



Youth Enrichment Services

July 2019 Newsletter

Upcoming Events & Important Dates

Monday, July 8: [Outdoor Adventure Begins](#) (Boston, MA) YES's Outdoor Adventure Program gives young people the opportunity to explore the environment and develop meaningful relationships while having fun. From rock climbing and kayaking to hiking and mountain biking, youth get the opportunity to gain new experiences and build self-confidence!.

Saturday, July 27 - [Boston Triathlon Kids Day Splash 'n Dash](#) (Boston, MA) Open to ages 7-15, the Splash 'n Dash consists of a swim (100-200 yards) followed by a run (1-2 km). The swimming will take place along the beach near the McCormack Bathhouse and will be in shallow water. The run will be on the Harborwalk and around Mother's Rest Field. Current YES youth will have a special opportunity participate in this fun outdoor event - watch your inbox for more information.

Thursday, August 15: [6th Annual Martin Richard Memorial Mile Invitational](#) (Moakley Park, Saunders Stadium - South Boston, MA) Celebrate the life of YES youth, Martin Richard, at the Annual Martin Richard Memorial Mile. All ages and abilities are welcome to participate!

Monday, September 2: [2nd Annual MR8K Road Race](#) (Warrior Ice Arena - Boston, MA) The MR8K race is an annual 5-mile course (8K) that benefits the Martin Richard Foundation. Each registrant will receive a race t-shirt as part of the registration fee. The event is open to both runners, walkers, and para-athletes of all abilities, as well as families with small children. Use code **YES8K19** to save \$15 on registration!

Saturday, September 7: [Dimock Road to Wellness 5k Run/Walk](#) (The Dimock Center - Boston, MA) This event is aimed at inspiring mind, body and spiritual health through fitness and exercise while embracing Roxbury's rich history, diverse culture, and strong sense of community. Registration is FREE for the 5k run, 2 mile walk, and youth fun run! YES will also have a table at the event, so stop by and say hello!

Saturday, Sept 21: [Tour de South Shore](#) (Wompatuck State Park - Hingham, MA) Sign up with Team YES and join the fun for a 5K walk/run, 25 mile bike ride, or 50 mile bike ride! The walk/run will take place within the park on the walking trails. The bike route will travel through the towns of Hingham, Cohasset, Scituate, and Norwell. \$200 fundraising minimum per team member. 100% of funds support YES youth programs! Event is hosted by [The McCourt Foundation](#) who works to empower communities to build a healthier world.

Sunday, September 29: [14th Annual East Boston Savings Bank 5K Bay Run/Walk](#) (Carson Beach - South Boston, MA) Save the date! Join YES for the annual 5K Bay Run/Walk with East Boston Savings Bank Foundation at Carson Beach. Sign up to participate as a member of Team YES and help us win a grant from the 2019 Nonprofit Challenge!

**Registration Now Open for the 6th Annual Martin Richard
Memorial Mile: Thursday, August 15, 2019**



On August 15, please join Youth Enrichment Services (YES) and the Martin Richard Charitable Foundation for the 6th Annual Martin Richard Memorial One Mile Invitational. 100% of funds raised will support the Martin Richard Charitable Foundation and Youth Enrichment Services (YES).

There will be 400 meter races (ages 4-8) and 1-mile races for all ages and abilities. We encourage participation in the Martin Richard One Mile by runners who are blind or mobility challenged and by wheelchair racers. Participants in these categories may enter the adaptive 400 meter race or any of the 1-mile races.



YES College Prep Program: Congratulations, High School Seniors!

YES's high-impact College Prep program is designed to help teens become strong and committed college applicants by engaging them in workshops, group trainings, student networking and panel events, and one-on-one guidance sessions. Lessons include how to research colleges, understanding the admissions process, paying for college/applying for financial aid, writing the college essay, developing the perfect resume, preparing for standardized tests, talking to college reps, and making the high school-to-college transition. Teens also take part in regional college tours and work as volunteer coaches in YES's Cross Country Ski program.



