



THE AFTER-SCOOP

B.BRAVO FOR YOUTH

THE AFTER-SCHOOL INSTITUTE

April 2001

Volume 1, Issue 1



Established in 1999, Baltimore Bridging Resources, Assets and Vital Organizations for Youth (B.BRAVO for Youth)— *The After-school Institute* is a citywide, capacity building organization linked to the Safe and Sound Campaign after-school strategy. B.BRAVO's mission is to increase the quantity and quality of after-school/out-of-school programs serving Baltimore's young people.

B.BRAVO's goal is to strengthen the program delivery of community/ school-based organizations by building academic, athletic, artistic, civic/social, intellectual and political competencies of youth through practitioner development and implementation of quality Standards

Activities to support the mission, goal and objectives include:

- Creating specific opportunities to advance communication, collaboration and strategic linkages between organizations/practitioners, funders, community leaders, parents/caretakers and youth.
- Conducting networking, training and technical assistance activities, as well as data collection and analysis of information.
- Developing joint methods for the measurement of process outcomes related to capacity building strategies and developmental outcomes related to youth.
- Disseminating information and resources to practitioners (i.e. curricula, program updates, articles/ bibliographies, listings of consultants, etc.)

Welcome to the premiere edition of *The After-Scoop!*

B.BRAVO for Youth— *The After-school Institute*— is delighted to launch its quarterly newsletter in hopes of keeping you, our colleagues, funders, partners, after-school providers and practitioners, up-to-date with the numerous happenings at *The After-school Institute*. Featured in this edition:

- ☆ Network meetings, quarterly Enrichment Series workshops and trainings are well underway and there's more on the horizon. (Be sure to pay close attention to the ticker at the bottom of the page for up and coming dates. More specifics regarding these trainings and events are available. Please call our office.)
- ☆ Formal introductions of staff including *The After-school Institute's* two most recent personnel additions: Rebkha Atnafou and Quandra Gaines.
- ☆ Thank you and congratulations to our 30 participants of the seven week *Advancing Youth Development Training*.
- ☆ Accomplishments are cited by various providers in our network.

B.BRAVO has recently released an informative technical assistance brochure, an updated training calendar, a comprehensive list of providers funded under the *Baltimore After-school Strategy*, a funding resource guide including the upcoming *Request for Proposal* directory and more.

From all of the staff here at B.BRAVO for Youth— *The After-school Institute*, thank you for your continued support and encouragement!

— *Lori Carter*

Come and enjoy a cup of coffee!

Anyone who is committed to quality after-school/out-of-school programming in Baltimore, knows exactly where to be on the last Tuesday morning of every month: at *Baltimore's After-school Strategy Network Meeting*.

At monthly *Network Meetings*, youth development providers and practitioners convene to participate in the development of Baltimore's extensive after-school strategy; acquire up-to-date information regarding local, regional, and national training opportunities; share best practices and lessons learned; discuss steps towards implementing the *Standards for Baltimore's After-school Opportunities*; and all the while, joining other providers and practitioners in fulfilling the mission.

At *Baltimore's After-school Strategy Network Meeting*, everyone has a chance to shine and disseminate information about what is currently happening in their after-school programs or what is on the horizon. How else would we know that *Chemical People Task Force of Cherry Hill* has arranged for 25 youth to venture to Bermuda for an African drumming symposium? What about registering for the Academy for Educational Development's seven-week *Advancing Youth Development Training* and the Maryland Committee for Children's *Training on After-school Programming for Youth Aged 12-18*? Who is prepared to testify in Annapolis on documented positive effects of after-school programs so that we can ensure that 20 million dollars of the state's budget be spent on the expanding and increasing access to quality after-school programs throughout Maryland? So what wonderful accomplishments are coming out of Baltimore out-of/after-school programs? Just a few are listed below!

If you want answers to these questions and more, we invite you to join us at the next *After-school Strategy Network Meeting* on Tuesday, May 29th at The Department of Recreation and Parks— 3001 East Drive in Druid Hill Park.

Each meeting begins with networking, while enjoying a continental breakfast at 9:00 a.m. Call the B.BRAVO for Youth office for more information.

