

The Afterscoop

Highlights:

- Conference registration is now open
- Maryland HIV Prevention Youth Summit registration is now open
- Community Schools
- Funding Highlights
- Featured programs from Baltimore City and Montgomery County
- Research News

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Letter from the Executive Director

Dear Friends,

Happy new year, welcome to Black History month, and welcome to TASI's February, 2009 newsletter!

I am writing to you today full of pride, after a series of exciting events, including two Training Institutes and three frontline staff cluster trainings. I am pleased to report that 212 frontline staff have now been trained in the basics of Baltimore's standards, the importance of human relationships, and Positive Youth Development—an accomplishment made possible through the cooperation of everyone involved in after-school programming in Baltimore. I am looking forward to our Fifth Annual Eastern Regional Conference on After-School as well, which will take place May 5th and 6th at the Tremont Plaza Hotel.



Funding panel, January 30th Training Institute

As we are all too aware, however, I am also writing to you from the perspective of a concerned Executive Director of a nonprofit organization in these tough economic times. Everyone in this country is feeling the strain of an economic recession, and those of us in the nonprofit and public service fields are feeling it more than most—the need for our services is increasing, while our funding is decreasing. In order to maintain our programs, we all need to use these economic challenges as an opportunity to rethink our funding sources and the services we deliver; to diversify and plan ahead; and to focus on communication, partnerships, and building relationships.

Above all else, we must remember to stay positive and focus on our ultimate goal—to provide quality after-school programs for children and youth, and empower them to develop into healthy, happy, productive adults. We owe it to them!

Best wishes,
Rebkhia Atnafou
Executive Director

Upcoming Baltimore Events

February 24th: Network Meeting

March 9th: Promoting Sexual Health: Spotlight on HIV

March 31st: Network Meeting

April 28th: Network Meeting

May 5th and 6th: Fifth Annual Eastern Regional Conference on After-School, "Integrating Practices of After-School, Community Schools, and Mentoring"

May, 2009: Summer Learning Workshop

May 19th: Network Meeting

June 10th-12th: Supervising Youth Development Practice

June 12th: Maryland HIV Youth Summit; Spread the Word, Not the Disease

June 30th: Network Meeting

Professional Development Highlights

November Network Meeting: This meeting was all about “celebrating females.” It was also the first joint after-school/community schools network meeting. In the words of one of the participants, “It is wonderful that TASI acknowledges the great work of providers, by allowing them to facilitate small groups and share what works.”

December Network Meeting: This meeting was all about “celebrating diversity.” The whole meeting was a special presentation and group activity facilitated by Dr. Geri Peak.

December 12th Training Institute: The December 12th Training



Project-based learning in action at the January 30th Training Institute

Institute focused on human relationships. Workshops provided information about fostering healthy relationships among youth in a program; parent and community engagement; and supervisor to staff relationships. Community Conferencing, Maryland Mentoring Partnership, Maryland Association of Nonprofit Organizations, and TASI all led workshops.

January 30th Training Institute: Nearly 100 people attended this Training Institute, focusing on Project-

“The two events I attended were hands-on, interactive, quality information, with time to speak with others to play it out in ‘real world’.”
-January 30th participant

Based Learning and Quality Relationships. In addition to an opening session and workshops on these topics, the Training Institute also featured an exciting luncheon, with a presentation by Dr. Ivory Toldson on educating African American Males, and a panel discussion on funding challenges and opportunities.

December and January Cluster Trainings: The frontline staff cluster trainings have focused on Baltimore’s After-School Strategy, Baltimore’s Standards for After-School, and Youth Culture. Two hundred twelve frontline staff have now attended a cluster training, representing a significant portion of Baltimore’s after-school workforce.

Save the Date! Conference 2009

TASI’s Fifth Annual Eastern Regional Conference on After-School will be May 5th and 6th, 2009. This year’s conference will be at the Tremont Plaza Hotel (222 Saint Paul Place, Baltimore, MD 21202).

The theme of this year’s conference is “integrating practices of after-school, community schools, and mentoring.” So far, our co-sponsors are: Mayor Sheila Dixon and the Baltimore City Council; the Montgomery County Collaboration Council for Children, Youth and Families; the DC Children and

Youth Investment Trust Corporation; United Way of Southeastern Pennsylvania; Maryland State Department of Education; Communities in Schools, New Jersey After 3; Elevate Baltimore; and Martinsville-Henry County After 3.

Registration is now open. You can register online at <https://www.afterschoolinstitute.org/tasi/conference/confdetails.aspx?eventId=14>. Early bird registration (until March 20th) is \$250. Regular registration is \$350. For more information, call us at (410) 580-0750. We hope to see you there!