This year, 100% of high school seniors in the YES Academy graduated and were accepted into college. Congratulations to the Class of 2019! Students will be attending the following schools:

- Boston University (MA)
- Suffolk University (MA)
- Roger Williams University (RI)
- United States Air Force Academy (CO)
- Union College (NY)
- University of Massachusetts Dartmouth (MA)
- University of St. Andrews (UK)
- Wesleyan University (CT)

Congratulations also to this year's Richard Williams Memorial Scholarship recipients! YES Leadership Corps teens Sontaya Banyen, Elizabeth Garrity, Amal Jama, and Rafaela Ugarte-Nunez will be receiving scholarship awards. Scholarship ceremony date and time is TBD. Watch the YES Facebook page for an event announcement.

In addition to supporting high school students prepare for college, YES also supports young people who are currently pursuing degrees through our Alumni Student Support Initiative. In this program, Leadership Corps alumni who are current college students receive quarterly check-ins from YES staff and help navigating the challenges they encounter throughout their college experience. Ultimately, YES's goal is to help its graduates get accepted into and complete college by providing guidance, social-emotional support, and scholarships as well as to foster long-term engagement with our alumni.

Learn more at www.yeskids.org/college.



YES Board of Directors President, Geoff Soper, and YES Executive Director, Bryan Van Dorpe represented YES at the grant reception ceremony.

YES Receives "\$100K for 100" Grant from the Cummings Foundation

YES is one of 100 local nonprofits to receive grants of \$100,000 each through the Cummings Foundation's "\$100K for 100" program. YES was chosen from a total of 574 applicants during a competitive review process.

The Cummings Foundation grant will support YES's sports-based repeat engagement programs and high-impact teen leadership program. More than 800 Boston youth will benefit from these programs in 2019. "We are ecstatic that YES was chosen to receive a \$100k for 100 grant from the Cummings Foundation," said Bryan Van Dorpe, Executive Director. "The

grant funding will go a long way to provide our young people with new outdoor experiences as well as high-impact leadership development, college preparation, and career readiness programming."

Specific programs that the Cummings Foundation grant will help support at YES include Track & Field, Operation SnowSports (downhill and cross-country skiing), Outdoor Adventure (rock climbing, kayaking, biking, and more), and Leadership Corps (leadership development, college preparation, and career exploration).

The \$100K for 100 program supports nonprofits that are based in and primarily serve Suffolk, Middlesex, and Essex counties. Through this place-based initiative, Cummings Foundation aims to give back in the area where it owns commercial buildings, all of which are managed, at no cost to the Foundation, by its affiliate Cummings Properties. Founded in 1970 by Bill Cummings, the Woburn-based commercial real estate firm leases and manages 10 million square feet of space, the majority of which exclusively benefits the Foundation.

Outdoor Adventure Program: Springtime with YES!

This spring, YES partnered with four Boston schools to provide students with exciting, new experiences in the outdoors.

Youth from Dorchester's Martin Luther King, Jr. K-8 School experienced biking at Houghton's Pond in Milton. For many of the students, this was their first time biking on trails. By the end of the day, their confidence and abilities had soared!

Another one of YES's strategic school partners, Dorchester's Neighborhood House Charter School, invited their students to participate in a kayaking/canoeing activity at Ponkapoag Pond in Canton. It was an exciting and fun day on the water!

7th and 8th grade students from Roxbury's James P. Timilty Middle School had the opportunity to experience rock climbing. Youth enjoyed the challenge of this new activity and learned how to boulder and top rope.

Students from the Dr. William W. Henderson Inclusion School, one of YES's 2018-19 school year partners, also participated in the Outdoor Adventure program this spring. This is an inclusive school where students who have disabilities learn in general education classrooms with their nondisabled peers. Young people had the opportunity to go rock climbing with YES as well as hiking at the Blue Hills Reservation. Youth had an extra special day on the trails with a Mass Audubon hiking guide. Thank you to the [Killington World Cup Committee](#) (KWCC) for underwriting this exciting program for young people with disabilities. The KWCC fund also generously supported YES's Adaptive YETTI ski/snowboard program this winter.

