshops.
- **300 high school students** and faculty members engaged in our intensive 12-hour RSVP workshop, preparing them for their ongoing role as Youth Action Group leaders.
- **250 first time dads** participated in our [Boot Camp for New Dads](#) and [Fatherhood and True Strength program](#), helping to prepare them for this important and influential role.
- We worked with Maine's most **at-risk and vulnerable youth** by leading groups at Long Creek Youth Development Center,

### IN THE NEWS

Our efforts to build safer and stronger schools and communities were featured in an article in the Portland Press Herald, ["An Agency of Change, Building True Strength"](#)



If you haven't viewed the NECN video about our programs, watch it [HERE](#)



### AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

The Real School Friend Award for our work with their students



YMCA Youth Development Award for our commitment to nurturing the potential in every child and teen



YMCA OF SOUTHERN MAINE

Selected by Acadia Insurance Employees to receive \$3,600 Donation!



Selected by The Universalist Unitarian Church in Brunswick to receive the Charity with Soul award and a \$2,000 gift!



Preble Street Teen Center, and several alternative education programs.

- **Over 1,200 parents and community members** participated in events, workshops, and programs.



## FEATURED SOCIAL MEDIA

[Fathers Day Slideshow](#)

["How to Raise a Feminist Son"](#)

[1st Annual Kickball Tournament](#)

[7th Annual Gala](#)

["Boys Have Deep Emotional Lives"](#)

## IMPACT

### FEATURED IMPACT STORY

A recent graduate of South Portland High School, Hannah Quinlan was inspired to act after participating in our 12-hour Reducing Sexism and Violence Program (RSVP) workshop. She was instrumental in forming an RSVP Youth Action Group that meets weekly to plan '*change events*' in their school. This included student-led trainings for educators to provide them with tools to address incidents of gender-based harassment and violence inside and outside the classroom. They went on to train another 240 students — incoming freshmen — on the important topics of consent and respect during a recent step-up day!

Hannah joined us at a recent DOJ Office on Violence Against Women conference in Chicago, bringing her passion to this national 2-day workshop. Thank you, Hannah, for your leadership. We look forward to your continued involvement in this work.

**"My experience working with Maine Boys to Men has taught me that youth is not the future, but rather we are ready to create change now."**

**- Hannah Quinlan, Student Leader**



**Scarborough High School (SHS):** After experiencing our workshop, members of the SHS RSVP Youth Action Group have eagerly shared their learning with peers and adults across the Scarborough community, including:

- Participating on a student-panel following a public screening of the film "The Mask You Live In".
- Holding a school-wide screening of "The Mask You Live In" and facilitating small group workshops for 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students.
- Organizing and helping facilitate a second intensive 12-hour RSVP training for another group of student leaders.
- Creating and delivering a two-hour pre-prom workshop for all seniors, with a focus on gender pressures, consent and healthy relationships.

**Mt. Ararat High School (MAHS):** After participating in an initial 12-

hour RSVP workshop, a group of student leaders were inspired to jump into action. Their work included:

- Meeting bi-weekly with their peers to identify issues and opportunities for change.
- Participating in our Greater Portland RSVP Youth Action Group rallies, held every six weeks to promote cross-district sharing.
- Working with school administration to plan and deliver a second RSVP intensive workshop, and participating as leaders and co-facilitators.
- Planning an upcoming RSVP cross-district rally and leading workshops for educators in the fall.

The examples provided from these three schools reflects the work and impact that happens following our RSVP workshops. Thank you to all the incredible student leaders at [these schools and others](#), who bring their passion and drive to this important work.

## What Can You Do To Make A Difference?

- [Learn More About Us](#)
- [Attend A Volunteer Training](#)
- [Donate To Support Our Programs](#)

### Stay Connected

