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Youth Enrichment Services January/February 2018 Newsletter



Dear Youth Enrichment Services,

The year 2018 marks a major milestone for Youth Enrichment Services (YES): 50 years of service. I am honored to be at the helm of the organization as we take this opportunity to celebrate our impact and success.

Since the organization's founding in 1968 by Richard Williams, YES's mission has been to inspire and challenge youth with physical and mental activities that foster life-long respect for self, others, and the environment.

By engaging youth in challenging, active outdoor experiences embedded with leadership development programming, YES continues to develop the next generation of leaders who are prepared to achieve, lead and excel in college, career, and life.

We hope to celebrate YES's 50th Anniversary with our valued supporters, donors, and volunteers and re-engage our friends from the past. We want to share our success with everyone who shares our special belief system and vision that:



- Challenging and supporting youth through outdoor sports and activities instills important values in young people;
- Sharing the love and enjoyment of the outdoors inspires young people to build healthy habits for life;
- Leading by example and the power of positive role models has no limit.

With that said, I hope you will join me at various events we will be hosting throughout the year. Mark your calendars for two exciting upcoming YES events:

Sunday, March 11: <u>Mass Snow Challenge</u> - We will be holding an <u>Apres-Ski Reception</u> after the event this year!

Thursday, April 5: 8th Annual Black Diamond Gala - This is YES's biggest fundraiser of the year!

Visit YES's website (<u>www.yeskids.org</u>) and social media channels for regular updates on events throughout the year. I look forward to keeping you informed and seeing many of you, both old and new friends, at these events. 2018 will be a year to remember!

Cheers to 50 years,

Brjan Van Darke

Bryan Van Dorpe YES Executive Director

P.S. I hope you will join our \$50 for 50 Years anniversary fundraising campaign and give a special donation in honor of this momentous occasion: <u>www.yeskids.org/donate</u>



Over 800 young people will hit the slopes with YES this winter!

Boston Youth Build Confidence and Resilience with Operation SnowSports

On January 7, YES kicked off its 2018 Operation SnowSports ski and snowboard program. Operation SnowSports, now in its 48th season, provides under-served Boston youth with the opportunity to get out of the city and experience the outdoors as they learn how to ski or snowboard.

While providing an introduction to outdoor adventure sports like cross-country skiing, downhill skiing, and snowboarding is a key component of what YES does, it is not the primary purpose of YES programs. The skills that Boston youth learn with YES - such as resilience, self-confidence, and courage - translate directly into their success in the classroom and in life.

Check out YES's <u>2017 Operation SnowSports Outcomes Report</u> to see the impact that Operation SnowSports had on our youth last year.

Click <u>here</u> to view photos from our first few Operation SnowSports trips of the 2018 season!

Larry DeLorenzo Honored with the YES Champion Award

Long-time YES supporter, Larry DeLorenzo, was recently awarded the first-ever YES Champion Award. Larry received the award at the YES Annual Celebration on December 4, 2017. Over 200 supporters, volunteers, and friends came together to celebrate YES, Larry, and the organization's achievements last year. The event was held at Fenway Park's State Street Pavilion.

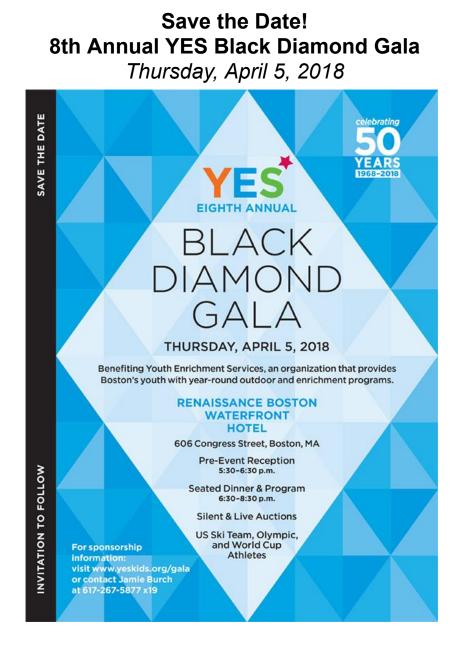
Larry is the owner of the Danversport Yacht Club and a long-time supporter of YES. For the past 30 years, Larry and his family have opened up the doors of the Danvers facility to hundreds of YES youth for a day of swimming, barbecuing, fun, and games.

It is estimated that over 5,000 youth experienced the generosity and kindness of Larry and the DeLorenzo family. They have been giving young people the opportunity to get out of the city and be part of a fun outdoor day for the past 30 years.



017 YES Champion Award recipient, Larry DeLorenzo, at the YES Annual Celebration. (Dec 2017)

Click here to view photos from the 2017 YES Annual Celebration.



Click here to sponsor the event or purchase tickets!

Meet YES's 2018 Boston Marathon Team

YES received four (4) bibs this year through the John Hancock Non-profit Boston Marathon Program. We are thrilled to introduce four runners to Team YES: Sayles Day, Ben Hartzell, Kelsey Prendergast, and Marc Sorresso. While they come from diverse backgrounds, they all have one thing in common: a passion for giving all youth access to the outdoors.

Join us in welcoming Team YES 2018. Visit their Crowdrise pages below to support their run or read more about their personal stories on the YES website. Collectively, their goal is to raise \$40,000 for this year. Please consider supporting them! <u>Click here to support Team YES</u>!



2018 Team YES (L to R): Ben Hartzell, Marc Sorresso, Kelsey Prendergast, and Sayles Day.

Thank You for Supporting YES with a Year-End Donation!



A huge thank you to everyone who made a year-end donation to YES in December! Because of generous friends like you, over \$20,000 was raised for YES youth!

If you didn't have a chance to make a year-end gift, you can still contribute to YES programs by <u>making</u> <u>a donation</u> today!



www.yeskids.org



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