



Youth Enrichment Services

June 2021 Newsletter

Upcoming Events & Important Dates

Wednesday, June 9 [YES Day of Giving](#) (Virtual) Join YES for the second Annual Day of Giving. Your gift will help sustain YES programs and give Boston young people opportunities to experience the outdoors this summer! Donate online at www.yeskids.org/donate

Monday, June 14 [Summer Track and Field](#) (Moakley Park - South Boston, MA) Summer Track & Field kicks off! Youth ages 6-13 will be introduced to the basics of track & field in weekly practices.

Tuesday, June 15 [Summer Track and Field](#) (English High - Jamaica Plain, MA) Summer Track & Field kicks off! Youth ages 6-13 will be introduced to the basics of track & field in weekly practices.

Monday, June 21 - Friday, June 25 [Virtual Workout Challenge Fundraiser](#) (Virtual) Join the YES Young Professionals Committee for a fun week of fitness to benefit your favorite charity! Certified personal trainers from New Human will lead you on an exercise challenge each day. Family-friendly and open to all ages and abilities! 100% of event proceeds will benefit YES youth programs. \$15 registration fee; free registration for youth. Watch your inbox for more info coming soon!

Thursday, July 1 [Summer Leadership Corps](#) (Boston, MA) Deadline to apply for YES's Summer Leadership Corps program. Open to Boston teens (ages 13-14) who are interested in experiencing the outdoors and developing their leadership potential. This is a four week program (July 12 - August 5) that features kayaking, rock climbing, hiking, biking, college tours, volunteer service days, and leadership skill development! Click [here](#) to apply!

Tentative - Thursday, August 12 [Martin Richard Memorial Mile](#) (Moakley Park - South Boston, MA) Save the date!

Sunday, September 12 [Boston Waterfront 5K](#) (MassPort Black Falcon Cruise Terminal - Boston, MA) Save the date!

Wednesdays, November 3 [11th Annual Black Diamond Gala](#) (Renaissance Boston Waterfront Hotel) Save the date!

YES's fiscal year ends on June 30. Make a contribution to support YES and inspire young people through outdoor experiences this summer!

DONATE



Congratulations 2021 Richard Williams Memorial Scholarship Recipients

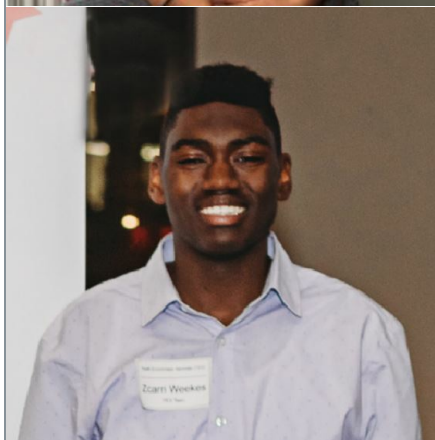
The Richard Williams Memorial Scholarship was established in 2006 in memory of Richard Williams, who founded YES in 1968. While he did not achieve more than an 8th grade education, Richard realized that education was the key to unlocking dreams. The Richard Williams Memorial Scholarship continues Richard's legacy by giving Boston teens the financial support to pursue a post-secondary education. We are proud to announce the 2021 Richard Williams Memorial Scholarship recipients below.



Maliwan Banyen

Clark University (Worcester, MA)

Roslindale teen Maliwan became a YES youth at the age of seven when she started participating in Operation Snowsports with her older sister. She joined YES in 2013 for the early Leadership Corps program (Junior Volunteers at the time). Ever since, she has been a part of the Leadership Corps program, volunteering in the Operation Snowsports through YETTI and shop nights. She has also been a summer teen staff with Outdoor Adventure camp for three years. Through her time at YES, Mali has found an inclusive space where she can share her experiences and learn from others. She has built her confidence as a leader and prepared for college and beyond. Outside of YES, Mali is on the Diabetes Teen Advisory Committee at the Children's Hospital, the Teen Advisory Council at Boston Latin School, and is a member of the Varsity Soccer Team and Valeo FC club. Mali is attending Clark University with plans to focus on pre-med track and plans continue to play soccer. She hopes to one day work in the medical field.



Zcarri Weekes

University of Massachusetts Dartmouth (Dartmouth, MA)

Dorchester teen Zcarri joined YES in 2015 as a Junior Volunteer. Ever since, he has been a part of the Leadership Corps program, volunteering in the Operation Snowsports through YETTI and shop nights. He was a speaker at the 2020 Virtual YES Annual Celebration where he told his story and shared his experience with Leadership Corps. Throughout his time at YES, Zcarri has built his confidence and adaptability as a leader in workshops and on volunteer trips. He has been instrumental in helping train other volunteers as well. Outside of YES, Zcarri is a part of the Rise Program at Camp Harbor View, a volunteer at the Animal Rescue League, and an active member of his school community at O'Bryant School of Mathematics and Science. Zcarri is attending UMass Dartmouth with plans to focus on Animal Science. He hopes to become a veterinarian.

