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MEN'S LEADERSHIP TRAINING TO FOCUS ON ENDING VIOLENCE

(Springfield, MA) Men's Resources International (MRI), a Springfield non-profit organization that promotes positive masculinity and violence prevention around the globe, will conduct a Men's Leadership Training next week, June 21–23, for over 35 men and women from Springfield and across the nation.

The 3-day professional development workshop, designed for teachers, coaches, program directors, and social services professionals, will teach participants to:

- Recognize the causes and impacts of violence in our relationships, families and communities
- Engage men and boys in issues of violence and compassion
- Explore the privileges and costs of traditional masculinity
- Develop community leadership and mentoring skills
- Plan and organize men's initiatives
- Build alliances between women and men

The training will be led by MRI's executive director, Dr. Steven Botkin and associate director, James Arana, who, prior to their international work, spent many years working with men's groups in Western Massachusetts. Arana noted, "While we do have representatives from organizations in other states, our priority for this workshop is to serve the residents, workers and communities of Springfield." Through generous gifts from the Community Health Network Area (CHNA) and private donors, MRI was able to offer full scholarships to anyone who lives or works in Springfield.

"We have delivered these trainings, which are based on our 25+ years of work in the field, to groups in many different contexts and locations including Zambia, Nigeria and Liberia," said Botkin. "We are excited to work with the many dedicated people here in our own community to confront the considerable challenges — and opportunities — we face here in Springfield with regards to violence, healthy relationships, and gender-equality."

The opening ceremony will feature remarks from State Representative Benjamin Swan, Mary Reardon Johnson, Executive Director of the YWCA of Western Massachusetts, and Ronn Johnson, Director of Community Relations for MassMutual.

Men's Resources International (MRI) helps men around the globe practice and promote a healthy, compassionate, responsible model of masculinity. All of MRI's programs welcome male and female participants, and promote community-based leadership with men and women as partners. MRI uses participatory, experiential education to promote personal growth, leadership development and organizational sustainability. More information is available at <http://mensresourcesinternational.org>.

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Men's Resources International | Educating, consulting and organizing for positive masculinity.
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