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THE AFTER-SCHOOL

Established in 1999, The After-School Institute-- Baltimore Bridging Resources, Assets and Vital Organizations for Youth (B.BRAVO for Youth) is a citywide, capacity building organization linked to Baltimore's After School Strategy. It's mission is to build the capacity of after school/out-of-school providers, i.e. YouthPlaces (after school program centers), A-Teams (arts, athletic and academic league-type programs), and service agencies to provide quality after school opportunities for children and youth.

Activities to support this mission include:

- Creating specific opportunities to advance communication, collaboration and strategic linkages between organizations, funders, community leaders, parents/caretakers and youth.
- Conducting networking, training and technical assistance activities, 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, lists of consultants, etc.)

The Staff of The After-School Institute

Rebka Atnafou, Director, responsible for overall management, establishing strategic linkages with local, state and national organizations and expansion and sustainability of the Institute.

Justin Brown, Youth Engagement Specialist, provides programs with assistance in youth involvement and leadership.

Lori Carter, Development Associate, responsible for technical assistance and materials development.

Rick Connor, Program Planning Associate, responsible for network meetings and trainings.

SANKOFA—*looking back in order to move forward*

The After-School Institute would like to take this opportunity to bid **CONGRATULATIONS** to YouthPlaces and A-Teams for completing the first year of their grants under Baltimore's After School Strategy. Many of you have already submitted your continuation application and received your award notices. For those who are now preparing the continuation application, we want to wish you luck.

During the reapplication process, you lived through a **SANKOFA** moment by evaluating and reflecting on your progress over the past year. Through this retrospection, you have been steered in a direction that will allow continued success in providing quality after school programs under Baltimore's After School Strategy.

From The After-School Institute's perspective, it has been a pleasure working with you and we look forward to commencing the new year with you. We, too, have been reflecting on what we have accomplished over the past six months in hopes of forecasting our pathway for the next half year. Included in our plan are recommendations you have made through your continuation applications, meetings and training evaluations.

As you have shared your assessment and your plans for next year, we would like to do the same and share our future plans. Provided in this newsletter, and especially on page 2, is a brief summary of what has been achieved and what we are planning to achieve by the end of the year. Some of the highlights of things to come include expanding our work to central Maryland with funding from the Maryland After School Opportunity Fund, organizing our first *After School Conference* which is now a statewide conference, providing extensive hands-on assistance in youth engagement, providing intensive on-site technical assistance and trainings, and launching our website.

SANKOFA. SANKOFA. SANKOFA.

—Rebka Atnafou

what is the latest Scoop?

The After-School Institute's **2001 Mid-year (January-June) Performance Review** is jam-packed with meetings, trainings, increased membership, partnerships and collaborations, and a new wave of site visits and material development. Since January 2001, we have been working full speed ahead. Take a look at what is presently in effect and what is in the near future...

Network Meetings:

- We organized 6 meetings (the format was revised based upon evaluations, small workgroups and the Steering Committee), convened 4 special interest "meetings after the meeting", enrolled 33 new members and increased our email distribution list by 40%.
- The meetings will soon be fully managed by the network as members develop the agenda and facilitate the meeting.

Trainings:

- We have organized 8, assisted with 6, and provided information on 4 trainings by the Academy for Educational Development (AED). In addition, we have sponsored 3 trainings, as well as, provided scholarships to 55 practitioners to attend local, state or national trainings. We have instituted evaluations at all of our trainings. Thus far, a total of approximately 300 people have attended our trainings representing 119 agencies. Noteworthy is our increased youth development training capacity through training by the AED.
- We will be convening our 1st annual After-School Conference (sponsored statewide by Maryland State Department of Education and supported by Maryland After-School Opportunity Fund). We are exploring offering continuing education units and becoming a national youth development training site as part of AED's BEST site. Attention is also being focused on onsite trainings, bringing national experts to provide trainings and the continuation of Advancing Youth Development training.

Technical Assistance:

- Over 130 hours of support was provided to 90+ agencies. TA requests have guided our trainings and material development process.
- We will provide onsite TA, address issues mentioned in continuation proposals, and create a database to track requests and trainings.


Strategic Linkages:

- Links with 19 agencies have been made—resulting in 8 trainings, 3 proposals, 1 funded project, a Youth Expo, 6 materials produced, media coverage, 12 OED youth employed at YouthPlaces, and commitments from national experts to do presentations.
- We will strengthen our ties with BCPSS, universities to provide CEUs, Mayor's Office for Children, Youth and Families, Office for Employment Development, Maryland After School Opportunity Fund Board, and key administrators and partners of Maryland After-School Opportunity Fund. We will establish an Advisory Board and expand our work to Central Maryland with funding from Maryland After-School Opportunity Fund.

