



Men & Boys Fund awards grants to six area nonprofits

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BRISTOL – The Main Street Community Foundation has announced that the Men & Boys Fund has awarded grants to six area nonprofits including the Boys & Girls Club in Bristol and the YWCA in New Britain.



Past Men & Boys Fund recipients. -FILE PHOTO

Samantha Rajotte, scholarship & program officer at the Main Street Community Foundation, said that the Men & Boys Fund has awarded a record \$11,000 in grants. The recipients, she said, all work to improve the lives of local men and boys in Bristol, Burlington, Plainville, Plymouth, Southington and Wolcott.

"In 2016, Main Street Community Foundation established the Men & Boys' Fund, a community-based endowment that has since awarded \$41,200 in grants to benefit men and boys in Bristol, Burlington, Plainville, Plymouth, Southington, and Wolcott," said Rajotte. "The Men & Boys' Fund has become a resource for many organizations, as well as a leader in the community, helping to improve the quality of men and boys' lives, increase their self-sufficiency, and assist them in making positive changes in their communities."

The following grants are awarded:

- . Boys & Girls Club of Bristol has received \$1,000 for its Passport to Manhood program, which reinforces character, leadership and positive behavior in boys ages 8 to 17.

- . Bristol Family Resource Centers have received \$1,700 for an expansion of the WatchDOGS (Dads of Great Students) program, which will allow them to offer a series of 10 workshops to educate and increase fatherhood engagement.

- . Kelly's Kids has been granted \$2,000 to support a Wolcott Youth Services Bureau program providing activities for boys to increase confidence, self-esteem, social skills and

positive development.

. The Bridge Family Center was granted \$1,300 to support recreational activities to promote bonding for boys residing in Hastings House, a Short-Term Assessment and Respite (STAR) home in Wolcott.

. The Children's Law Center has been awarded \$2,000 for legal representation of male children in family court from the communities of Bristol, Burlington, Plainville, Plymouth, Southington and Wolcott.

. YWCA of New Britain has been given \$3,000 to support Men and Boys Advocacy through the Sexual Assault Crisis Service, which provides free and confidential services to survivors of sexual violence and their loved ones in Bristol, Burlington, Plainville, Plymouth and Southington.

For more information, call the Main Street Community Foundation at 860-583-6363 or visit mainstreetfoundation.org.

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