Bryan Van Dorpe

Greetings!,

2014 is shaping up to be our most exciting year yet! This winter and spring have been rewarding for all of us here at YES - especially our youth. From our YES Academy high school students embarking on a four-state college tour to YES getting national press on Good Morning America, it has been a banner year for us so far!

This winter marked another successful Operation Snowsports season for 886 youth. This season, we piloted a new initiative within Operation SnowSports called YETTI - Youth Excel Through Tailored Instruction. 26 youth participated in this new on-the-slopes program. YETTI youth skied four times with YES and were paired with the same volunteer throughout the winter. This new model fosters consistency in learning and deepens relationships between youth and their volunteer instructors.

On April 3rd, YES held its annual Black Diamond Gala fundraiser - our most successful event to date! Over 350 people attended and a record-breaking $300,000 was raised for our youth. Thank you to everyone who joined us and made the evening possible.

Looking ahead to summer, YES will open its doors to more than 600 youth in our Outdoor Adventure programs. Children and teens will have the opportunity to kayak, fish, rock climb, surf, mountain bike, and participate in track & field. More importantly, they will develop positive character, build self-confidence, and create meaningful friendships.

We cannot do this important work without you. Right now is a great time to get more involved with YES! Volunteer with youth in our Outdoor Adventure programs; make a fiscal year-end gift by June 30th to support our summertime activities; or join the fun on Thursday, June 5 for our 3rd Annual YES Harbor Cruise.

I look forward to working with you this spring and summer to make this the best year ever for YES! Thank you for your continued support.
YES IN THE NEWS
Youth Enrichment Services and its 4th Annual Black Diamond Gala was featured in Mass Nonprofit's weekly news on April 11th. Click here to read the article.

SPRING ANNUAL FUND
Please consider supporting Boston youth and YES's Spring Annual Fund. Over 600 youth will benefit from YES’s Outdoor Adventure, Girls Outdoor Adventure Leaders, and Teen Leadership programs this spring and summer. YES’s fiscal year ends on June 30.

Click here to make your contribution online. It is safe, secure, and easy! Monthly and quarterly giving options available. Thank you for your generosity!

$3,500 pays for 2 middle school girls to participate in Girls Outdoor Adventure Leaders program for the whole summer.

$1,000 pays for 7 children to explore the great outdoors and experience new activities - surfing, rock climbing, and more!

$500 pays for 2 children to participate in YES's Track & Field Program for an entire summer.

YES released a powerful new video at its 4th Annual Black Diamond Gala. Click below to watch the inspirational 3-minute video featuring YES youth and alums. After you watch it, leave a comment and tell us why you support YES!

Warmly,

Bryan Van Dorpe
Executive Director

YES Video Inspires Hundreds
YES released a powerful new video at its 4th Annual Black Diamond Gala. Click below to watch the inspirational 3-minute video featuring YES youth and alums. After you watch it, leave a comment and tell us why you support YES!

Partnership between Olympian Ted Ligety and YES Featured in Sports Illustrated Ad
YES is featured in the April 28th edition of Sports Illustrated magazine. Thank you to Putnam Investments for sponsoring the ad and providing incredible visibility to Olympian Ted Ligety's partnership with YES. If you are a Sports Illustrated print subscriber, check out the ad on page 55.
$250 pays for 1 YES teen to get a summer job and be employed as a Junior Track & Field Coach.

$140 pays for 1 child to experience a one-day Outdoor Adventure in the summer with YES.

$50 pays for 1 child to participate in YES's Track & Field Program for two weeks.

$25 pays for 1 child to participate in YES's Track & Field Program for one week.

**EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES**

**Track & Field Coordinator**
Part-time, year-round position. Open to ages 18 and older.
[Click here to read the job description.](#)

**Development & Communications Intern (2 Positions)**
Part-time, summer positions. Unpaid. Open to recent graduates and current college students.
[Click here to read the job description.](#)

Youth Enrichment Services (YES) hosted its 4th Annual Black Diamond Gala on Thursday April 3, 2014. Over 350 people attended the event in support of YES's mission to provide Boston's inner-city youth with year-round outdoor enrichment and leadership programs.

Candace Burns Johnson (L) and Phill Gross (R) 2014 Black Diamond Gala Co-Chairs with Betsy Strickland.
The event raised more than $300,000. Funds will directly support YES's outdoor sports and leadership programs. A highlight from the evening was an inspiring speech by 18-year-old Dorchester teen and YES teen leader, Washawn Castro. "YES taught me to think about what I want for myself and what's best for my character," Washawn told the crowd. "Because of YES, I know that I can do whatever I put my mind to." Washawn will graduate from high school in June and plans to attend UMass Amherst in September.

