

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**From Maine to Guatemala: Two Northeast Non-Profits Team Up to Make A Big Difference**

*Camden, Maine – July 18, 2013* – Two Maine-based non-profits are teaming up to provide college students with an unconventional semester beginning in small boats and ending in a rare community service opportunity.

The Hurricane Island Outward Bound School's 81-day Multinational Sailing and Service Semester program begins this September with a three-week sailing expedition off the coast of Maine in an open boat (no cabin, no engines) using only wind and oars for propulsion. Participants learn the art of sailing, rowing, navigating, teamwork, and living aboard an open boat. From there, students will head south, eventually reaching Guatemala City, where they will volunteer with the development organization, Safe Passage, to help educate the children of families living in extreme poverty around the city's enormous garbage dump.

"This is a very unique opportunity for college students who want to prepare for being leaders in their communities and in their future careers," says Eric Denny, Executive Director for the Hurricane Island Outward Bound School, "It will be a life-changing experience for them as well as for the families in Guatemala City whom they choose to serve."

David Holman, Outreach and Administrative Coordinator for Safe Passage adds, "We are delighted to partner with Outward Bound. These are the sort of young leaders who we try to recruit as volunteers to work side by side with children and families in Guatemala."

Outward Bound is world-wide network of independent schools, founded in 1941 by educator Kurt Hahn, whose mission is to change lives through challenge and discovery. The Hurricane Island Outward Bound School in Camden, Maine offers wilderness and sailing courses for youth, adults, groups and work teams. Safe Passage, established in 1999, is based in Yarmouth, Maine and Guatemala. Safe Passage empowers the poorest, at-risk children of families working in the garbage dump community through the power of education. Both are 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations.

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