A Mother's Day Gift to Future Scholars at YES

Marie King, mother of YES founder Richard Williams, outlived her son and passed away in 2018 at the age of 97. She loved people and was the beloved matriarch of her Harlem community. Richard was her only child and when he left NYC and moved to Boston to start Youth Enrichment Services, she supported him all the way.

In April 2021, Mrs. King's estate endowed \$150,000 to the Richard Williams Memorial Scholarship Fund at Youth Enrichment Services. Since 2006, 41 scholars have received over \$260,000 in scholarship funds. This Mother's Day gift will increase the number of grants to scholars in the future.

The gift was announced by Mark Williams, Marie's grandson and a member of the board at Youth Enrichment Services. "The Richard Williams Memorial Scholarship was established to provide a brighter future to under-resourced youth who believe in themselves and want to achieve in education and community service."

Each spring, a committee comprised of YES board members, community folks and YES alumni select several high school seniors who need financial assistance and complete the requirements. The seniors have attended the YES Academy, which has three high-impact programs: Leadership Corps, Career Exploration, and College Preparation.



A Successful Spring Outdoors with YES!

Spring has sprung at YES – and it's been a great season so far! Boston youth, teens, and families are getting fun and meaningful opportunities to get outdoors and experience new adventures! Over 100 young people will be active, gain new skills, and build self-confidence with YES this spring!

YES's Spring Track & Field program expanded to two nights per week at Moakley Park in South Boston. The program boasts enrollment of more than 100 youth. Youth living in the lowest-income households received the opportunity to participate on both days. Also new this season is an advanced Track initiative with long-time YES volunteer coach, Mike Grasela. This exciting pilot is designed for older youth (11-13 years old) who demonstrate grit, commitment to the sport, and a desire to take their running to the next level.

Last year, YES piloted a drop-in biking initiative as a part of our Outdoor Adventure program to increase opportunities for youth living in housing developments to be physically active and reduce barriers for their participation. With young people spending less time outside and more time indoors throughout the COVID pandemic, YES expanded its partnership this spring with the Mildred C. Hailey and Academy Homes. YES staff and volunteers are on-site at the developments every week with bikes and helmets, building trust with young people and their families, leading bike rides through the Southwest Corridor Park, and providing safe opportunities for youth to get outside.



YES is also continuing its family program – another new initiative in response to the pandemic - as part of our Outdoor Adventure program. This spring, YES families are getting opportunities to spend time together while getting active! Recreational activities include rock climbing, kayaking/paddling, hiking, and biking.

This spring – and throughout the year - YES strives to make a difference and give outdoor opportunities to youth who need us the most. Thank you to everyone who helped make this spring a successful and safe outdoor season!

Meet the 2021 Team YES Boston Marathon Runners

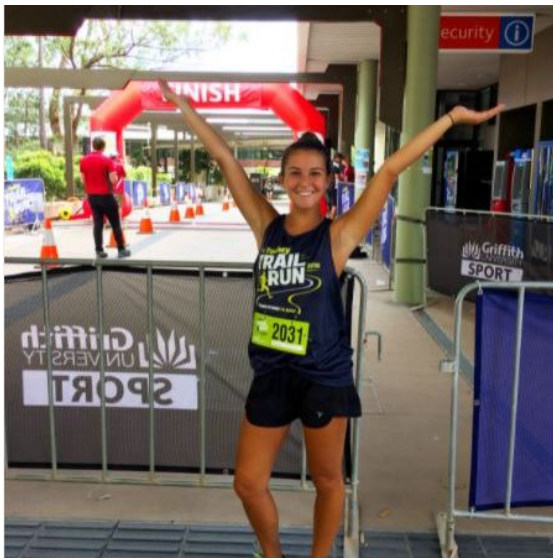
Youth Enrichment Services (YES) received four bibs this year through the John Hancock Non-Profit Boston Marathon Program. We are thrilled to introduce four runners to Team YES: Rami Benayad-Cherif, Morgan Davin, Autumn Edelson, and Harrison Paek. While they come from diverse backgrounds, they have all been impacted by YES in some way. [Click here to learn more about them!](#)



Rami Benayad-Cherif



Morgan Davin



Autumn Edelson



Harrison Paek

Virtual Workout Challenge

June 21 - 25



5 days of exercise challenges
to raise money for YES!

Sign up at
yeskids.org/workoutchallenge

YES Featured in Alps & Meters Video

This winter, [Alps and Meters](#) and the [Share Winter Foundation](#) spent a day on Wachusett Mountain with YES. For the past seven years, Share Winter has supported YES with a grant for their Youth Excel Through Tailored Instruction (YETTI) and Cross-Country Ski programs.

These organizations had the chance to come together and share laughs, swap stories, and ride together on the slopes. Alps & Meters had the opportunity to highlight the work that YES and Share Winter are doing to make skiing a more diverse and inclusive sport.

Watch the video below!

