

Dear Courageous Friend,

When I met Ruihua back when he was 9, he immediately informed me that he was going to take my job, and over the next five years, he definitely took charge...of wreaking havoc. His constant questions and boundless energy were legendary. Although he definitely tired our staff out, we all got to know and love him, especially the social workers who were helping him deal with some tough situations outside of Courageous.

Six years later, Ruihua has finished his first summer as an Instructor-in-Training (and I have to admit we've enjoyed seeing him teach kids just as rambunctious as he used to be!). This fall, even though he no longer lives in Boston, he's commuting in several days a week to work on the dock, participate in high school sailing, learn how to fix boats, and—even on his days off—brush up on his powerboat skills so he's ready for more responsibility. Once the self-declared boss of Courageous, he's become a true leader.

What makes kids like Ruihua want to be here day after day? It all starts with sailing, of course, but the Courageous model encompasses so much more:

- **Outreach, free programming, and multiple “on-ramps” to ensure access for kids from all walks of life**

The water belongs to everyone. We work with Boston Public Schools to reach students whose families might not find Courageous on their own.

- **Engaging academics and STEM**

We support low-income BPS students vulnerable to summer learning loss in boosting academic skills through a rigorous (and fun!) curriculum. And hands-on STEM keeps all our students learning about their sport and environment.

- **School bus transportation, meals, and 8 AM - 5 PM activities**

For working parents or families experiencing food insecurity or other challenges, logistical supports like these can make all the difference.



COURAGEOUS SAILING



“The instructors and social workers made Courageous a safe space where I could trust adults, have someone to talk to, and have fun sailing. That’s what they did for me when I was younger, and I’m giving back now.”

—Ruihua, Instructor-in-Training

269

summer students (57%)
participated for free
based on financial need



“I have been getting more confident and believing in myself...Sailing at Courageous makes me feel free.”

—Step 2 sailor



Courageous Sailing Board of Directors

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- **Swimming instruction for safety and confidence around water**

79% of low-income kids don't know how to swim, which is why swimming lessons have been part of Swim Sail Science since its inception back in 2012.

- **On-staff social workers**

With social workers in program leadership roles, we can provide holistic support for all our students, and more intensive support for young people who need it.

- **Paid job training for teens**

Teens in our Instructor-in-Training and Charlestown High School internship (now in its second year!) programs build career skills that will take them far beyond Courageous.

Although Ruihua no longer wants my job—he's moved on to bigger and better goals—Courageous feels like home to him and so many others, and to me, that's what proves that the Courageous model works. While our approach is more resource-intensive than most, its

impact makes it more than worth the investment. **Please, help us make sure the next generation of Courageous kids has all the supports they need to thrive, on and off the water.**

Gratefully,

Dave DiLorenzo
Executive Director

“We engage with kids who are food-insecure, navigating family systems, DCF-involved, or experiencing learning differences at school – Courageous makes sure that all our kids have what they need to have a good summer.”

—Ashley, Courageous social worker and former student



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COURAGEOUS SAILING