



# CROSSROADS FAMILY UPDATES

## *The Change is Happening*

March 2017

### UPCOMING EVENTS

- Mar. 25** – 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Emerging Leaders Cornhole Tournament of Champions
- May 6** – Duxbury Tag Sale
- April 30** – Class of 2017 Crossroads C5 Leaders Graduation
- May 2** – 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Crossroads Urban Campfire
- June 10** – Cape Cod Canal Cruise Fundraiser

*Learn more at [crossroadsMA.org](http://crossroadsMA.org)*

### THANK YOU

Thanks to generous supporters like you, 2016 was an amazing year for Crossroads. Through various events, corporate and foundation grants and individual/personal gifts, we were able to raise more than \$2.2 million in support of our mission of empowering youth to unlock their potential and positively impact the world.

Thank you so much not only for believing in our mission, but in our amazing young people as well! Thanks to you, they had an incredible year filled with exploration, planning for their future and giving back to their community. As a valued member of the Crossroads Family, we appreciate that you've gone above and beyond to help us envision and achieve a Crossroads that serves our youth and provides proof that when you change a life, you change everything. We hope that you are proud of all that we were able to achieve in 2016, thanks to your support.



#### Crossroads Junior Leaders Focus on Community Service

Community service is a huge part of who we are at Crossroads. We teach our young people that it is their responsibility as engaged citizens to give back to their communities.

Our C5 Leaders perform at least 250 hours of community service throughout the five years they spend in the program. As many of our Junior Leaders (youth grades 3-7 who participate in school-year programming) will go on to become C5 Leaders, we support their transition to more active civic engagement by teaching the importance of community service. Recently, Junior Leaders spent time at the Hale House in Boston. They played bingo and Family Feud with the residents. They learned that one of the greatest gifts they can give is that of their time. They look forward to returning!

Our C5 Leaders perform at least 250 hours of community service



#### Celebrating the 2016 C5 Leader Class

Serving students in grades 8-12, the nomination-only Crossroads C5 Leaders Program is a five-year summer and school-year program that helps teen Leaders define their leadership style and expand their academic, career and civic horizons.

While it is bittersweet to watch our young people move on, we are proud of each and every one of them, and know their futures are bright. It was an honor to have Massachusetts First Lady Lauren Baker deliver their commencement address in May 2016, showing them that the inspirational work they do does not go unnoticed.

As a class, this group performed over 4,300 hours of community service in 2016 alone, and Mrs. Baker awarded 17 graduates with the President's Volunteer Service Award which recognizes United States citizens who have performed over 100 hours of service in a 12-month period.

"The graduates of the Crossroads C5 Leaders program have been persistent and inspiring in taking on the challenges facing them," said Mrs. Baker. "In spite of some significant obstacles, these young people have put tremendous effort into focusing on their education while being committed to giving back to their communities and representing the best of the Commonwealth."

Each has spent a portion of their senior year focused on their Medallion projects, a personal community service project designed and implemented by them to impact the community. In addition, over April Vacation 35 of these teens embarked on a week-long community service road trip to Baltimore that they planned alongside Crossroads staff. It was the largest group ever to attend the yearly trip.

We are so thankful to Mrs. Baker for her work with not just our young people, but the young people of Massachusetts. We are thrilled to share that she will be the Guest of Honor at the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Crossroads Urban Campfire (May 2, 2017), and will be receiving the Crossroads Change Everything Award for her dedication to youth.



change a life.  
change everything.

# MEET MICHAEL KIERNAN

## Camp Wing Counselor and Crossroads Fellow

We have been lucky to have Michael work with us for five summers at our Camp Wing site in Duxbury. During that time, he's learned so much about the young people, and also himself.

Michael spent four summers working in the Junior Boys Village and one summer as the Office Manager. His time as a counselor in the Junior Boys Village was impactful and unforgettable.

Expecting a typical summer camp experience, Michael was blown away by how much more it was. "I fell in love with the place and the work that Crossroads does. I remember leaving from my first summer and emailing the camp director to say I couldn't wait to come back. I was literally counting down the days until I could come back," said Michael.

Working with the young people, you have to be willing to be goofy and make a fool of yourself. But, "one of the things you learn quickly working with young children is patience."

Camp taught Michael a lot about understanding – understanding children, their backgrounds and where they come from. He also learned a lot about professional relationships and how to work with other people. Working at camp, you live with your co-workers and quickly learn how to work as a team.

Spending so much time with Crossroads, Michael has been able to watch his campers grow. "It's great to see them grow up and become more mature and become their own person." Their love for Crossroads inspires Michael. Many of the young people from his first summer have matriculated into the C5 Leaders program, and many more are excited about the prospect.

Michael is currently working with the full-time staff as the Leadership Development Fellow, and is learning more about the ins and outs of Crossroads. We are thrilled with the work he's done with us, and are so excited to see where his journey takes him.



"I look up to Demetri. He's being a role model even when he's not leading events. He puts a lot of emphasis on respect for each other."

## MASS MENTORING MENTORSHIP EXPLORATION

Mass Mentoring assesses programmatic needs and organizational capacity, as well as provides customized strategies that empower youth, families and communities across Massachusetts. They work with over 250 organizations, supporting 33,000 young people.

Recently, in partnership with University of Massachusetts Donahue Institute, they conducted a study exploring the effects of formal and informal mentoring on under-resourced young people. Crossroads was honored to be part of the study.

Specifically, they looked at the relationships Leadership Development Coordinator Demetri Curry has built. Two young people spoke about their relationships with Demetri, and learned that his mentorship has helped foster and promote other relationships in these teens' lives, including peer relationships, relationships with younger youth, relationships with the C5 Leaders program and relationships with their communities.

Overall, the study concluded that "high-quality developmental relationships across a variety of settings... are critical as many young people continue to face a high number of risk factors and adverse childhood experiences."

## POST-SECONDARY PLANS

With our College Success Coordinator's meetings underway, our teens are creating big plans for themselves. We know that each and every one of them are capable of changing the world, and it is thanks to your support that we can help them do just that.

Below is a list of colleges and programs that our young people have been accepted to:

Assumption College  
Becker College  
Boston College  
Brown University  
Bridgewater State University  
Bucknell University  
Colby Sawyer College  
College of Mount Saint Vincent  
Curry College  
Dean College  
Eckerd College  
Fisher College  
Fitchburg State University  
Florida A&M University  
Framingham State University

Franklin Pierce University  
Georgia State University  
Hamilton College  
Hampton University  
Johnson and Wales University  
Lesley University  
Loyola University  
Lynchburg College  
Marymount College  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences  
Newbury College  
Northeastern University  
Pine Manor College

Quincy College  
Quinnipiac University  
Salem State University  
Southern New Hampshire University  
St. John's University  
Stonehill College  
Temple University  
Tulane University  
UMASS Amherst  
UMASS Boston  
UMASS Dartmouth  
UMASS Lowell  
University of Hartford  
Year Up