



*The kids build the boat... and the boat builds the kids*

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November 18, 2011

Dear Friends,

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The Morgan family and friends are pleased to announce the continuation of the *Dodge D. Morgan Memorial Scholarship Fund* to benefit students at Compass Project in Portland, Maine. Last year's fund allowed a group of students from South Portland High School who were on the brink of dropping out of school to come to the boat shop during their school day twice weekly throughout the school year. Students earned math and science credit in the process of building a wooden boat.

Most of the students in this program had a track record of school failure, gaps in their education, unstable home lives and incidents of trauma that led to school anxiety and difficulty trusting adults. All of the students in the program faced their unique struggles through-out the year and all 12 students who stuck with the program succeeded in earning the credit that they needed toward graduation. Kim was one such student for whom social anxiety and low self-esteem were obstacles. During the boat launch celebration, at the end of the year, Kim spoke about how the program positively impacted her attitude toward school.

**"My experience going into the project was negative. I didn't want anything to do with building a boat and making something from scratch. After a few months of fighting off the program I actually started to enjoy going. After I saw how the boat was looking I started to believe that I can do this."**

*– Kim, Student, Age 16, beneficiary of scholarship fund*

**"I still can't believe that Kim wrote and gave a speech at the boat launch. I can't imagine ever thinking that I would see her do anything like that."**

*– Lisa Diaz, Kim's Teacher, South Portland High School*

Compass Project provides hands-on educational experiences for youth at risk of failure in school. As they build the boat, students practice team-building and leadership techniques. They learn to focus and persist in order to accomplish their goals on time. They must learn to fix things that go wrong along the way. These skills, which exemplify Dodge's life and career, become part of their learning process.

This Scholarship Fund is very much in the spirit of Dodge's wishes. He was a supporter of Compass Project's goals and a long-time admirer of the program's founder and former director, Pat Ryan. We ask your support for the *Dodge D. Morgan Memorial Scholarship Fund* so that another group of students, who otherwise wouldn't have this opportunity, may benefit by participating in this valuable program. Please consider making a gift to this fund in honor of Dodge.

Warm regards,

Manny Morgan

Shane Hall