



MAINE BOYS TO MEN NEWSLETTER | MARCH 2016

Message from Matt Theodores, Executive Director

Dear Friends,

It's an exciting time for Maine Boys to Men as we approach the final months of the 2015/16 academic year --- our strongest programming year since Maine Boys to Men was formed 18 years ago! Thank you for your interest, involvement, and generous support that made this possible! Together, we reached over 1,500 middle school and high school students with our Reducing Sexism and Violence Program (RSVP), training more student leaders than we've trained since the inception of this program nearly ten years ago! At the same time, we've reached over 1,250 adults, many of you included, through film events, programming and community workshops. Thank you for being part of this important work.

As I reflect on our progress, I'm most inspired by the huge potential that lies with our youngest generation of leaders. These are the boys and girls in our middle schools and high schools that have already begun to do the discovery and self-reflection necessary to challenge sexism and ultimately stand up as leaders to end gender-based bias, harassment, abuse, and violence. These are individuals from Greater Portland to our most rural communities in Maine, within Preble Street Teen Center and Long Creek Youth Development Center. For me, these incredible individuals put faces to the many statistics that tell us that these issues are real and that they are impacting our young people in so many ways. These individuals are taking an interest in becoming part of the solution and are driving much awaited change within their communities.

It's so important for us to complement and support this great youth-led work going on and I am thrilled with how many of you have asked how you might become more involved! I've listed a few immediate opportunities below that I hope you'll consider:

- We have expanded **our volunteer program** to empower more adults to be directly involved in support of our youth! We held an orientation on February

26th that was attended by 20 new volunteer candidates. Our full day training for volunteers is March 18th, in Portland - click [here](#) to learn more and to register!

- Register [here](#) for our upcoming free screening of **'The Mask You Live In' in Westbrook, Thursday, March 10th at 6:00PM**. This event will feature a version of the film suggested for age 14+ and we encourage high school attendance when accompanied by an adult. Click [here](#) for the Portland Press Herald article on our work and this event.
- Save the Date - **Friday, May 13th, 2016** for our **Annual Gala & Auction!** The Gala will take place at **Grace in Portland**. Registration will be open next week!
- Bring our **Reducing Sexism and Violence Program** to your middle school and high school. We are currently scheduling schools for the upcoming 2016/17 academic year, so please contact matt@maineboystomen.org with interest.

Thank you for your interest, involvement and support! We cannot do it without you!

Matt



Matt Theodores
Executive Director



Volunteer Opportunities Orientation and Training in 2016

Thank you to the 20 volunteers who brought so much to our orientation session on Friday, February 26th. Our adult volunteers give the gift of their time to complement and provide support for the tremendous youth-led volunteer work being done by boys and girls across our state. If you are interested in attending our full day training on Friday, March 18th, please [REGISTER HERE](#).

When:

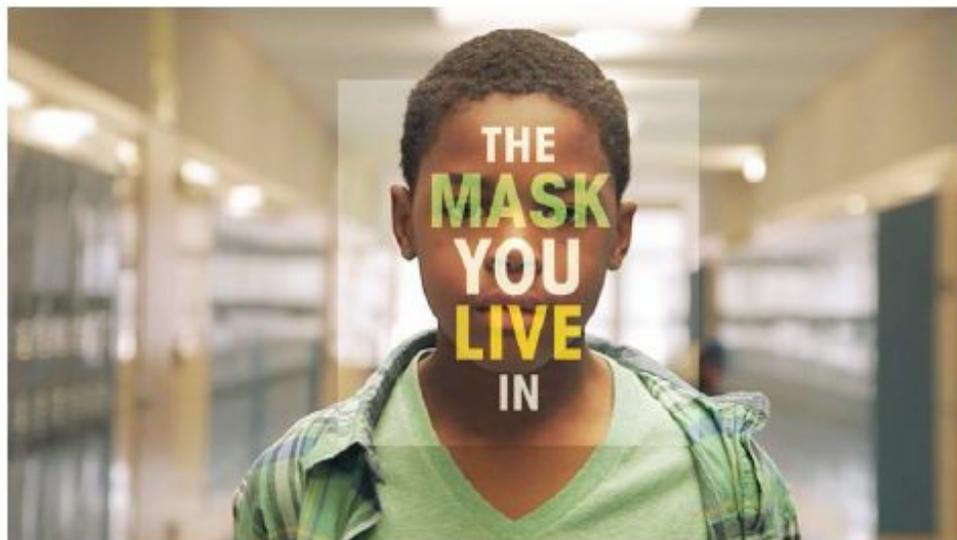
Friday, March 18th, 8:30AM-4:00PM

Where:

