



## Youth Enrichment Services Newsletter December 2012

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Dear Youth Enrichment Services,

At this special time of year, we are so thankful for the support you give to YES all year long. **Whether you are a volunteer, donor, program partner, or parent, you are making an incredible difference in the lives of urban youth.**

### Events

#### **December 10, 2012**

YES Annual Meeting  
6-8pm

[Click for details.](#)

#### **December 11, 2012**

YES Rental Shop  
Opens!

#### **December 12, 2012**

YES Alumni Focus  
Group

[Email to learn more.](#)

#### **January 21, 2013**

MLK Diversity Day at  
Pats Peak (NH)

#### **February 23, 2013**

5th Annual Sisters on  
the Slopes

[Email to learn more.](#)

#### **March 16, 2013**

Save the Date for  
YES's Mass Snow  
Challenge!

#### **March 26, 2013**

5th Annual Professional  
Career Day

#### **April 4, 2013**

3rd Annual YES Gala

### Quick Links

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Thanks in no small measure to caring people like you, YES reached over 800 youth last winter -- and we are ready to do it again this year! Children and teens from every neighborhood across Boston will get the opportunity to experience skiing and snowboarding - many for the first time. Over 40 percent of our youth last year participated in three or more snowsports activities throughout the winter season. This gives them the opportunity to increase their self-confidence on the slopes and deepen their connection with our positive adult role models. Over 95 teens took part in our [high-impact leadership development programs](#) last year as Junior Volunteers, Girls Outdoor Adventure Leaders, and Career Explorers.

YES's strategic vision sets the goal of reaching 40% more youth in our high impact leadership programs by 2015. But we will [need your help](#) to get there. You can learn more about YES's achievements over the past year and our vision for the future at our [upcoming Annual Meeting](#) on Monday, December 10th. I hope to see you there.

**Thank you again for your loyal support of YES.** We couldn't do it without you!

Wishing you and your family a happy and healthy holiday season,

Bryan Van Dorpe  
Executive Director



### Junior Volunteers Take On New Leadership

**New United Advisory Council (UAC) encourages teens to impact organizational change at YES.**



At the heart of YES is our desire to empower youth and give them a voice - whether it is on the mountains, in the classroom, or in their community. Three months ago, a new initiative was established at YES to give our youth a greater voice as stakeholders within the organization. The group calls themselves the United Advisory Council (UAC) and it is currently comprised of 8 teen leaders from

**Follow us on Twitter!** the YES Junior Volunteer Program.

@YESKidsBoston



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The goal of the UAC is to give youth a forum to influence the curriculum of the Junior Volunteer Program and improve the efficiency of Operation SnowSports activities. One of the first goals of the UAC was to write their mission statement. In their own words, the goal of the UAC is to "assess both the positive features and challenges the YES community faces to encourage positive reflection and change in the YES Kids, their families, and the YES community at large."

The eight young people on the council currently are committed to making a difference at YES. "I really wanted the chance to assume a leadership position at YES. It sounded like a really great opportunity," says 17-year-old Brian P. "I'm really excited to see [the UAC's work] result in an overall better and more effectively enriching experience for all those involved at YES."

The UAC meets every other week on Friday afternoons. They discuss a variety of issues related to the planning, execution, and evaluation of the Junior Volunteer and Operation SnowSports programs. For example, the UAC recently undertook discussions related to improving the youth and family orientation process; assessing how to better evaluate the ski/snowboard level of youth; and establishing guidelines for playing music in the rental shop.

The UAC also makes time to plan to fun, social activities, too. The group's recent Thanksgiving potluck celebration (creatively dubbed "ThanksJRVing") was a success with a variety of ethnic foods and treats!

The UAC has a full agenda for the winter season ahead and hopes to be a positive influence across the organization for future YES youth. "This year we might not be able to accomplish the things we are pursuing," acknowledges 16-year-old UAC member, Alex. "But I believe that if the motivation and the effort are put forward, the UAC will be boosted for the future to create more change."



United Advisory Council (UAC) 2012-2013 Members (L to R): Polly, Washawn, Tyla, Zoe and Alex.



YES is deeply grateful to the generous donors who make our work with Boston's youth possible. Whether you are an individual donor, a corporation, a foundation, or an in-kind supporter, your support gives Boston's youth opportunities to experience the outdoors, build confidence, and become young leaders!

[Click here to view our donor list!](#)

**Don't forget to make your year-end gift to YES  
before December 31st!**

[DONATE NOW](#)

## Hosting a Party This Holiday Season?

### Support YES For the Holidays

Ask your guests to support your favorite charity in lieu of bringing a host present! Every dollar helps meet our goal of getting more kids to the slopes this winter. **Contact the YES Development Office** for more information and donation materials. Thank you and happy holidays!



## Are You a YES Kid Alum?

### Join the YES Alumni Circle and Reconnect with Friends

There are two ways to reconnect with YES and get involved with the new Alumni Circle!

1) Submit your email and years that you participated in YES to [Allie Tripp](#). We will add your name to the Alumni Circle mailing list and keep you in the loop about upcoming opportunities to get involved!

2) Join YES for an Alumni Circle Focus Group *this Wednesday, December 12* from 6-8pm! [Email Allie for more information.](#)



## Foundation & Corporate Partners Support YES Youth Programs

### BOSTON BRUINS FOUNDATION



Boston Bruins Foundation Director, Bob Sweeney (center - last row) smiles with our teen Junior Volunteers during a recent visit to the YES office. The foundation awarded a \$5,000 grant to support the Junior Volunteer (JRV) Program. During the visit, staff from the Bruins Foundation participated in a fun icebreaker with the teens. Mr. Sweeney concluded the visit with a short speech to the teens. He applauded their role as young leaders and praised the JRVs for "paying it forward" teaching other youth on the slopes.

### MT. WASHINGTON BANK



YES Executive Director, Bryan Van Dorpe (L) is shown above accepting a \$500 donation check from Mt. Washington Bank CEO, Ed Merritt. YES recently won 3rd Place in the "Non-Profit Challenge" as part of the Mt. Washington Bank 5k Road Race on October 21st.

## BOSTON SKI & SPORTS CLUB



On December 4th, YES received a \$2,190 donation from the Boston Ski and Sports Club (BSSC). Pictured above is YES Marketing & Communications Coordinator, Allie Tripp (R), accepting the gift from BSSC Sales & Marketing Manager, Catarina Maia. BSSC donated a portion of their 2012 Membership Dues to support YES's Operation SnowSports and Outdoor Adventure programs. Read more about BSSC's charitable activities [here](#).



**YES is now on Twitter!**  
 @YesKidsBoston  
 Follow us to get the latest info on YES programs, find out about volunteer opportunities, and see pictures of our awesome #yeskids!

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