Click here to view photos from this year's Black Diamond Gala.

Thank You, Black Diamond Gala Sponsors!

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The 2014 Marathon Weekend was an inspirational time for YES. Youth from the YES Track & Field Team competed in the BAA Relay on Saturday, April 19. YES's "12 and Under Team" runners finished in first place competing against 20 other youth running clubs. Way to go, Team YES! For more photos from the BAA Relay Race, check out the Track and Field photo album on Facebook.
On Marathon Monday, Kristen Kenny and Frank Muller ran the 118th Boston Marathon for YES. Kristen and Frank raised over $15,000 altogether for Youth Enrichment Services. Both marathoners finished the race with a smile on their faces. While the 2014 Boston Marathon was Frank’s 64th Marathon, this was Kristen’s very first marathon! Congratulations to you both. You are role models for our youth, and have shown them that they too can achieve their goals through hard work and perseverance.

There is still time to make a gift to support Kristen and Frank. Click here to make an online contribution to Team YES.

YES is honored to receive Saucony’s inaugural Martin Richard Run for Good grant to support our youth running programs. The $10,000 grant was awarded to YES at the personal recommendation of the Richard family.

Since 2006, the Saucony Run For Good Foundation has awarded over $1 million dollars in grants to community organizations and schools dedicated to preventing childhood obesity through running and an active lifestyle. “At Saucony, our brand mission is to inspire others to run, and more than ever, that must include our kids. All of us here at Saucony hope that our help with this national effort continues to make a difference by getting more kids active,” said Richie Woodworth, president of Saucony and the Saucony Run For Good Foundation Board of Directors.

Saucony awarded YES the first half of the grant ($5,000) in early March. However, we needed your help to receive the remaining $5,000. YES fans and friends enthusiastically responded to our call to action and collectively logged an incredible 10,000 miles running and walking using the Run4Good app. Thank you so much for your support!
Thursday, June 5

Join YES for its 3rd Annual Harbor Cruise on Thursday, June 5 from 6:30-9:30 pm. Boarding begins at 6pm.

Enjoy the DJ and dancing as you and your friends cruise around the Boston Harbor at sunset. Raise a glass for your favorite charity and enjoy the summer in Boston on the water! (Please note that this event is 21+)

$25 Early Bird Tickets available through May 26. Regular price ($30) thereafter and at the dock. Click here to purchase Harbor Cruise tickets online.

Are you on Facebook? Click here to see who's going, join our online event page, and invite your Facebook friends!

Hosted by Youth Enrichment Services' Young Donors Committee.
This winter, 886 youth had the opportunity to ski and snowboard in the Operation SnowSports program. Thank you to the 92 adult volunteers who gave their time and talents to teach and support YES youth! Throughout the season, 1 out of 3 children and teens participated three or more times. Repeat participation directly correlates with youth increasing their self-confidence, building stronger relationships with volunteers, and improving their skills on the snow.

Check out the Facebook photo album to see pictures from our awesome season on the slopes! If you or your child has pictures of their time with YES this winter, submit the photos to us and we will add them to the album.
YES high school students traveled to 4 states on their New England College Tour with YES during April 2014 school vacation week.

During the 2013-2014 school year, YES piloted its new College Preparation Program. Over the course of the year, more than 40 youth received personalized college counseling. The College Prep program will help support high school students in our YES Academy programs navigate the college application, decision and admission process.

During April school vacation week, 13 high school students participated in a New England College Tour with YES. 15-year-old Jason says, "Before the tour I really didn't want to go to college. But once I went on it, I learned more and now I am definitely interested in going to college!"

The teens visited seven schools: Union College, Sienna College, Worcester State University, Bennington College, Clark University, Williams College, and Wesleyan University.

This June, 100% of high school seniors in YES Academy program will graduate high school and plan to enroll in college. YES will continue offering the College Prep program in the 2014-2015 school year with support from the Mass Promise Fellowship Program.

YES Welcomes New Leadership

YES is pleased to introduce several new individuals to its Board of Directors and Board of Trustees. We are honored to welcome these talented individuals to our leadership board. We thank them for their time and service in helping us move forward in our mission and serve inner-city Boston youth.

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