Teens in the YES Leadership Corps program were also active outdoors this spring. They had the opportunity to hike Mt. Wachusett in New Hampshire. Teens completed the 2+ mile hike while learning about hiking maps, trails, direction, and teamwork.

YES strives to engage young people all seasons of the year. With spring now behind us, we are looking forward to a memorable summer on the trails and in the water!



9th Annual Black Diamond Gala Raises \$600,000 for YES!

Youth Enrichment Services (YES) held their 9th Annual Black Diamond Gala on Thursday, April 11 at the Renaissance Boston Waterfront Hotel. The event attracted more than 300 supporters and raised nearly \$600,000 for Boston youth. Funds will support YES's outdoor sports and leadership programs: Operation SnowSports, Outdoor Adventure, Leadership Corps, and College Preparation programs.

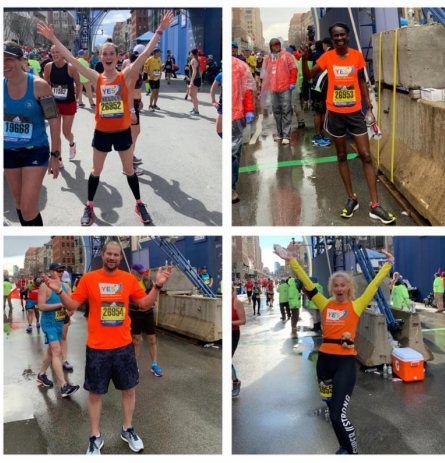
YES Board of Directors President, Geoff Soper, and YES Board of Directors member, Chris Peabody, were co-chairs of the event for the evening. Highlights of the YES Gala included Year-Up co-founder, Gerald Chertavian, speaking about the opportunity divide that exists for many young people today. He remarked that some youth have a "cornucopia of opportunity" while others are left with crumbs. Gerald and his wife, Kate, have dedicated over 25 years to creating opportunities for young people.

Guests also heard from YES Leadership Corps members, Ammal and Rafaela, who spoke about the positive impact that YES programs have had on their lives. 17-year-old Ammal told the crowd, "I truly would not be the person I am today if it weren't for YES." Long-time YES supporter and Trustee, Joe Hill, received the 2019 Achievement Award. Event emcee, Doug Lewis, and auctioneer, Glenn Ordway, kept the crowd entertained throughout the evening. We were also fortunate to have Olympic Gold Medalist, Jessie Diggins; Olympic athlete, Trisha Mangan; and US Ski Team athlete, Nina O'Brien attend the event.

Top sponsors of the 9th Annual Black Diamond Gala included Adage Capital Management, The Martin Richard Foundation, Phill & Liz Gross, Carolyn & Jason Soules, Biria & Elaina St. John, Abrams Management Company, Citi, Devonshire Recruiting, David & Mia Fitzgerald, Tom & Flora Karam, Brian Lash & Family, Mark & Wendi McKenna, Bob & Laura Reynolds, RBC Capital Markets, and Meg Reynolds & Skip McKee.

To view photos from the event, click [here](#).





Team YES Conquers the Boston Marathon!

Congratulations to YES's 2019 Boston Marathon runners: Kelsey Irwin, Geraldine Aine, Matt Chisholm, and Maren Tober. They have spent the past several months training and fundraising, and together raised over \$40,000 for Boston youth! These funds will provide young people with new experiences in the outdoors and meaningful leadership opportunities.

Interested in running the 2020 Boston Marathon? Email Bryan Van Dorpe at bvandorpe@yeskids.org for more information.

Make a contribution to support YES and help Boston youth gain new outdoor experiences and build self-confidence this summer!

**Donate
Now**



STAY CONNECTED



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