

THE MAYHEW PROGRAM

... a good start on the future

FALL 2023 NEWSLETTER

Inspired

BY JIM NUTE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

I feel it when Tristan returns home from his first Island summer and jumps into selling lemonade to raise money for Mayhew (see page 3). The feeling doubles when Sterling – a 1991 alum – learns of Tristan’s plan and declares he will be his first customer. In the draft of his life story, Sterling writes of Mayhew: “It taught me how open life could be, and what was important...It taught me how to challenge myself [and to] help others through their challenges.” Inspiration on Miracle Gro!

How about when Liam stuck it out last year, then chose to return for his second year, willing himself to be one of the stronger Island leaders and citizens in recent memory? Or when he contributed more than 10% of his summer work hour earnings to the Granite YMCA – and when Julian, his cabinmate, contributed more than 20% (see page 3)? Giving has been a focus of Thad’s ever since I’ve known him, going back to his first year as a Mayhew boy in 1993. When he and sons Rowan and Ryland helped Mayhew at the 30th NH Marathon in September, it marked Thad’s own thirty years of running with and for the program. More inspiration.

Last track season, our daughter Emily was the anchor in a 4x400 race when her teammate lunged to pass the baton and accidentally stepped on Emily’s heel, pulling her shoe off. For a moment, she tried putting it back on. But seeing there wasn’t time, she kicked off her other shoe and sprinted around the track in just her socks. Kim and I soared watching and cheering and so did many of the runners. Her teammate Luisa bounded up afterward, “Emily, you’re my spirit animal!” Though it wasn’t a Mayhew moment per se, it had everything to do with the sort of running and challenging and effort and sense of team Mayhew has been striving for since long before my arrival in 1990.

As I run this last lap as a staff member, I am inspired – as I always have been – by you and all the Mayhew runners around me. To borrow from Luisa, “You’re Mayhew’s spirit!”



30 Years of inspiring. 1999 Alum Thad and sons Rowan (left) and Ryland volunteer at the 2023 NH Marathon.

Message from the Board of Trustees

As you know, after 20 years as Executive Director, Jim Nute is stepping down at December’s end. To shepherd the way to new leadership – and to ensure strong and unaffected ongoing operations – the Board has established a transition working group and engaged with professional consultants. In close coordination with Jim and our deep and talented management team, this group is guiding plans for a successful interim period. At the same time, it is establishing a search committee that will consider internal and external candidates, with a search that will be both broad and comprehensive. We are confident in this process and energized by everyone’s commitment to its success.



The beginning - Thad with 1994’s The Sentries.

Return to a New Normal

BY GRAYSON RICHEY, PROGRAM DIRECTOR

As we usher in the changing leaves and cooler breezes of autumn, it's the perfect time to reflect on the warmth, memories, and the changes of the past summer. After two summers of COVID-influenced shifts, our goal in 2023 was to fully return to the essential Mayhew programming in place pre-pandemic. Looking back at a very wet but fun-filled and purposeful summer, it is gratifying to report that we were successful.



The Links go with the flow canoeing on Newfound.

After slightly shortened summer sessions in 2021 and 2022, we were back to full, 25-day sessions for 84 boys (10-12-years-olds), which included a return to our home and away baseball games with our dear friends and co-founders Camp Pasquaney – a perennial favorite! For the Links (12-16-year-olds), we were back to our expedition trips, 38 young men over the summer participated in trips like canoeing, hiking, art and community service. They also connected as role models with the boys now following in their Mayhew Island footsteps. It was a powerful feeling of something necessary, vital, and truly special returning to the island. The Links served as living trail markers for the boys on their own paths through the program – through this new normal we are all traveling and shaping together.



Adding to the summer path, Link-Up Coordinator Michael Lui focused a whole week on volunteering and community service, with the Links helping Special Olympics of New Hampshire and D Acres Farm. At D Acres, the Links lent a hand with harvesting, mulching and even with bike trail building. Nolan, in his fourth year with Mayhew, loved the experience so much he asked about doing more of it during the school year, saying, “It made me a little more confident and has helped me see new ways to help my community.”

With our community visits in full swing, we look forward to teaming with you in ensuring that – through ways tried and true, and also new – Mayhew continues to help Nolan and the more than 225 boys here with him find their paths to growing confidence and

Play ball! The teams celebrate a great day of baseball on the Island.



