

# **Spring News** From the Executive Director

Dear (Contact First Name),

Spring is in the air and YES kids are looking forward to spending their summer in the outdoors! We continue to expand the Outdoor Adventure program to give our youth more opportunities to explore the outdoors and build their self-confidence. This summer, youth will get the chance to experience stand-up paddleboarding, surfing, fishing, kayaking, sailing, and more. If you are considering signing your child up for YES's Outdoor Adventure Program or Track & Field this summer, you can click here to learn more.

This was an incredible winter for YES youth on the slopes. 825 young people got the opportunity to ski and snowboard in our Operation SnowSports. We also rolled out a pilot afterschool program for Mattapan youth at Blue Hills Ski Area which served 25 children. Also new this winter was a partnership with the Weston Ski Track. Through this collaboration, 14 YES youth had the opportunity to experience cross country skiing for the first time! We also celebrated the 13th Annual Mass Snow Challenge at Wachusett Mountain in

March. As always, it was a fun day skiing, racing, and games!



Executive Director, Bryan Van Dorpe

April was an exciting month at YES. On April 2, a record-breaking \$500,000 was raised at the 5th Annual YES Black Diamond Gala. See the event photos here. More recently, 14 YES teens the opportunity to visit seven universities on our April Vacation College Tour, including overnight stays on campus at Haverford College and Bryn Mawr. Check out their road trip photos here!

Lastly, I would like to thank our Team YES Marathon runners, Kelly Fitzpatrick and Jamie Lunny, who collectively raised more than \$20,000 to support our youth programs and completing an incredible feat - running 26.2 miles for our kids. Their marathon journey was truly an inspiration for Boston youth - showing them that they can achieve whatever they set their minds to. Read more about their accomplishments below.

Thank you for making this winter so memorable and meaningful. I look forward to seeing you this summer!

Sincerely, Bryan Van Dorpe **Executive Director** 







The Boston Globe

#### Upcoming Events

What's on the calendar for this spring and summer? Stay up to date about orientations, after-work social events, and more with our event listings!

Click <u>here</u> to see upcoming events on the YES homepage.

### Volunteer & Intern Opportunities

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

<u>Learn more</u> about volunteer opportunities.

<u>Learn more</u> about internship and career opportunities.

#### YES in the News

YES's Track & Field Team participated in the BAA Relay on April 18, 2015. The Boston Globe highlighted YES youth's participation, including our 12 Year and Under runners finishing in 2nd Place. Read the full article here!

YES youth, Jordan, was featured in the Brookline Tab for his inspiring speech at the YES Black Diamond Gala. Read the full article here!

# Celebrate Cinco de Mayo with YES

Join YES for a Cinco de Mayo celebration **TONIGHT** 

#### Tuesday May 5th

at the Wild Rover Tavern in Fanueil Hall from 6:30 - 9:30 pm (Please note the event is 21+)

\$20 online tickets include:
Free appetizers, a DJ, a photo-booth and drink specials
(\$2 drafts & \$5 margaritas!)
\$25 tickets will be available at the door.

Are you on Facebook? Click <u>here</u> to see who's going! Event is hosted by the YES Young Donors Committee.





Fishing, Sailing, Paddleboarding, and More this Summer at YES!

Do you have fond memories of summers by the sea and long days of fishing, paddleboarding and sailing? This summer, YES is excited to offer this same opportunity to urban youth through a new paddleboarding program and Harbor Explorers program. These new programs will be offered as part of Outdoor Adventure thanks to partners Save the Harbor, Save the Bay and Piers Park.

Learn more about how your youth can sail, paddleboard and more at a low-cost this summer!

CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE>>



#### 26.2 Miles for YES Kids

Earlier this year, Kelly Fitzpatrick and Jaime Lunny made the inspiring choice to run their very first marathon. They chose to run for YES so they could give back to the community and give YES youth the opportunity to gain confidence and leadership skills through outdoor and enrichment programming.

For both Kelly and Jaime, training and running the Boston Marathon was one of the biggest challenges of their lives.

CLICK HERE TO READ MORE ABOUT HOW THEY COMPLETED THEIR FIRST MARATHON>>



YES Marathoner, Kelly Fitzpatrick, gets a hug from her daughter at Heartbreak Hill.

# Record Fun - and Fundraising - at the 5th Annual Black Diamond Gala!

YES hosted its 5th Annual Black Diamond Gala on April 2, 2015. Nearly 500 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.

The event raised more than \$500,000 - a record amount! Funds will directly support YES's outdoor sports and leadership programs.

YES teens, Jordan and Stephany, spoke at the Black Diamond Gala

CLICK HERE TO VIEW EVENT PHOTO\$>>

READ MORE ABOUT ACHIEVEMENT AWARD WINNER
JIM WALL, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES AT PATS PEAK>>

Don't Forget Mom on May 10th!

As you shop for Mother's Day this year, don't forget that your Amazon purchases can benefit Youth Enrichment Services! Thanks to our charity partnership with AmazonSmile, a portion of all your purchases of eligible items come straight to our organization to provide low-cost enrichment and outdoor programming to youth.



Sign up for Amazon Smile in two easy steps:

- 1. Visit <a href="http://smile.amazon.com/about">http://smile.amazon.com/about</a> to log-in
- 2. In the "Supporting" option in the top left, click & search for "Youth Enrichment Services"

CLICK HERE TO START SHOPPING AND SUPPORT YES >>

## 2nd Annual YES Day at Nashoba Valley

Youth Enrichment Services held its 2nd Annual YES Day at Nashoba Valley on Sunday, March 1st.

With generosity from Nashoba Valley and support from the Doug Coombs Foundation, YES awards the Doug Coombs Exploration award to a teen who is a positive role model and is passionate about the outdoors. This year's award winner was Jonathan V, a YES Junior Volunteer whose life has been positively influenced by his involvement at YES. After accepting the award, Jonathan told the crowd, "Snowboarding is the sport that has pushed me to continuously better myself and to try new things."



Doug Coombs Exploration award winner, 16-year-old Jonathan, with YES Academy Director, Shiona DeCarvalho.

CLICK HERE TO READ MORE ABOUT JONATHAN >>

## A YES Tradition: Mass Snow Challenge

YES hosted the 13th Annual Mass Snow Challenge on March 21st. This event is an annual community day with skiing and snowboarding, racing, awards, and fun family games. Fundraising at the event supports YES's Operation SnowSports youth programs. This year's Mass Snow Challenge raised more than \$6,000 for our youth.

A special thank you to our friends at BEWI Sports and Wachusett Mountain for continuing to inspire us every winter at the Mass Snow Challenge and helping it grow into a YES tradition. Thank you especially to Bernie Weichsel for all he does for YES kids!

CLICK HERE TO VIEW EVENT PHOTOS>>



Champion fundraiser, Ashley Thompson, with YES Outreach Coordinator, Ethan George.

YES's fiscal year ends on June 30. Click to make a gift to



Stay Connected **f in** 







412 Mass Ave Boston, MA 617-267-5877 Ext. 17