

For Immediate Release

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Local Teens to Compete in 9th Annual Young Parents Regatta This Weekend

This Saturday, August 15, rowers from Norwalk River Rowing Association's Outreach Program, Rowing Strong/Rowing Together, will travel to Holyoke, Massachusetts to compete in the 9th annual Young Parents' Regatta. Representing Norwalk River Rowing Association (NRRA) will be Amber Allen (Fairfield), and Norwalk rowers Yadira Gutierrez, Yoesi Robles, and Yenyfer Sierra.

Rowing Strong/Rowing Together, organized through The Care Center in Holyoke, MA, celebrates its tenth anniversary this year. The unique program pairs teen mothers with college and community rowing clubs to provide access to rivers and lakes in Massachusetts and Connecticut. The athletes selected have had no prior exposure to this traditionally elite sport. This is the only program of its kind in the US designed specifically for teen mothers.

Locally, NRRA has paired with Family and Children's Agency and YoungLives to form a team made up of four young mothers. The team practices on the Norwalk River, rowing one to three times per week since mid-May, in order to prepare for the 1500 meter regatta (or nearly 1 mile) race.

NRRA's team will compete against youth from Chelsea's ROCA, Inc. (Gentle Giant Rowing Club), Holyoke's The Care Center (Mount Holyoke College), Redfield House and the Helen Berube Teen Parent Center in Pittsfield (Berkshire Rowing and Sculling Society), Corporation for Public Management Young Parents Program in Springfield Ma, (Pioneer Valley Riverfront Club in Longmeadow) on the Connecticut River in Holyoke, MA. More than 300 spectators are expected to be on hand to cheer on the rowers, including more than 30 from the Norwalk area.

For more information about Rowing Strong, Rowing Together, or any of NRRA's Outreach Programs for local youth, please contact Melanie Jacobi, Outreach Programs Director, at melanie@norwalkriverrowing.org or 203.866.0080x11.

NRRA is a non-profit organization that offers Learn-to-Row, recreational, competitive, and community outreach rowing programs to youth and adults. For more information, visit www.norwalkriverrowing.org.

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