Youth and Youth Worker Panel from last year’s conference

AYD and SYDP

Congratulations to the Spring, 2009 class of Advancing Youth Development (AYD) graduates: Marcia Bowyer-Baron
Loretta Brown
Claretta Graham
LeVar Jones
Siobhan Marie
Brian Powell
Ashley Minner

“I can’t describe how valuable this information has been to me. I know my program and my youth will benefit the most and for that I am extremely grateful.”
-AYD/BART participant

Supervising Youth Development Practice (SYDP) will be held June 10th-12th. This course is for managers, supervisors, directors, etc. Anyone with a leadership position

within an after-school program is highly encouraged to attend. Infusing Positive Youth Development into programs at the leadership level ensures that these ideas become part of a program’s everyday practice.

For more information, contact TASI at (410) 580-0750.

HIV Prevention

Youth across Baltimore are taking responsibility for one another and bringing change to their communities. For the last three months, TASI has been conducting HIV prevention and awareness sessions throughout the city, using the BART (Becoming a Responsible Teen) curriculum.

These trainings utilize a variety of training methods, interactive group discussions, role plays, culturally appropriate videos, and first-hand interactions with people who are HIV positive. Youth learn essential information about HIV/AIDS, ways to handle social and sexual pressures,



Youth in the After-School Matters II

how to communicate assertively with friends and potential sex partners, refusal and negotiation skills, and proper condom usage.

As part of the After-School Matters II (ASM II) program at the Mayor's Office of Employment Development, youth who have completed the BART training will participate in a new HIV Prevention Youth Ambassador Program. As Ambassadors, they will travel to recreation centers and after-school programs throughout the city to conduct HIV prevention trainings.

The Ambassador Program started on February 12th. Youth went through a week-long training camp to learn about facilitation, leadership, and teambuilding, and

they are starting to travel to programs and conduct their trainings. They are also helping plan the Promoting Sexual Health: Spotlight on HIV fair that will take place at Northwestern High School on March 9th, and the Annual Maryland HIV Prevention Youth Summit. (More about ASM II can be found on page 6.)

The 2009 Maryland HIV Prevention Youth Summit will be on Friday, June 12th from 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. at the Radisson Cross Keys Hotel. The summit will be co-sponsored by the Maryland AIDS Administration and Baltimore City Health Department. Registration is currently open—go to www.afterschoolinstitute.org or call (410) 580-0750 to register.

Please note the date change to June 12th

Funding Highlights

Highlights from January 30th Funders Panel:

- Many foundations are re-assessing their priority areas
- Good data and evaluation are going to become even more important as budgets get tighter
- A diverse funding base is vital to weathering economic downturns
- Remember to maintain good relationships through frequent communication

Looking for Opportunity in the Months Ahead: The recently passed American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 has some exciting opportunities for after-school programs. As of February 17th, the plan is reported to include:

- \$2 billion for the Child Care and Development Block Grants (CCDBG), about one third of which will be used for after-school programs
- \$10 billion for Title I

- \$3 billion for School Improvement
- \$1.2 billion for summer jobs for youth through the Workforce Investment Act
- \$50 million for YouthBuild, part of the Workforce Investment Act focused on providing education and occupational credentials to at-risk youth
- \$160 million for AmeriCorps and AmeriCorps VISTA programs

For more information and updates, visit www.afterschoolalliance.org

Great Science for Girls

TASP's Great Science for Girls initiative is still going strong in Baltimore.

This month's featured site is the Child First after-school program at Edgewood Elementary School. They are using Great Science for Girls as part of a science club.

One recent activity focused on worms. The group read "The

Diary of a Worm" to learn about live worms. The group also recently took a field trip to the Inner Harbor.



GSG in action at Child First

They learned about sailing and navigation, held live jelly fish and crabs, and watched Captain James shuck oysters. As a follow-up activity, the group made boats out of aluminum foil and added

pennies (passengers) to see test predictions about how many "passengers" each boat could hold.

Keep up the great work!

TASP's Great Science for Girls initiative kicked off last summer when we organized a two-day training led by the Academy for Educational Development. Learn more at <http://www.edequity.org/gsg/>.

Community Schools

As many of you know, TASI has the training and technical assistance contract for Community Schools this year from the city. The contract for building infrastructure lies with Enterprise. Both TASI and Enterprise have hired Sheila Drummond to work on these contracts, and continue to improve Baltimore's Community Schools Initiative.

Community Schools site coordinators and coordinating partners participated in TASI's November Network Meeting. In partnership with Baltimore City Schools, they also participated in the Training Institutes, with sessions focused on attendance, chronic

absenteeism, and family engagement.