— **Rick Connor**

B.BRAVO would like to send out a special thank you goes out to all programs who have generously submitted artwork from their organizations!

Kids on the Hill-- participants are creating a video project with Beth Aum Synagogue teens on racism and anti-Semitism.

KidzStuff— youth conducted fund-raiser to benefit Muscular Dystrophy Foundation

Living Classrooms Foundation-- Frederick Douglass After-school Program held art exhibit over 60 people attended.

Second English Lutheran Church is conducting speech training, video training and PSA production

Chesapeake Center had 100 youth participate in an Open House for ages 13 and over

JHU Village Learning Place-- Youth Entrepreneur Associates program assisted in renovating home for their headquarters and assisted in Clayworks mural onsite

Fun, Fitness and Games-- collaborating with community to improve outdoor space.

Chemical People-- African drum and dance group performing in Bermuda

UMAR Boxing--In NC, won 2 of 3 boxing matches

Congratulations to the graduates and participants in the 7-week Advancing Youth Development Training organized by B.BRAVO and conducted by The National Training Institute for Community Youth Work:

Marilyn Akinfolarin
Angela Carter
Aaron Gingles
Janice Smith
Baltimore City Health Dept.

Bruce Bennett
Joel Bratton, Jr.
John Parker
James Tate
Maurice Vandervall
Housing Authority of Baltimore City

Rashawn Blakney
Greater Baltimore Women's Basketball

Allison Brown
Karen McClearn
The Door

Lori Carter
Rick Connor
B.BRAVO for Youth

Erin Coleman
St. Veronica's After-school Program

Sharon Diggs
Theolin Hamlin
Sarah Scott
Chemical People Task Force

Felicia Doucett
Gwen Snowden
Ruby Turner-Young
Dept. of Recreation and Parks

Terence Douglas
Delicia Hite
Diakon Lutheran Social Ministries

Jennifer Ehrhardt
Carrie Finegan
The Hampden Family Center

Cara Fuller
Safe and Sound Campaign

Deanna Ikhinmwin
Morgan State University— Kuumba

Monica Logan
Parks and People Foundation

Sheila Roberts
Progressive Life Center

Elizabeth Savage
Baltimore County Public Library

what is the latest Scoop?

We are only three months into the year and a lot has happened at B.BRAVO. In case you don't already know let's give you a quick update on all of the happenings at *The After-school Institute*...

We have provided 6 training opportunities, 3 network meetings, 20 site visits and over 70 hours of technical assistance. We provided testimonies in support of increased state funding for after-school programs, and added 10 new organizations to our network. Training opportunities have included a seven week intensive training on advancing youth development where two graduates will go on to a training-of-trainers workshop and return to Baltimore ready to provide the training throughout Baltimore so we can build local capacity on youth development. With funding from the Annie E. Casey Foundation, ten practitioners attended the Foundations Inc. "Beyond School Time Conference" in San Francisco. After-school program practitioners had the opportunity to attend a school/youth violence prevention conference at the University of Maryland and a school-age care training organized by the Maryland Committee for Children.

Over the past three months, B.BRAVO has organized and presented workshops and information sessions on policy and advocacy, implementing the Standards, Q and A on the Standards and youth involvement and leadership in program development. B.BRAVO is making progress in establishing itself as an independent, non-profit organization. In the area of proposal development, B.BRAVO assisted in coordinating proposal development and submission of 7 proposals on behalf of Baltimore City Public Schools to the U.S. Department of Education 21st Century Community Learning Centers Program. Furthermore, it submitted a proposal to the Maryland Department of Human Resources to provide technical assistance and training to after-school programs and local management boards outside of Baltimore City. B.BRAVO in collaboration with Safe and Sound, Family League, the Mayor's Office and others submitted a proposal to the National League of Cities to be one of 6 to 8 cities the league will provide intensive technical assistance by national experts. B.BRAVO developed and has on display at BGE, a poster promoting after-school programs.