**Goodwill Administrative Building
75 Washington Avenue, Suite #300
(Board Room)
Portland, ME 04101**



The Mask You Live In Greater Portland Film Screening Series



**Due to an overwhelming response from multiple communities,
Maine Boys to Men will continue to offer free film
screenings of The Mask You Live In through March**

[Click Here to View the Film Trailer](#)

Dates of Screenings:

**March 10th, 2016 - Westbrook Performing Arts Center - Register [HERE!](#)
(This performance is suggested for 14+ when accompanied by an adult)**

**March 30th, 2016 - Lewiston, Bates College - Register [HERE!](#)
(This version is recommended for individuals 17 and older)**

The Mask You Live In follows boys and young men as they struggle to stay true to themselves while negotiating America's narrow definition of masculinity. Pressured by the media, their peer group, and even the adults in their lives, our protagonists confront messages encouraging them to disconnect from their emotions, devalue authentic friendships, objectify and degrade women, and resolve conflicts through violence. These gender stereotypes interconnect with race, class, and circumstance, creating a maze of identity issues boys and young men must navigate to become "real" men.

Maine Boys to Men 2016 Gala & Auction

SAVE THE DATE

Friday, May 13th, 2016

Maine Boys to Men 6th Annual Gala
& Auction

Grace Restaurant, Portland



Stay tuned for registration!

Programming: Reducing Sexism and Violence Program (RSVP)

Reducing Sexism and Violence Program (RSVP) brings boys, girls, men, and women together in support of gender justice and against gender based violence.

Department of Justice - Office on Violence Against Women Update



We are completing our planning process with The Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women for our comprehensive three-year implementation of our **Reducing Sexism and Violence Program (RSVP)** within Greater Portland. This multifaceted project funded by the

DOJ is aimed at changing attitudes and behaviors of individuals and engaging broader communities to dismantle systems that support sexism and violence against women. Over this three-year period, we will immerse Greater Portland communities with Reducing Sexism and Violence Program (RSVP) workshops delivered to boys in middle schools, boys and girls in high schools, homeless and runaway youth in Portland, and adults across communities. With these workshops as the catalyst, we will empower young people and adults as they organize around this important social change work. Please contact matt@maineboystomen.org to learn how your community can participate.

RSVP ~ Continued Expansion in High Schools

We are looking forward to scheduled workshops at Westbrook High School, South Portland High School, and Hebron Academy. Each of these schools will be training 30-40 boys and girls through a series of (4) three-hour workshops over the coming weeks.

It's also been a pleasure working with students from across Maine through an exciting collaboration with the Jobs for Maine Graduates (JMG) program. Through direct work in high schools and participation in their three-day Leadership Education Conference, we have

reached students from almost every county in Maine! We have also enjoyed partnering with Long Creek Development Center. Schools participating this year include: Biddeford, Calais, Deering, Freeport, Hebron Academy, Lewiston, Machias Memorial, Madison, Monmouth Academy, Portland, Shead (Eastport), South Portland, Spruce Mountain (Jay), Washington Academy (East Machias), Westbrook and Woodland. Please contact sam@maineboystomen.org for more information or scheduling requests.

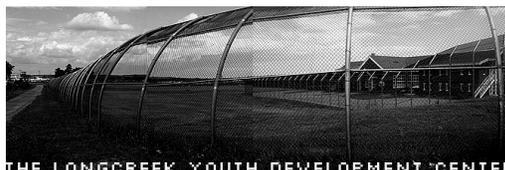
RSVP Program for Middle School Boys is Growing!

