



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

Dear Friends,

September is always an exciting time at Maine Boys to Men, as we begin program delivery for the new school year. With our recently enhanced curriculums and a very full program schedule, this year is no exception.

Last week, we began the work that you make possible - serving nearly 1,500 middle and high school students over the coming nine months. Student leaders from prior years' programs began their planning to bring our work to additional students and faculty throughout the year. It's wonderful to see our work amplified by these passionate student leaders!

We start this school year with a reminder that our Reducing Sexism and Violence Program (RSVP) is making a big difference in middle schools (see "UNH" right sidebar). I am very appreciative of the research team at the University of New Hampshire for their partnership with us. Their independent findings add to mounting evidence from leading institutions, including the Maine Center for Public Health and others. Our work with young people is making a difference.

We have been working hard to keep up with the growing demand for our programs within Greater Portland and beyond. With tremendous community input, we are beginning the next phase of our strategy to make our work more easily accessible throughout rural Maine. Highlights of this strategy can be found in the section below (Broader Reach and Bigger Impact).

Your support is what makes this work possible. All donations are direct investments in the well-being of boys, and direct investments in the reduction of male violence against women and girls. Thank you for your continued interest, ideas, and support. We cannot do it without you!

With Gratitude,

Matt Theodores
Executive Director



Broader Reach - Bigger Impact

Strong momentum over the past several years has helped inform our direction. A few important takeaways are shaping our strategy as we make our programs more easily accessible across Maine:

University of New Hampshire adds more evidence for RSVP!

A recent UNH led evaluation of RSVP in rural Maine middle schools demonstrated a self-reported **increase in emotional awareness**, a significant **decrease in the endorsement of attitudes supporting male power and privilege**, and a significant **increase in the endorsement of gender equity** among couples in families.

We thank UNH for their work, and are thrilled to have more evidence of the impact of this program.

EVENTS

[The Mask You Live In](#)

[10/19 - Gorham](#)

[10/25 - UNE](#)

[11/29 - Scarborough](#)

11/2/17: [Community Adult Workshop - Gorham](#)

12/1/17: [Full Day Intensive Adult Workshop](#)

[...More to come!](#)

- The curriculums and content used in our programs are our most valuable assets, and continued development of these assets requires our focus.
- Deepening our work within Greater Portland provides an opportunity to measure short and long-term program impact, while informing the curriculums and content we develop.
- The need for our work goes well beyond those that our limited staff can reach directly, and it's important to address the needs of rural Maine where programs are limited.
- There are many qualified resources beyond our own that have both the interest and ability to deliver our programs.

With this as a backdrop, we will continue our direct program delivery serving nearly 1,500 middle school and high school students, including at-risk youth through alternative education and community programs. Additionally, we will serve 600 adults through programs, workshops and events, preparing them to support students who participate in our programs. The majority of this work will be within 45 miles of Portland.

In parallel, we will evolve our train-the-trainer (T3) model for expanded program delivery and execute multiple controlled T3 pilots in rural communities. Since the outset of the Reducing Sexism and Violence Program (RSVP), Maine Boys to Men has successfully trained community educators, volunteers, and students as facilitators, and this direction builds on this history.

Over the next year, specific content will be delivered in the form of toolkits for various adult audiences to use in their work supporting youth.

Please inquire at info@maineboystomen.org if you have an interest in learning more about our work.

Student Leaders Amplifying our Work

High School RSVP: Examples of Youth Leadership

- **Scarborough High School RSVP** action group meets every other week with a robust group of 29 passionate students this year. Their first project will be to co-facilitate a two-day RSVP Workshop with Maine Boys to Men, introducing another 30-40 students to this work.
 - **MT. Ararat RSVP** action group is planning a social media awareness campaign aimed at preventing sexual harassment in their school.
 - **South Portland High School RSVP** action group meets every week and their first project will be to co-facilitate a two-day HS RSVP Training with Maine Boys to Men. We are excited to have the Family Crisis Services "Guys and Pies" group participate in the RSVP delivery!
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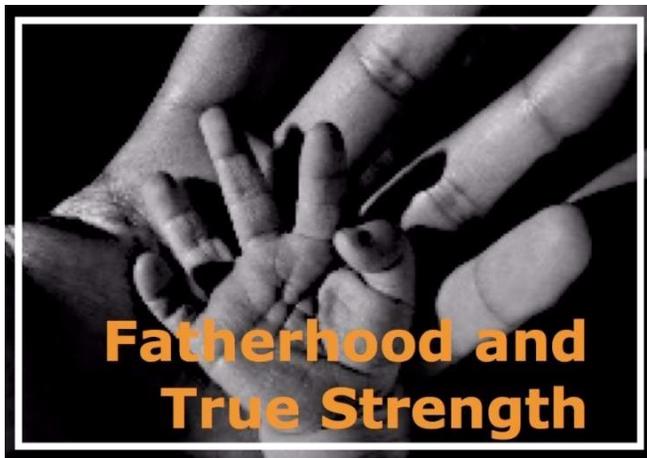
Adult Workshops

Our full-day intensive workshops kicked off last week with a thoughtful and impressive group of individuals.

Participants explored topics including gender roles and identity, sexuality and technology, gender based violence, and ways to disrupt potentially harmful or violent behaviors before they progress. With this knowledge, participants are prepared to advocate for, and participate in, this work within their communities. Our next free full-day workshop is scheduled for Friday, December 1st.

Please join us at one of our upcoming free [film screenings](#) and [community workshops](#).

Please contact us at info@maineboystomen.org with interest or for more information.



Boot Camp for New Dads welcomes 5 new Coaches!

We are thrilled to bring on 5 new coaches to facilitate this important program in Portland and Brunswick. This program prepares soon-to-be fathers to become confidently engaged with their infants, and explores ways that gender stereotypes and pressures can limit our role as partners and fathers.

Boot Camp for New Dads workshops are held three weekends each month. Information and registration can be found [here](#).

Serving Vulnerable Populations

We are pleased to welcome MaineStay to our growing list of community partners serving at-risk and vulnerable

populations. MaineStay is a Portland-based collaborative program which includes an eight-bed residential treatment facility and support services for young adults struggling with homelessness and mental illness.

Our weekly RSVP discussion groups have been powerful for our facilitators and participants alike, and we're grateful to be part of such an impactful and important program!

What Can You Do To Make A Difference?

- [Learn More About Maine Boys to Men](#)
- [Attend a Community Event](#)
- [Make a donation today](#)

Stay Connected

