

MEN'S RESOURCES INTERNATIONAL

Educating, Consulting & Organizing for Positive Masculinity

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LOCAL MEN'S ORGANIZATION RECEIVES \$100,000 DONATION

(Springfield, MA) Men's Resources International (MRI), a Springfield non-profit organization that promotes positive masculinity and violence prevention, recently received a stock-transfer worth over \$100,000 from an anonymous New York donor. This represents the largest donation the organization has received to date. A portion of the gift will be used to fund MRI's upcoming programs in Springfield and Africa, while the remainder will be used to establish a reserve to help secure the organization's sustainability.

Men's Resources International (MRI) supports the development of men's networks by providing training, coaching, and technical assistance. "This extremely generous gift comes at a pivotal time for MRI," said executive director, Steven Botkin. "In addition to work in our own community of Springfield, we are currently responding to requests for training and consultations from several African nations." In partnership with local African women's organizations, MRI traveled to Zambia in June, and is preparing for an upcoming training in Nigeria. Additionally, the organization has just reached an agreement with the International Rescue Committee to deliver a 2-part program in Liberia, the first of which will take place next week.

"This donation provides critical financial security for MRI—ensuring that we will be around to provide follow-up training, consultations, and ongoing support in each community we serve," said Associate Director, James Arana. "When we begin a relationship with a network and a community, we must know that we can see it through."

MRI has chosen to focus its international efforts in Africa because of its legacy of violence and a growing momentum for change. Many African organizations dedicated to women's health, safety, and political and economic development are eager to engage men as allies and partners, and men's groups have begun to form in a number of African countries. Simultaneously, violence prevention is increasingly being recognized and promoted internationally as a public health issue in itself and as a key factor in combating the spread of HIV/AIDS.

MRI will conduct a training for leaders and mentors in the Springfield area this winter in collaboration with a number of local organizations. "Our work in Springfield remains a key focus," Steven Botkin said. "We have strong relationships here, and we are committed to supporting the important work that is being done." In recognition of his dedication and service within the community, Botkin is a 2006 recipient of the William Pynchon Medal, which will be awarded by the Advertising Club of Western Massachusetts on November 15.

For more information about Men's Resources International and how you can get involved, e-mail info@mensresourcesinternational.org or visit www.mensresourcesinternational.org.

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