Research shows that starting our work with middle school boys is not only important, but can have life changing effects. So, we've put energy behind this initiative and our work with 7th and 8th grade boys has taken off across the state.

We have reached over 500 boys across Maine at Bruce M. Whittier (Poland), Maranacook, Mattanawcook (Lincoln), Mt. Jefferson (Lee), Mahoney (South Portland), and Mt. Ararat (Topsham). This spring, we're continuing our work with boys at Mt. Ararat and are delivering programming at Memorial (South Portland), North Yarmouth Academy, and Winthrop. Several schools have already signed up to participate in the 2016/17 school year! Please contact sam@maineboystomen.org for more information or scheduling requests.

RSVP ~ Deepening Programs for Vulnerable Youth in Portland

We've continued our work with Portland's at-risk and marginalized youth populations through partnerships with Long Creek Youth Development Center, Preble Street Teen Center, and alternative education programs. Our program at Long Creek was met with such enthusiasm that our original pilot group has continued to meet weekly on different discussion topics and activities! The group of eight incarcerated boys meets each week to discuss healthy masculinity and its role in society, gender stereotypes and their role in male violence against women, male privilege, and a variety of other topics.

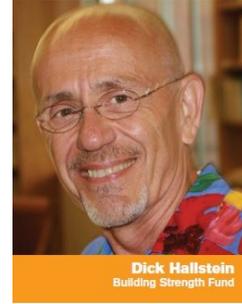


This spring, we have begun a program for homeless and runaway boys and girls through the Preble Street Teen Center in Portland. This work is done in close collaboration with Sexual Assault Response Services of Southern Maine (SARSSM) and Family Crisis Services. Our curriculum focuses on preventing teen dating violence and building healthy relationships, with workshops devoted to consent, recognizing abusive relationships, and how to safely

intervene to stop abuse. These theme based discussion groups are setting the stage for us to deliver programming with and through a variety of other youth serving organizations.

RSVP Expansion made possible through the Dick Hallstein Building Strength Fund

Thank you for your generosity and support! The Dick Hallstein Building Strength Fund was established by friends of Dick's in May of 2015 to honor him and his remarkable life. Since May, with the help of over 50 generous donors, we have raised over \$90,000 that goes directly to the expansion of our **Reducing Sexism and Violence Program (RSVP)**. Dick was passionate about the work of Maine Boys to Men, especially RSVP. We are thrilled to be able to broaden our reach throughout the state of Maine through this funding. A special thank you to the friends of Dick's who first established this fund!



If you would like to make a donation to this fund, click on the link below!



Boys Outdoor Leadership Development (BOLD) - 2016

Over the past 5 years, our **Boys Outdoor Leadership Development (BOLD)** program has been a wonderful experience for the forty 7-10 year old boys we've served annually. This unique program engaged them in great discussions, fun activities and provided them with a unique peer learning environment that subtly challenged limiting social norms around masculinity.

At the same time, we acknowledge the importance of using our limited resources efficiently to reach more boys through collaboration with other organizations. For that reason, we have made the decision to suspend BOLD programming this summer and begin to explore ways that we might evolve this programming in the future.



We have met some great young men and learned a lot through **BOLD** and we are excited about the possibilities. We will keep you informed through our newsletters and related announcements.

Thank you so much for your support of Maine Boys to Men!

Boot Camp for New Dads

Do you know someone who is going to have a baby? We have a wonderful program for new "dads to be" called **Boot Camp for New Dads!** This national program is delivered in partnership with **Maine Medical Center, Mercy Hospital, and Midcoast Hospital.** The 3 hour workshop encourages men to be equal participants in the parenting of their children and prepares them to make informed decisions about what attitudes and behaviors they want to carry forward.

Below are links to the hospitals located in Portland and Brunswick. The classes are delivered once a month at each of the three hospitals. Send this link along to someone that you think would enjoy this great class!

[Mercy Hospital »](#)

First Saturday of each month

[Maine Medical Center »](#)

Third Saturday of each month

[Midcoast Hospital »](#)

Fourth Saturday of each month

Stay Connected:

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