On a larger scale, Baltimore's After-school Strategy has made significant gains in increasing children's access to quality after-school programs. The proposal Safe and Sound worked on with BCPS, Child First Authority, YMCA and Communities in Schools was approved by the U.S. Department of Education 21st CCLC program. This reading infused project, with a strong emphasis on computer technology, will start in June in three schools—Bernard Harris, Patapsco and Samuel Coolidge. The Goldseker Foundation has directed funds towards the evaluation of A-Teams. The Maryland After-school Opportunity Fund announced funds available for summer programs so that YouthPlaces receiving funds from the state will be able to draw from this money. And we are just getting started this year!

WHO'S NEW AT *THE AFTER-SCHOOL INSTITUTE*?

Greetings to all of my colleagues and after-school program practitioners throughout Baltimore City! While it has been great working with you over the past year and a half as the after-school strategist for *Baltimore's After-school Strategy* and working out of the *Safe and Sound* office, I will now be taking on a new role in the strategy. As the Executive Director of *B.BRAVO for Youth*, I look forward to meeting your training, technical assistance and networking needs.

I have years of experience doing similar work as the Director of *Children's Safety Network National Adolescent Violence Prevention Resource Center*, Health Information Specialist at the *National Health Information Center*, and as a Trainer for the *National Training Program (HIV/AIDS) at Education Development Center (EDC)*. Prior to coming to Safe and Sound, I worked for seven years at *EDC* in both Boston and Washington, DC. identifying best practices in adolescent violence prevention and providing guidance and training in implementing programs nationwide. In addition, I conducted curriculum training in comprehensive school health education for adolescents that included substance abuse prevention, violence prevention and sexuality. I have a bachelors degree in biology and a masters in public health.

With the many trainings and development opportunities on the calendar, I am more excited than ever to continuing to work closely with you to care and provide support to children in Baltimore. Serving you is not work, it is a pleasure. Thank you for the opportunity.— **Rebka (Rebecca) Athafou**

Greetings! My name is Quandra Gaines. I am a mother of three: Maya, age 9, Ian, age 7, and Kennedy, 5 months old. Formerly, I was employed by the Baltimore Branch office of the NAACP. I joined the B.BRAVO for Youth staff in January as the Office Manager.

I have had the opportunity to either meet or speak with most of you in the short time that I have been here. I am inspired by all the wonderful knowledge, gifts and talents that you share with the children and youth of Baltimore. I look forward to working with you on the many exciting and upcoming projects and the continued growth and development of *The After-school Institute*.

Please call me if I can assist you in any way.— **Quandra Gaines**

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B.BRAVO for Youth
The After-school Institute

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Funding provided by The Annie E. Casey Foundation, Open Society Institute, The Aaron and Lillie Straus Foundation

(WHO'S AT THE AFTER-SCHOOL INSTITUTE CONTINUED)

Lori Carter joined B.BRAVO for Youth in the fall of 2000 and is now the Director of Development. While developing new sources of funding to support B.BRAVO and spearheading *The After-school Institute's* material development, she provides technical assistance and other resources to Baltimore after-school providers to help facilitate infrastructure and fundraising efforts. Over the past decade, Lori has worked on the frontlines of community organizing, direct services and child advocacy throughout Maryland, Connecticut and New York.

Rick Connor joined B.BRAVO for Youth in 2000 as the Director of Programming and is responsible for training and networking. Rick's background includes 20 years of community organizing throughout the United States, Central America, Europe and Africa and most recently as founder and Executive Director of the Corpus Christi Community Center and After-school Program. Rick continues to mentor youth in Reservoir Hill where he serves on the Board of the Reservoir Hill Improvement Council and is Director of the RHIC Development Committee.

SO WHAT ARE PEOPLE SAYING ABOUT B.BRAVO AND ITS SERVICES?



- ☆ "Staff members are good listeners and they always offer information about financial resources and their assistance in helping understand the standards."
- ☆ "We appreciate the free resource giveaways like the books for programs."
- ☆ "B.BRAVO assists in providing access to free or reduced training opportunities."
- ☆ "By facilitating links with cultural organizations, we have been able to get reduced field trips or activities for our participants."

