

Men & Boys Fund announces grants to four local nonprofits, including Boys & Girls Club of Bristol

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@brianjohnsonBP

BRISTOL – The Men & Boys Fund at the Main Street Community Foundation has announced a total of \$7,500 in grants to four local nonprofits - The Boys & Girls Club of Bristol, Bristol Youth and Community Services, Plainville Adult and Continuing Education and The Children's Law Center.



The logo for the Men & Boys Fund at the Main Street Community Foundation. -The Main Street Community Foundation

Samantha Rajotte, scholarship an program officer at the Main Street Community Foundation, said the grants will support the organizations' efforts to improve the lives of local men and boys.

"All grants will impact the residents of Bristol, Burlington, Plainville, Plymouth, Southington and Wolcott," she said.

A \$1,500 grant to the Boys & Girls Club of Bristol will support the "Passport to Manhood" program, which is intended to help boys age 8 to 17 reinforce character, leadership and positive behavior.

A \$2,000 grant to Bristol Youth and Community Services will support the "Skills to Pay the Bills, Men's Edition" program, which is a life skills program targeted toward high school aged young men.

Plainville Adult and Continuing Education received a \$2,000 grant to bolster the "Boot Camp for New Dads" program, which is a community-based workshop that supports the transition to fatherhood.

The Children's Law Center will also receive a \$2,000 grant to support legal representation for male children in family court from the communities of Bristol, Burlington, Plainville, Plymouth, Southington and Wolcott.

Richard Carmelich, chair of the Men & Boys Fund's advisory board, said the fund has supported the Children's Law Center and the two Bristol in the past and that all have "had a great impact."

"The Plainville Adult and Continuing Education program, Boot Camp for New Dads, is a national program that is being brought to Plainville, and it will be the first in the state," he added.

Established in 2016, the Men & Boys Fund's mission is to help men and boys improve the quality of their lives, increase self-sufficiency and make a positive difference in their communities. The fund has awarded \$30,000 in grants since its inception to support this mission. In addition, the Men & Boys Immediate Response Fund can provide grants of up to \$250 to help men and boys in need of immediate assistance due to unexpected financial hardship.

"The generosity and enthusiasm of the six communities we serve makes what we do possible," said Susan Sadecki, president and CEO of the Community Foundation. "It takes many donors and volunteers to deliver on the mission."

For more information about the Men & Boys' Fund, visit mainstreetfoundation.org/men-boys-fund.

Brian M. Johnson can be reached at 860-973-1806 or bjohnson@bristolpress.com.