Material Development:

- We have produced 9 materials including "The After-Scoop" newsletter, Youth Expo press release, directory of funded providers under Baltimore's After School Strategy, and resource guides identifying funding opportunities, volunteers, etc.
- We are in the process of developing a website which is due to launch late Fall 2001.

Youth Expo: *Thank you to the 14 YouthPlaces and A-Teams that participated in the event to demonstrate the talents and skills of Baltimore's youth and acknowledge after school program providers for their work..*



Accomplishments of Network Members

ABOUT FACE: PROVIDED LOVE & LOGIC PARENTING WORKSHOP	BALTIMORE MUSEUM OF INDUSTRY: CREATING OPPORTUNITIES FOR COOPERATIVE LEARNING			
★	BALTIMORE CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS: CITY SPRING ELEMENTARY SCHOOL COMPLETED "BACKPACK" PROJECT AT PORT DISCOVERY	CHESAPEAKE CENTER: PHOTOGRAPHY SHOW HELD TO SHOWCASE SKILLS LIKE MATTING AND FRAMING	★	
THE DOOR: IMPLEMENTING CHILD-LEAD PREVENTION PLANNING COMMITTEES	★	CREATIVE ALLIANCE: OPEN MINDS SUMMER ARTS PROGRAM OFFERED AT VARIOUS LIBRARIES	★	FAMILY TREE (ENHANCEMENT): SUCCESSFULLY GALVANIZING FAMILIES AT YOUTHPLACE SITES FUNDED BY MD AFTERSCHOOL OPPORTUNITY FUND
★	FUN, FITNESS & GAMES: HOLDING MSPAP PARTIES FOR 3RD & 5TH GRADERS	★	HEAL (MADISON PARK): CHILDREN WROTE & PERFORMED "BUNNY IN THE HOODII"	★
MICA: CO-SPONSORING SPRING FESTIVAL TO CELEBRATE COMMUNITY BASED ARTS INITIATIVES	NAMIC: KEEPING ENROLLMENT NEAR 40(MAXIMUM CAPACITY)	PAL: PARTICIPATED IN YOUTH SERVICE DAY		
PROGRESSIVE LIFE CENTER: HOSTING 1ST CULMINATING ACTIVITY FOR A-TEAM GROUP		SOUTHEAST YOUTH ACADEMY: OFFERING AN AVERAGE OF 5 YOUTH PROGRAMS A DAY		
ST. VERONICA'S: PARTICIPATED IN POETRY SLAM AT BLACKS IN WAX MUSEUM	★	SUNNY SIDE UP: FINISHED PSA WITH SECOND ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH & HTAC	★	YMCA: 90 YOUTH PARTICIPATED IN CELEBRATION OF NEIGHBORHOOD EXPEDITE PROGRAM

All in One Year

The upcoming *After-School Conference* is a culmination of a yearlong training calendar that has included many exciting events and changes. *Prosocial Skillstreaming*, *Advancing Youth Development*, and a series of workshops held at two of Baltimore's premier museums--Port Discovery and the Maryland Historical Society. Each was a great success. What once was called the *YouthPlace Network* has been renamed the *After School Strategy Network*. The rationale behind this name change was to be more inclusive of our growing membership and purpose. The After School Strategy Network meetings have been refocused and re-energized, and have a permanent home at the Department of Recreation and Parks Administration Building in Druid Hill Park. And last, but definitely not least, our new name is **The After-School Institute**. The B.BRAVO acronym does still apply: Baltimore Bridging Resources, Assets, and Vital Organizations for Youth. Along with our name change, we are surrounded by encouragement, support, and a plethora of good ideas and green lights (GO!) from our supporters.

Rest assured, next year promises to be even more exciting. The regularly scheduled After School Strategy Network Meetings will offer expert presenters and continued youth involvement. Some of the headlines: October 5th begins our second installment of *Advancing Youth Development* training co-facilitated by Lori Carter of *The After-School Institute*, Erin Coleman of *St. Veronica's After School Program* and Patricia Gill of the *National Training Institute of Community Youth Workers*. The Enrichment Series will offer quarterly trainings in the areas so often requested: funding, behavioral management, curricula, and introductory courses for new staff. Ask, and you will receive! There are requests for weekend and evening trainings and networking opportunities. Please be sure to look for these additions on our upcoming calendar.

We thoroughly enjoy coordinating these trainings and various events with you for the overall good of Baltimore's After School Strategy. Our 3rd floor office space at 2 E. Read Street is an exciting place where we truly enjoy working with each other. Thank you for your dedication and industry. **B.BRAVO for Youth**, indeed!