The Links are ready to work at D Acres Farm!



Hard Work and Giving Back

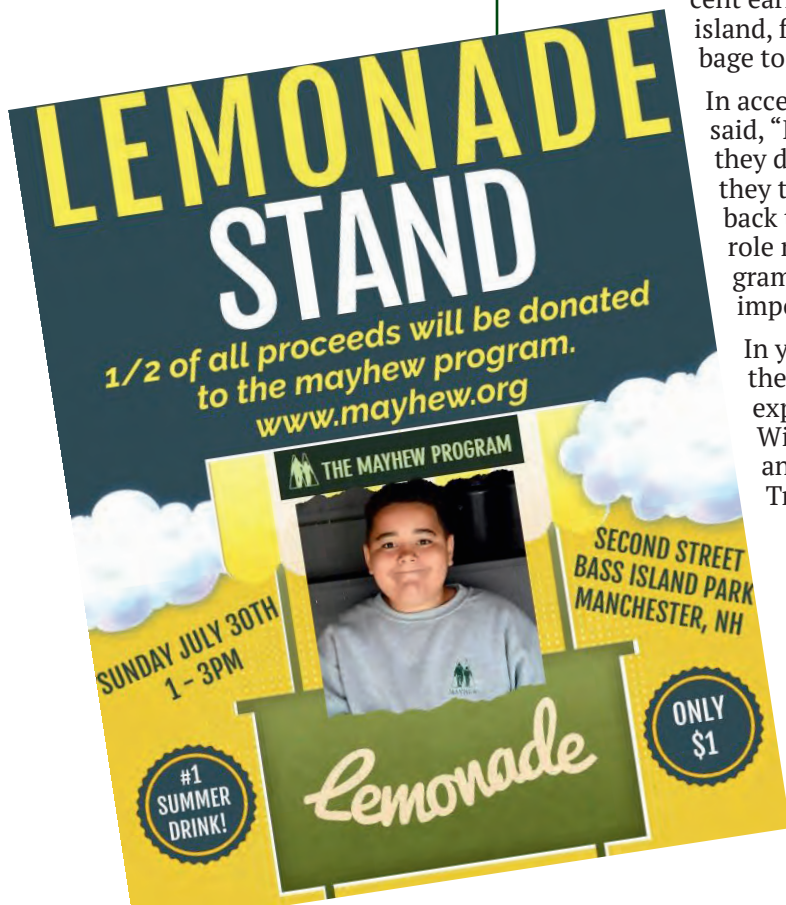
The values of hard work and giving back have long been as integral to Mayhew as its four cornerstones: respect, responsibility, community and challenge. This summer, there were many exceptional examples of boys living those values.



For the fourteenth year, many boys donated a portion of their work hour earnings to a worthy NH charity. This year's beneficiary was the Granite YMCA, with a mission close to Mayhew's, where the focus is on creating community and supporting improvement based on the values of caring, honesty, respect, and responsibility. No wonder seventeen boys connected strongly enough with the "Y's" mission to contribute, with two boys choosing to give more than 20% of their total earnings! All told, contributions totaled \$125, with every cent earned through hard work on numerous projects around the island, from splitting wood, moving rocks, rowing the daily garbage to the mainland Dumpster, to clearing paths and more!

In accepting the boys' contribution, the "Y's" Jamie Demetry said, "It was great to hear from the boys about the work that they did throughout the summer to earn their dollars and how they then made the important decision to give those dollars back to their community. That truly shows the mentorship and role models that they have in all of you at the Mayhew Program is impactful." Thank you to the boys for modeling the importance of giving back to help others!

In yet another example of giving back, Tristan – also one of the summertime contributors to the "Y" – loved his Mayhew experience so much that he came home wanting to do more. With the help of his mother, he organized a lemonade stand and pledged half the proceeds to Mayhew! Not surprisingly, Tristan made it a huge success!



A SERVICE TO HIMSELF AND TO OTHERS

BY GRAYSON RICHEY, PROGRAM DIRECTOR



I Forgot didn't forget to give it their all during work hour!

when he was young, Dean mentions his appreciation for the structure Mayhew provided, something he recognizes other members of his family could have benefited from. Whenever he sees family struggling, he tries to help and support where he can. As I listen, I'm reminded of a commitment the boys make when they first start with Mayhew, that they "will use the skills they learn on the island to help at school and at home." It can be hard to articulate what that means to a ten-year-old, but hearing Dean now across the breakfast table, thirteen years later...The meaning of that objective is crystal clear.

