



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

March, 30th 2017

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your continued interest and support of Maine Boys to Men. Together we are making a tremendous difference in the lives of young people and communities across Maine!

With incredible community support, our nationally recognized Reducing Sexism and Violence Program (RSVP) has been delivered to over 3,300 middle and high school students across 44 schools in Maine during the past 18 months alone! It is inspiring to see these boys and girls standing together to make their schools and communities safer and stronger!

I feel encouraged by our program growth and the unique strength of our curriculums. As we near the end of another rewarding school year, I find myself thinking less about the thousands of students we serve each year; and thinking more about the tens of thousands in Maine that are beyond our reach. We are actively and creatively working to address this opportunity!

Our desire to do more is particularly heightened as we see the impact our work has on middle school boys. Through practice, program evidence, and research, we know the critical importance of working with this age group. The feedback on RSVP at Bruce Whittier Middle School in Poland is reflective of our broader work with over 1,650 middle school boys:

"Maine Boys to Men helped our 8th graders wade through some of what is most challenging about being an adolescent boy in our culture. Our students emerged knowing more about the men they want to become and better prepared to interact with each other and our school community."

The foundation we build in middle school remains critical as we bring boys, girls, men and women

Events

[4/25/17 The Mask You Live In - Cumberland](#)

[5/11/17 7th Annual Gala and Auction](#)

[5/5 & 5/18 Volunteer Orientation and Training](#)

[5/18 Boot Camp for New Dads Facilitator Training](#)

Welcome



Whitney Votra
Administrative
Coordinator



Ryan Tardiff
Program Specialist and
Facilitator

Event Spotlight

together through our high school programs and community-wide efforts. And, we need your support to keep it going and to do more!

Please join us on May 11th at our [7th Annual Gala](#) at The Landing at Pine Point, Scarborough. Our theme, [Together, We Stand Up](#), will be on display as we come together in support of gender justice and against gender based violence.

With Gratitude,



Matt Theodore
Executive Director



May 11th, 2017

7th Annual Gala

This event directly supports our programs that make the important connection between the emotional well-being of boys, the importance of gender equality, and the reduction of male violence against women and girls.

[Buy your tickets here!](#)

Community Spotlight

In partnership with the Scarborough School District and the Scarborough Kindness Project, we recently extended our Reducing Sexism and Violence Program (RSVP) across this community.

At Scarborough High School, 36 students with leadership potential participated in twelve hours of RSVP training in January. The group now meets regularly with two teacher mentors, Michelle Shupp and Richard Westley, to identify ways to change the dialogue about gender roles, gender equality, and standing up against gender-based violence. The passion of these student leaders is admirable!

At Scarborough Middle School, the 8th grade boys participated in four hours of RSVP workshops. These students explored ways that cultural definitions of masculinity can encourage boys to detach emotionally, limit their aspirations, and accept sexist attitudes and harmful behaviors as normal.

Over 150 students, faculty, and community members joined us in March for a screening of "[The Mask You Live In](#)" followed by an inspiring student panel discussion. We then hosted a Community Workshop where a group of passionate adults came together to discuss issues and solutions relative to sexism, gender equality, and violence in our society.

We are pleased to add Scarborough to the list of communities partnering with Maine Boys to Men!

Youth Leadership

Following our High School RSVP trainings, youth-led and community-supported action groups are formed. These groups meet regularly at "RSVP Rally's" to share what's working in their schools and learn from each another. They also began collaborating on an upcoming awareness campaign to prevent sexual harassment (See the above Photo!)



Most recently, students from local schools (Mt. Ararat, Scarborough, South Portland, Snow Pond Arts Academy and Waynflete) came together to discuss the status of various student-led projects underway. These projects include student screenings of The Mask You Live In, RSVP trainings for faculty, and trainings to additional middle and high school students to build broader awareness of this work.

We are inspired by the passion these young leaders bring. It's a great demonstration of boys and girls standing up together in their communities!

Volunteer Spotlight



When we launched our volunteer program last year, we had a vision of engaging community members in support of our work. Since then, 55 individuals have participated in quarterly volunteer trainings, each coming with different stories and reasons for why they are drawn to support our mission.

A growing group of dedicated volunteer 'Community Partners' have been advocating for our programming within their communities, participating in the delivery of our programs, raising funds to support our programming, assisting board committees, and general office assistance. One of our early volunteers, Ryan Tardiff, was instrumental in bringing our programming back to the Gorham High School where he graduated from!

We first met Ryan at the screening of The Mask You Live In at Gorham High School. He became interested in our work and attended our volunteer training. Over the course of the year he attended our monthly volunteer meetings, became interested in facilitation, and was trained to co-facilitate our middle school RSVP workshops. He worked closely with faculty and administration at Gorham High School to deliver our

programming into the school from which he graduated.

We are thrilled to announce that Ryan has since joined the Maine Boys to Men staff as Program Specialist and Facilitator of our Middle School Program.

Ryan is just one example of our amazing volunteers and the many ways they are extending our reach into communities they care about.

If you are interested in exploring volunteer roles, please click [HERE](#) to learn more or to register for our next orientation and training in May.

What Can You Do To Make A Difference?

- [Donate](#)
- [Learn More About Us](#)
- [Volunteer](#)
- [Attend One Of Our Events](#)
- Visit two of our Greater Portland Community Partners
 - [SARSSM](#)
 - [Family Crisis Services](#)

Maine Boys to Men | 207-774-9994 | Whitney@maineboystomen.org
| <http://www.maineboystomen.org>

81 Bridge Street, M201
Yarmouth, ME 04096

Stay Connected



Text | [Optional Link](#)