

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Contact: Charles Matheus

928-499-0522 charles@boystomenaz.org

The Boys to Men Mentoring Network of Central Arizona announce

10th Anniversary Volunteer Appreciation

Thursday January 11th

St. Michaels Hotel

PRESCOTT, AZ:

Last week, Boys to Men Mentoring celebrated its 10th anniversary of serving boys and teens in the Quad Cities and beyond. The festive event combined volunteer appreciation, with a look back and a look forward. Over 50 volunteer mentors and their guests received door prizes, recognition and thanks for their service to the community.

Boys to Men Mentoring Network started 20 years ago in San Diego and has since spread chapters all over the world. In 2009, Richard Mansbach founded the Quad Cities chapter. In the last ten years, the group mentoring program has provided role modeling, healthy activity, and support to nearly 1000 teenaged boys. Today it ranks as one of the top five BTM programs in the country and takes an active role in helping other communities start chapters.

Boys to Men Mentoring is effective because, according to Executive Director, Charles Matheus, it combines “lightning-in-a-bottle experiences like rites of passage and wilderness expeditions with slower, long term, water-on-stone mentoring.” The long-term mentoring include school based support groups that meet weekly and bi-weekly "Adventure Group" events such as hiking, rock-climbing, kayaking and service projects. In both kinds of groups adult volunteers work to create positive “developmental relationships” through engaging activities, group discussion, and age-appropriate challenge. In the crucible of these challenges and conversations, young men find authentic and unique ways to surmount or remove their own internal barriers to engagement, success, and actualization. Studies show that Boys to Men programs help boys improve grades (+27%) and decrease disciplinary problems (-85%).

At the event last week, special guest Andy Binder, Mile High Middle School Principal, spoke to the volunteers about the deep benefit he sees from PUSD’s partnership with Boys to Men Mentoring. He stated, "Bringing BTM to our school has added an additional layer of support for students who need as much support as possible. During the circles I have seen students who typically take very few things serious having meaningful conversations with their peers, opening up about themselves and others, and feeling valued. This year we have expanded the program to include more boys and I look forward to seeing how it could grow in the future."

Boys to Men Mentoring plans to increase the number of weekly school groups from 9 to 15 in 2019. They are actively recruiting volunteer mentors who can spare an hour a week to make a difference in the lives of boys. Please contact Adam Young for more information: 928-362-0276.

About Boys to Men Mentoring Network

Young men want to be productive members of our community. **Boys to Men Mentoring Network** provides boys aged 13 to 18 the opportunity to experience healthy adult male mentoring so they can see that their choices have consequences that can lead them to becoming the man they want to be.

Boys to Men was founded by men who realized that too many teen boys lack involved, positive adult male role models – whether he comes from a middle/upper class two-parent family or a single mom on social support. Regardless of economic class, cultural diversity, and education achievement, data and experience tells us a boy's ability to successfully transition into adulthood reduces risky behaviors and increases educational and earning potential - leading to more intact families and fewer drains on our public and social service systems. American boys are falling through the cracks of our society because they lack consistently available adult male role models but Boys to Men Mentoring Network stands ready to fill the gap. <http://www.boystomenaz.org/>

Media Contact: Charles Matheus 928-499-0522
charles@boystomenaz.org