Dean rumbles in on a Harley Davidson motorcycle. He stands much taller and stronger than the 10-year-old boy I first met in 2010, but when he sees me, he cracks a smile and that familiar charm and charisma shine through. We shake hands and head into the diner to catch up.

I ask Dean how work is going and if he's still at the local car dealership.

Yeah, I'm still there. I'm coordinating service for our techs now. I work a lot, but I like the structure. I have to make sure that the right tech is doing the right job. You don't want your best tech doing an oil change, you know?

I give him a blank stare and remind him that I don't even do my own oil changes.

Ha, ha...Because of the labor, Grayson. Look, if this guy is getting paid \$45 an hour, my boss wants him working on something that's not going to cost us money. Did you know most places lose money on oil changes?

After Dean breaks down why I'm constantly upsold on air filters when I get an oil change, our discussion turns to his time on the island.

I was good at work hours, I remember that. I've always had a good work ethic. I struggled with some stuff on the island, like basic stuff, like controlling my emotions and anxiety, but I never struggled at work hours. That's something I already kind of knew, but it really came out at Mayhew. I worked my way up in automotives. I started detailing, running parts, tough jobs, but I found out I was really good at sales, and I worked my way up to it.

As he talks more about his work ethic and how he needed to work



The Consecutive Executives take charge splitting wood at work hour!



The Smooth Operators haul logs during work hour, and make it look easy!



A Tradition in the Kitchen – and Now Beyond

As in past summers, this one saw many Mayhew teens (25, more than 10% of the whole program), working on the island. While most served on the Kitchen Staff, for the second consecutive summer, there was also a small and ready group working directly with the younger boys as Counselors-in-Training (CITs). These teens not only strengthened summer operations, but learned and developed many of the social skills and habits that will help them succeed in other jobs as they mature. Over the past few years, and in this post-COVID new normal, we've seen a steady increase in the number of

teens taking advantage of these work opportunities. The 25 workers this summer almost doubled the 12 Kitchen Staff and 3 CITs in 2022 and the 14 Kitchen Staff in 2021.



Mayhew teens who work during the summer not only earn a salary, but also earn matching funds through the Alan M. Cantor Graduates' Scholarship Fund. Established in 1991, this fund provides post-secondary educational scholarships for these Mayhew workers. This summer, the Kitchen Staff and CITs earned a total of \$15,339 in matching funds. Great – and future-strengthening WORK, gentlemen!

YOU CAN DO IT!

BY JIM O'BRIEN, ASSISTANT PROGRAM DIRECTOR



Camron is ready to jump in on his first day with Mayhew.



Camron is ready to cheer at the 2023 NH Marathon.

Camron is a prime example of what it means to be an outstanding Mayhew leader. He takes a can-do attitude toward challenges; is a strong and dependable worker; and he is an exemplary role model for others. These attributes were on full display this summer, when Camron returned to the island kitchen and stepped up to help train and guide the younger, less experienced staff. In recognition of his excellence and dedication, he earned the Robb Evans Memorial Award, recognizing the Mayhew participant who most embodies "perseverance, enthusiasm, work ethic, and appreciation of the world around him."

This fall, Camron volunteered with Mayhew at the NH Marathon, cheering on and energizing the runners as they gritted through the challenging course. As we went about our cheering side by side, I asked Camron if he could share what Mayhew has meant to him over the years. He responded without hesitation, "Mayhew means a lot; it has directly changed the way I look at challenges and has helped me find the motivation to work through my problems, and not give up – even if I want to!" He then immediately turned back to cheering on the next runner, shouting, "You can do it!" It was Camron, through and through!

Currently a sophomore in high school, Camron is working towards building a future in construction and carpentry.



Welcome, **Tanner and Tolia!**

Meet the newest members of the Mayhew staff

Tanner Thompson

Born in San Diego, Tanner grew up in Connecticut, having spent his early childhood moving around following his dad's Navy career. After high school, Tanner enlisted in the Navy himself, working as an Information Technician, an experience that helped him see he wanted to take a more hands on approach to making a difference.



Welcome to the Mayhew team, Tanner!

WHY DID YOU WANT TO WORK AT MAYHEW?