WHO'S NEW AT THE AFTER-SCHOOL INSTITUTE?

Good day to everyone, especially those who work in after-school programs. My name is **Justin Brown** and I am the newest member of The After-School Institute (TASI) family.

I have been hired as the Youth Engagement Specialist. This is a new position at TASI. As the Youth Engagement Specialist, my primary role will be to help raise the level of awareness that youth involvement in the decision-making process is vital in developing a successful after-school youth program. In addition, I will be providing programs with technical assistance geared towards youth recruitment and retention. To further customize the support I will be delivering, I will conduct site visits and work with the youth at individual after-school sites.

Currently, I am a junior at Morgan State University, majoring in Industrial Engineering. I was a youth organizer at the Safe and Sound Campaign. While working at Safe and Sound, I realized that youth play an integral role in the success of any program that seeks to involve them.

I am looking forward to meeting all of you in the near future, and to working with you to continue making after-school programs a high quality option where young people can feel safe, while developing the vital relationships and skills necessary to be productive in today's society.

Congratulations...

The After-School Institute would like to join Full Gospel Fellowship Deliverance Church's afterschool program in commending eleven-year old **David Fitzgerald Jr.** While maintaining his status as an honor roll student, David has received many awards and certificates from Pimlico Middle School regarding his perfect attendance, positive attitude and good achievement.

This year, David was not only awarded the 2001 *Pimlico Preakness Art Award*, but also the 2001 *Dr. Ben Carson Scholarship Award*. In the Fall, David will be attending Roland Park Middle School while continuing to participate in many extracurricular activities including Power Masters Karate, Blazers track team, sign language and the children's choir at church. Congratulations, David!

Congratulations to **Glennie Leseene** and **Charles** of the YMCA STAR program for being featured in the Spring/Summer 2001 edition of the YMCA's *Link*.

"As a program counselor, Glennie works with students like Charles in small groups, and one-on-one, to address six different areas of empowerment: increasing personal development, goal setting, self-esteem building, communication skills, job readiness and career exposure. Charles has needed a lot of support to stay on track. Today, at 13, he's still full life and enthusiasm, as well as, the motivation to continue learning new things. Every day after school, when he comes to the STAR program, he knows he's going to have a place to do his homework, and caring adults who can talk to him and help him put together the pieces that will enable him to have the life he wants— an education, a job, a family."

To read the article in its entirety, please obtain a copy from your local YMCA branch.

Have you ever seen what can grow in an old shoe? As featured in the 4-H Youth Expo, the **Midtown Academy Group #3 of Living Classrooms Foundation** planted *Found Container Gardens*. In the Frederick Douglas After-school Program Final Report, the group leader commented that *"the idea was to find unusual containers that most people wouldn't think to use for gardening. The kids brought in items such as old sneakers, a plastic top hat, an old enamel pot, and a construction helmet. The containers were a perfect example of creative gardening solutions for folks that live in urban areas, who may not have a garden plot. With these containers, plants can grow on doorsteps, porches or windowsills."* **Great idea!**

The After-School Institute

B.BRAVO for Youth

Baltimore's Youth Development and Training Institute

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

Do you want to be part of a national movement? Start planning for the national Lights On After School Day October 11. For ideas, contact The After-School Institute or check out www.afterschoolalliance.org.

REGISTER NOW! The After-School Institute's 1st Annual After School Conference

August 29— August 31, 2001

The Radisson Hotel at The Village of Cross Keys
5100 Falls Road

*Sponsored Statewide by the
Maryland state Department of Education
and Supported by the
Maryland After-School Opportunity fund*



FEATURING SPECIALIZED TRACKS

- ☆ Administrators and Directors
- ☆ Frontline Staff
- ☆ New Staff of Existing Programs
- ☆ Starting a New Program

*Pre-registration and a fee are required.

WORKSHOPS INCLUDE:

- Promising Practices/Lessons Learned
- Implementing the *Standards*
- Child & Youth Development
- Youth Recruitment and Retention
- Volunteer Management
- Developing Sustainability Plan
- Evaluation
- Policy and Advocacy
- Establishing City/County-wide After School Strategies

PRESENTERS INCLUDE:

- Academy for Educational Development
- Baltimore's After School Strategy Partners
- EdSolutions
- Finance Project
- Foundations, Inc.
- MD Association of Nonprofit Organizations
- MD Public Television
- MD State Dept. of Education
- National League of Cities
- National School Age Child Care Alliance

BUILDING— DRUID HILL PARK) . . . 11/27 AND 12/18 AFTER-SCHOOL STRATEGY NETWORK MEETING (REC & PARKS ADMIN. BUILDING— DRUID HILL PARK)