In partnership with Baltimore City Schools and the Office of the Mayor, plans are underway to create a Citywide Coordinating Council (CWCC) to help further define Community Schools in Baltimore. The first goal of this group will be to identify the actions and outcomes that characterize the 23 current sites. The CWCC will focus on three distinct areas: model development and evaluation/accountability; advocacy and sustainability; and systemic partnership development/stakeholder groups. Invitations to the core members will be sent jointly from Mayor Dixon and Dr. Alonso. The first meeting will be held in early March.



The community schools section of the January 30th Training Institute

Community Schools Training calendar:

- February 24th:** Network Meeting focusing on school safety and climate
- March 31st:** Network Meeting focusing on community/family resource centers
- April 28th:** Network Meeting focusing on interpreting and marketing results
- May 5th and 6th:** Fifth Annual Eastern Regional Conference on After-School, "Integrating Practices of After-School, Community Schools, and Mentoring"
- May 19th:** Network Meeting focusing on incorporating recommendations from the CWCC
- June 30th:** Network Meeting end of the year review, evaluation, and celebration

NEW: Community Schools Featured Site

The first Community Schools featured site is Violetville Elementary School. HOPE Worldwide Baltimore is the coordinating partner at Violetville.

HOPE has brought several partnerships to Violetville. Partnerships exist with BCCC to provide pre-GED classes for parents and community members, and the UMBC School of Education to provide professional development for school staff, as well as student-teacher interns for classes and the after-school

program.

Violetville's after-school program was run by HOPE this past fall, and has recently received BOOST funding for the rest of the year. There is also a BOOST and HOPE Saturday Academy that provides academic tutoring with volunteers from the

Greater Baltimore Church of Christ.

This spring, UMBC Cooperative Extension will be providing nutrition courses for parents focused on providing nutritious meals on a budget. This summer, the school will be the site of the 2nd Annual Violetville Summer Program, which will be staffed by HOPE Youth Corps and high school and college students from around the country.



Violetville's Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service, with the Mayor

Planning for Summer 2009

Over the last few months, TASI and the National Center for Summer Learning have been working with various government agencies, the school system, and community-based organizations to plan for Summer 2009.

The next meeting in this process will be on March 12th. If you are interested in being a part of this meeting—to figure out ways to partner with principals, leverage funds, and get creative to make sure summer programs are as robust as possible—get in contact with either Rebekah Lin (rlin@afterschoolinstitute.org) or Ashley Stewart (ashley.stewart@jhu.edu).

CBASS

Updates from CBASS (Collaborative for Building After-School Systems)—learn more at www.afterschoolsystems.org:

- On December 12th, CBASS co-sponsored a briefing at the National Press Club in Washington, DC to release a report, "Enhancing School Reform Through Expanded Learning"
- As part of CBASS' work on workforce development, several programs in Baltimore were recently visited and/or interviewed about their experiences with college students
- CBASS has recently welcome the Bay Area Partnership for Children and Youth to the collaborative

Montgomery County Updates

December 19th Networking Breakfast:

The first Montgomery County Networking Breakfast was a big success. Participants broke into three workgroups to discuss network development, quality standards and core competencies, and professional development. Key recommendations included developing a steering committee, maintaining a focus on Positive Youth Development, establishing a “youth worker of the year” award as a way of recognizing outstanding work, and developing a central website where all trainings for youth workers could be posted.

“I will share this information with my staff, and I am looking forward to upcoming events and meetings.”
-Networking Breakfast participant

December 19th Follow-Up Meeting on Preparing Staff to Serve Immigrant Youth:

This follow-up meeting to last May’s Symposium allowed old and new participants a chance to recap the original meeting, and plan for this year’s two-day Symposium. Much of the conversation focused on the need to go deeper into the issues at this year’s event—particularly around topics such as youth workers as a bridge to the broader community, bias, violence prevention, mental health, and developing a youth survey.

January 16th Training Institute:

The first Montgomery County Training Institute focused on introducing the quality

standards and building quality relationships. Workshops included: Daily Rap, which discussed staff-youth and youth-youth relationships; Effective Leadership, which discussed supervisor-staff relationships; and Family and Community Engagement, which discussed how to best engage families and communities.

STEM workgroup updates:

There have been two meetings so far of a STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) workgroup. The group is discussing ways to systematically incorporate STEM in after-school programs in Montgomery County, to support youth academically and encourage problem-solving, critical thinking, and other important skills.

Learn more: www.collaborationcouncil.org.