I was drawn in by the fact I would be helping guys that need it and would get to provide the help that I wished I had when I was younger. After the summer as a counselor, I saw the real impact Mayhew could have with the boys, and I wanted to be a part of that difference making year-round. Through Mayhew, I've discovered my genuine passion for guiding and mentoring young individuals as they navigate life's challenges.

AS YOU THINK ABOUT BEING A MAYHEW ROLE MODEL, DID YOU HAVE A ROLE MODEL IN YOUR LIFE?

My dad was a role model, even though he wasn't around as much because of his work as a Physi-

cian's Assistant in the Navy. In high school, I volunteered as an EMT, thinking I would go into medicine like my dad. I have always wanted to help people, but now psychology pulls at me stronger than medicine.

WHAT IS A MEMORABLE MOMENT FROM YOUR WORK SO FAR?

I was on a fishing achievement with the guys this summer and one of them caught a massive bass. There was so much excitement from everyone about his success. As we were taking the boat back, he said, "Nothing is going to ruin my day today!" And now I hear from his outreach worker that he continues to fish during the year, taking his bike to the river. It is rewarding to know that his fishing experience has stuck with him from the summer and that he's developing a positive hobby.

IF YOU COULD HAVE A SUPERPOWER, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

Teleportation. I love to travel, experience different cultures, and learn how others think. If I'm hungry and I want a pizza, I could just pop over to Italy!



Tanner and Hakim are all smiles with their catch of the day!

WHAT ARE THREE WORDS YOUR FRIENDS WOULD USE TO DESCRIBE YOU?

Easygoing, empathetic, authentic. When it comes to working with the Mayhew guys I feel I need to be real with them, be understanding, and not put on a mask.

DO YOU HAVE ANY HIDDEN TALENTS?

Listening.



Tanner has the Salty Sailors ready to play!

Tolia Vassiliev

Tolia grew up in Florida, but with most of his family in New Hampshire, it was always a special place for him. He studied Anthropology at the University of North Florida, but with a passion for languages as well, he also took German, Latin, and Spanish, trying to learn a little bit of as many languages as he could. He moved to New Hampshire full-time two years ago, and through a family connection, he met Outreach Worker Ben Sink and found Mayhew.



Making music with Tolia!

WHY DID YOU WANT TO WORK AT MAYHEW?

I had experience working for summer camps before coming to Mayhew and I'd always enjoyed it. But during the first summer I worked on the Island, through my conversations with the boys, I came to realize how much more Mayhew and its program were than just another camp. They would talk about how Mayhew had helped them learn to make better decisions in their lives off the island, or how the program had helped them with employment, or how they'd tried something they never thought they'd be able to do. I felt like Mayhew was a place where I could combine my enthusiasm for working at camps and my desire to do something I felt was more meaningful. So when the opportunity came up to work for Mayhew year-round, I leapt at it.



A walk in the woods with Tolia on one of his first outreach visits, welcome to the team!

WHAT HAS BEEN A MEMORABLE MAYHEW MOMENT FOR YOU SO FAR?

I met a second-year boy this summer, who I hadn't known during his first year, and I noted his positive attitude. While he wasn't a strong soccer player, he would put in a great effort and would cheer everyone on. He volunteered that during the previous summer he had a horrible attitude and wouldn't have been participating, but that he had had lots of conversations with his outreach worker about having a positive attitude; had worked to set goals and make changes. He made the change himself, but he attributed that decision to change to Mayhew. This interaction showed me the program means something to most of these kids. It's a worthwhile place to be a part of.

WHAT'S A PIECE OF ADVICE THAT HAS STUCK WITH YOU?

A staff member this summer said that his mother had a motto, "There are three things you have to do in life: Do good. Be good. Have fun."

IF YOU COULD HAVE A SUPERPOWER, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

Flight. It just seems fun to be able to fly through the sky. Who doesn't dream of that?!

DO YOU HAVE ANY HIDDEN TALENTS:

Music and languages. I love playing music and can play the trombone, harmonica, and guitar. I also

love languages. I can speak English, Russian, and German well. I speak a good amount of Yiddish and Spanish, and I also speak a little Mandarin – I also studied Latin and Turkish. I love talking about music and languages.

WHAT ARE THREE WORDS YOUR FRIENDS WOULD USE TO DESCRIBE YOU?

Passionate about my interests, reliable, and disorganized.



Tolia (bottom left) lunching with Les Beaux Fils



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