

# Main Street awards \$15k to men & boys programs

**BRIAN M. JOHNSON**  
@BRIANJOHNSONBP

BRISTOL –The Men & Boys Fund at the Main Street Community Foundation has awarded \$15,000 in grants to seven area nonprofits for programs “working to improve the lives of local men and boys.”

Samantha Rajotte, scholarship and program officer with the Main Street

Community Foundation, said that all grants will impact residents in Bristol, Burlington, Plainville, Plymouth, Southington and Wolcott.

“Many of the needs of men and boys, especially their social and emotional needs, are often overlooked,” Rajotte said. “MSCF’s Men & Boys’ Fund is dedicated to meeting those needs in the local communities. From

promoting healthy, outdoor activities for youth, to offering parenting support for dads, the Men & Boys’ Fund is always looking for ways to support the social, emotional, and educational needs of men and boys.”

The grants awarded are:

- Bristol Family Resource Centers – \$3,000 to expand the WatchDOGS

**See MEN ON PAGE 4**



FILE

**Susan Sadecki, president of Main Street Community Foundation**

# Men & Boys Fund has awarded \$78k in grants

**Continued from Page 1**

(Dads of Great Students) program now in year two at Greene-Hills School, South Side School and West Bristol School – providing a series of workshops on parenting education and opportunities to increase fatherhood engagement.

- Bristol Public Schools, West Bristol School – \$1,500 for the Wolf’s Den after-school program at West Bristol School for young male students to promote social-emotional growth, confidence and leadership.
- Bristol Youth Lacrosse – \$1,000 for equipment support for the boy’s lacrosse program for young athletes.
- Environmental Learning Centers of Connecticut – \$1,500 for programs giving boys an opportunity to experience nature and environmental awareness through “camperships.”
- Outside Perspectives – \$5,000 for the Youth Excellence Project (YEP) providing at-risk male teenagers with adult mentorship in outdoor

spaces to promote health and build resiliency to the challenges in life.

- Shepard Meadows Equestrian Center – \$1,500 for the Equine-Assisted Learning (EAL) Youth Development Program in collaboration with the Boys & Girls Club of Bristol, in which participants work with therapy horses to better understand and integrate non-verbal communication skills, self-awareness, teamwork skills, and more.
- The Bridge Family Center, Inc. – \$1,500 for therapeutic recreational activities for the Specialized Trauma-Informed Treatment Assessment Reunification (STTAR) Program for boys in Wolcott’s Hastings House.

Rajotte said since the Men & Boys Fund’s establishment more than \$78,000 in grants have been awarded to local nonprofit organizations with “the same vision of improving the quality of men and boys’ lives, increasing their self-sufficiency, and assisting them in making positive changes in their communities.”