



## Summer 2015 Newsletter

### From the Executive Director

Dear Youth Enrichment Services,

I would like to take a moment to thank our families, volunteers, partners, and supporters for your incredible support this summer. Because of you, over 500 young people are able to spend their summer with YES. From kayaking on the Charles River to hiking in the Berkshires, our youth are exploring the outdoors, building self-confidence, and having fun as they try new activities and gain new skills.

This week, we have a very special event happening. On **Thursday, August 20th**, YES is hosting the 2nd Annual Martin Richard Memorial Mile Invitational. You can read more about the event [below](#). As a runner or spectator, this night will celebrate Martin's zest for life as a competitor, teammate, and vibrant young boy. YES is pleased to partner with Adaptive Sports New England to offer adaptive races at this year's event.



*Executive Director,  
Bryan Van Dorpe*

While we are still in a summer mindset, we are also busy preparing for the school year. In a few short weeks, we look forward to opening our doors again for our 2015-16 YES Academy. Please visit [www.yeskids.org](http://www.yeskids.org) for more information on how to apply to our YES Academy programs. Volunteers are also needed for the YES Academy and sign-ups are now open. Click [here](#) to apply now and give back to YES youth.

Best wishes for a safe end to summer and great start to the school year.

Warmly,

*Bryan Van Dorpe*

Bryan Van Dorpe  
Executive Director



## Upcoming Events

What's on the calendar for this summer? Stay up to date with our event listings!

Click [here](#) to see upcoming events on the YES homepage.



## Volunteer & Intern Opportunities

Inspired by our YES youth? Join us as a volunteer or intern!

[Learn more](#) about volunteer opportunities.

[Learn more](#) about internship and career opportunities.



## YES in the News

YES was recently featured in the Winchester Star and the Lexington Minuteman for receiving the \$100K for 100 Cummings Foundation award! Read the full article [here](#).

# 2nd Annual Martin Richard Memorial Mile Invitational

We invite you to join YES on Thursday, August 20 as we celebrate the life of YES youth, Martin Richard, at the 2nd Annual Martin Richard Memorial Mile Invitational.

The event will be held from 5-8 pm at Moakley Park in South Boston. Children, teens, and adults are invited to participate. The event includes 400m races, seeded mile heats, adaptive races, and a one-mile recreational walk/run. All funds raised will support the Martin Richard Charitable Foundation and YES.

Martin Richard started his running career with YES in 2009 at age 5. In his early days, Martin chased his brother, Henry, and the older athletes, many of whom he would eventually catch up to and pass. His understanding of fairness, inclusion, and teamwork were values that helped to identify Martin. At the 2nd Annual Martin Richard Memorial Mile Invitational, we will commemorate Martin and his zest for life by running in his memory.



*Martin Richard, Age 8*

**Register Now**

# Outdoor Adventure Program: A summer of learning and fun for YES kids!



More than 500 youth have had the opportunity to experience the outdoors through activities like kayaking, fishing, stand-up paddleboarding, rock climbing, mountain biking, and more with YES this summer! Check out their adventures and let us know what your favorite adventure has been so far this summer.

CLICK [HERE](#) TO VIEW YES's OUTDOOR ADVENTURE PHOTO ALBUM.

Stay in touch with YES and follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#) to get updates every season of the year!



## Meet the 2015 YES scholarship recipients

We are proud to say that for the fifth year in a row, 100% of YES high school seniors graduated and will continue on to college.

One of the ways that we maintain this record of success is by supporting our youth financially through YES's scholarship program. Every spring, a scholarship committee made up of YES Board Members and alumni select a small group of YES high school seniors to receive YES's Richard Williams Memorial Scholarship and the YES Trip Advisor scholarship.

Scholarship recipients are chosen based off of their leadership skills, academic promise, community service, and commitment to YES. Read more about our 2015 scholarship recipients below!



*Eunice Lee, Richard Williams Scholarship recipient*

### **Eunice Lee**

Eunice, a 17-year-old YES youth from the Boston area, was chosen for the award because of her service to the community. Eunice took part in YES's College Prep program this year and has volunteered through One Love-Children Helping Children program at her high school. When asked about her community involvement, Eunice exuded to the scholarship committee, "I think it's important to give back. My goal is to become a public health advocate for Korean communities where certain critical health issues are stigmatized."

CLICK [HERE](#) TO MEET OTHER YES SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



## Q&A with Mark Williams, YES Trustee & Alumni Circle Chair

Boston born and raised, Mark Williams is the son of YES founder Richard Williams. Today, Mark lives in Salt Lake City and gives back to YES by serving as a YES Trustee and chairing the YES Alumni Circle. Thinking back on his childhood years spent with YES, Mark says he learned many important life values including open-mindedness, resilience, self-confidence and much more.

Read about some of Mark's favorite YES memories and why he thinks its important for alumni to stay involved with YES in our interview with Mark below.



*Mark Williams, YES Trustee*

### **What is your favorite memory at YES?**

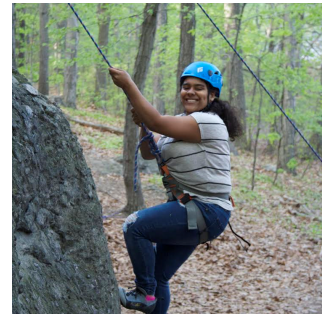
"I loved the ski trips and being able to teach kids and show them something they never thought existed. That experience alone can be life-changing and can boost someone's confidence. Being in the city is great but sometimes you feel the whole world is in your two city blocks. We have to show them that there is a world out there that is big, that is challenging."

CLICK [HERE](#) TO READ MORE ABOUT HOW YES CHANGED MARK'S LIFE



## YES kids reach new heights with City Ascents rock climbing program

Overcoming obstacles: that is what YES's new rock climbing intensive, City Ascents, is all about. The program, led by YES Outreach Coordinator Ethan George, was developed as a way for urban youth to learn how to rock climb and develop confidence with a group of their peers. Ten students from the Josiah Quincy Upper School in Boston participated in the first pilot session.



*A student from Josiah Quincy Upper School belays a classmate*

CLICK [HERE](#) TO READ MORE ABOUT THEIR EXPERIENCE



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