Advancing Youth Development



A fall AYD graduate receives her certificate

The next round of Advancing Youth Development (AYD) for Montgomery County will be March 3rd, 4th, 5th, 17th, and 18th. To register, contact Tracey Webb at the Montgomery County Collaboration Council: tracey.webb@collaborationcouncil.org.

Supervising Youth Development Practice (SYDP), for managers and directors, will be May 27th-29th. Contact Tracey Webb to register for this as well.



Fall AYD graduates during their final presentations

Upcoming Montgomery County Events

Feb 26th: Up-County Network Meeting at the Up-County Regional Services Center

Feb 27th: Down-County Network Meeting at the Coffield Community Center

March 3rd, 4th, 5th, 17th, and 18th: Advancing Youth Development (AYD) at Chase Suites

March 13th: Training Institute II

April 16th: Up-County Network Meeting

April 17th: Down-County Network Meeting

April 29th and 30th: Preparing Staff to Serve Immigrant Youth Symposium

May 5th and 6th: Fifth Annual Eastern Regional Conference on After-School, “Integrating Practices of After-School, Community Schools, and Mentoring” (in Baltimore)

May 20th: Second Annual Excel Beyond the Bell Symposium

May 27th-29th: Supervising Youth Development Practice (SYDP)

June 12th: Network Meeting, Up- and Down-County

June 12th: Maryland HIV Prevention Youth Summit (in Baltimore)

June 26th: AYD and SYDP reunion for all 2008 and 2009 graduates

Baltimore Featured Program: After-School Matters II

What Youth Workers have to say about it...

TASI talked with Anthony Greene, a youth worker with the Mayor's Office of Employment Development, Youth Opportunity Division—After-School Matters II (ASM II).

What do you see as the mission of your program?

ASM II supports at-risk students in their most vulnerable hours—after-school.

What about your program do you feel is unique?

ASM II helps students

stay in school and utilize their after-school hours to build both soft and hard job readiness skills. The program has four phases: orientation and job readiness training sessions; waged career exploration; waged internship experiences; and summer employment.



After-School Matters II participants from Patterson High School

Why do you think your program is successful?

In an effort to determine the impact of the program, 107 students were surveyed in 2007-2008. Students responded overwhelmingly (97%) that they felt the ASM II program helped them use

their after-school hours constructively and 83% said that the ASM II program helped them improve their academic performance.

What else is required to be involved?

A parent/guardian must read and sign the Parents' Agreement and attend a special orientation session. Applicants must submit a 100-word essay.

This year, students from Walbrook's Business Academy, Thurgood Marshall, Samuel L. Banks, Northwestern, and Reginald F. Lewis high schools are participating in ASM II. Funding for the program comes from the Mayor's Office, Maryland AIDS Administration, and Baltimore City Health Department.

What Youth have to say about it...

TASI talked with Thalia and Hia, two ASM II participants.

Why do you enjoy attending this program?

I enjoy attending this program because it helps me stay positive, keep my mind focused on education, and prepares me for the adult world.

How do you think other after-school programs could learn from yours?

I think other after-school programs could learn from mine by helping their kids get a better knowledge about the real world.

How do you feel your after-school program has helped you?

I think that my after-school program has

helped me with leadership skills and at home. It gives me the skills that I would need on a job.

What else should people know about your program?

I think that overall the program is wonderful. There are little improvements that should be changed, but if ever given the chance I would do it again!

*"At first I thought I couldn't work that well with different people, but as I started working at my real job, I was excited to work with others."
-Youth response on a survey*

What Parents have to say about it...

TASI talked with Lee Ann, whose daughter is an ASM II participant.

How has your daughter changed since she started attending the program?

I see the change in her wanting to come to school more.

Why did your daughter start attending this program?

To prepare her for the working world.

What about the program do you feel is successful?

This program has successfully motivated her more.

For more information:

ASM II is a program in the Mayor's Office of Employment Development. For more information, call Pat Waddell or Anthony Greene at (410) 396-6722. TASI has been a partner since its inception in 2003.

ASM II is modeled after (but not affiliated with) Chicago's After-School Matters program. For more information about Chicago's program, visit: www.afterschoolmatters.org.

Montgomery County Featured Program: Identity

What Youth Workers have to say about it...

TASI talked with Rebecca Shoaf, a youth worker with Identity.

What do you see as the mission of your program?

The mission of our program is to empower Latino youth to reach their full potential and successfully transition into adulthood by providing these young people with knowledge, life skills, support, and positive role models.



Identity participants after a successful retreat

What about your program do you feel is unique?

As told to me by Mr. Lowndes, the principal of Wheaton High School, "The greatest thing about Identity is that they are the only after-school program that caters specifically to the METS students," (students with interrupted education who come to this country from elsewhere). We at Identity reach out to those who feel most disconnected from school and family and offer the support they need to

grow in this society.

How do you think other programs could learn from you?

At Identity relationship building is a very important aspect of what we do. Not only do we work with the students and their families, but we also work with the school staff, school administrators, and other community based organizations that enhance and supplement the services we provide and the programs we run. Having and maintaining strong relationships is a pillar of Identity that has helped our programs run as strongly and smoothly as they do today.

What Youth have to say about it...

TASI talked with Yamaly, an eleventh grade student and participant in Identity.

Why do you enjoy attending this program?

I enjoy coming to Identity because of the staff. They are like my second family. Everything that I have done up to now will help me in my future when I apply to college.

*"I love Identity with a passion. The staff is always there when you need them."
-Yamaly, eleventh grade*

What about your program do you feel is unique?

Identity gets students to think about our lives. All of the activities that we do in the program have a meaning that relates to life somehow. Also, I think that Identity is different because they focus on

Latino youth. Not a lot of programs at Gaithersburg High School focus on Latinos.

How do you feel your after-school program has helped you?

It has helped me develop my leadership and communication skills. It has taught me to be more open to the opinions of others.

What Parents have to say about it...

TASI talked with Ana, whose daughter attends Identity.

What about the program do you feel is unique?

The program is unique because it uses Hispanic traditions and they are different; it keeps people's heads busy in something productive, and it teaches how to work in groups.



A parent/child communication activity during a family session.

Why do you think the program is successful?

I think it is good because it helps the kids have their minds on something successful, creative, and educational.

For more information:

Identity was founded in 1998 and serves Montgomery County's rapidly growing Latino community. They have offices in Gaithersburg, Wheaton, and Takoma Park.

More information can be found on their website: <http://www.identity.ws>

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The After-School INSTITUTE

The After-School Institute builds the capacity of after-school program providers so that they can deliver high quality services in a caring, supportive environment that empowers children and youth to develop civic, academic, artistic, and athletic talents and skills.

TASI Staff

Rebkha Atnafou, Executive Director

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Rebekah Lin, Communications and Technical Assistance Specialist

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Vanita Bhargava, Montgomery County Project Support

Sheila Drummond, Community Schools Professional Development Coordinator

Dr. Toks Fashola, Evaluator

Kate O'Sullivan, Montgomery County Project Support

"Time and again, the bottom line of many after-school studies is that one of the most critical feature of high-quality programs necessary for achieving positive outcomes is the quality of a program's staff. Youth are more likely to realize the benefits of programs if they develop positive relationships with the program's staff, and staff can only build these relationships through positive, quality interactions with youth."

– Harvard Family Research Project

TASI in the News

The Montgomery County Gazette recently ran an article titled "Youths launch own programs for empowerment," which quotes Rebkha Atnafou several times. The full article can be found at: http://www.gazette.net/stories/01282009/silvnew191155_32498.shtml

Two stories have been published in the Baltimore Times about Dr. Ivory Toldson's presentation at the January 30th Training Institute. Go to <http://baltimoretimes-online.com/> and search "Toldson" to find them.

Mayor Sheila Dixon mentioned TASI and the work we do in her remarks at the Business and Labor Responds to AIDS Press Conference on February 11th.

The Baltimore City Health Department is leading an effort to ban the sale of single, cheap cigars. More information, as well as TASI's letter of support, can be found at: <http://www.baltimorehealth.org/cigars.html>.

Recent Research

TASI highlights at least two recent research studies a month in our monthly research highlights. These monthly highlights are often supplemented with updates throughout the month. All of this can be found on our website by going to the resources tab, and then clicking on studies (<http://www.afterschoolinstitute.org/tasi/resources/studies.aspx>).

Recent postings of interest include the full text and a summary of Dr. Ivory Toldson's "Breaking Barriers: Plotting the Path to Success for School-Age African-American Males," as well as a summary of the Wallace Foundation's study on the cost of quality out-of-school-time programming. Additionally, the January highlights include the report from CBASS' December 12th press briefing.

MHC After 3

On February 6th, TASI conducted a full-day retreat for Martinsville Henry County After 3. The retreat was attended by 25 people from this rural community, representing colleges, after-school program providers, arts and museum programs, and funders.

The group has been organized to develop a system for enhancing after-school opportunities in the area. The retreat focused on revising the mission statement, developing a vision statement, SWOT analysis, and setting priorities.



Community Conferencing Workshop at the January 30th Training Institute

MHC After 3 was established three years ago with major funding provided by the Harvest Foundation.