

The Afterscoop

Special points of interest:

- June 12th: The Annual Maryland HIV Prevention Youth Summit
- June 26th: TASI's Second Annual Fundraiser
- Community School Spotlight on the Y
- After-School featured programs—Umar Boxing and Young Chefs

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Letter from the Executive Director

Dear Friends,

This summer marks the 10th anniversary of The After-School Institute (TASI). TASI, originally called Baltimore Building Resources and Vital Organizations for Youth (B.BRAVO), was established in 1999 under the Baltimore Safe and Sound Campaign. It was also ten years ago this summer that the first grant awards were made under the newly established Baltimore's After-School Strategy. After being created, TASI was incubated for nine years at Safe and Sound, before becoming an independent nonprofit organization in the summer of 2008. In 2007, we established an office in Montgomery County as well.

While we originally served the first 25 grantees of the Strategy, we now serve over 85 programs and 100 sites in both Baltimore City and Montgomery County. In 2000, we established an annual statewide after-school conference. In 2005, that conference became regional, and drew over 600 participants from nine Mid-Atlantic States. Since our inception, we have organized monthly Network Meetings to foster relationships and partnerships among after-school programs, and help create a peer-learning community and build collective professional identity to both support those in the field, and advocate for outside support. We have worked to create quality standards for after-school programs and core competencies for youth workers, and have been a leader in integrating academics and health promotion into after-school. We organize trainings utilizing local and national trainers. We engage outside evaluators to assess the impact of our efforts and to provide guidance. We have secured public and private funding to sustain our work, and have built credibility locally and nationally that we are continuously building upon.

Most importantly, our work provides after-school programs with the support and services they need to provide quality programs that result in positive youth outcomes, and it is this – our vision and our mission – that we must continue to pursue for the next ten years and beyond.

Best Wishes,
Rebkha Atnafou
Executive Director

Upcoming Baltimore Events

May 15th: TASI and the Center for Summer Learning are hosting a summer learning workshop. The event will be from 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., and will cost \$100. See page two for more details.

May 19th: May Network Meeting, 9:00-11:00 a.m.,

Pimlico Road Arts and Community Center.

June 19th: The Annual Maryland HIV Prevention Youth Summit, free with registration. From 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. at the Radisson Cross Keys Hotel. See page three for more details.

June 26th: "The Keys to Success," TASI's Second Annual Fundraiser and Tenth Anniversary Celebration will be at the Radisson Cross Keys Hotel, from 6:30-9:30 p.m. See page two for more details.

June 30th: June Network Meeting, 9:00-11:00 a.m.

Professional Development Updates

TASI has had several exciting events since our last newsletter.

Our **February Network Meeting** was held on February 24th. The theme was “Building Partnerships and Marketing.” Breakout sessions featured grant writing tips from The Family League of Baltimore City and Enoch Pratt Free Library; an Executive Director’s Roundtable led by TASI, focused on developing recommendations to submit to local funders; and a virtual site visit to Victorious Attitudes for Everyday Life (VAEL).

Our **March Network Meeting** was held on March 30th. The theme was “Preparing for

Summer.” The new Executive Director of The Family League opened the meeting with remarks. Breakout sessions featured information about service learning from the Parks & People Foundation; an Executive Director’s Roundtable led by TASI, focused on advocating for funding and maximizing limited resources; and a virtual site visit to Sports4Kids.

Our **STEM and Project-Based Learning** training was held on March 13th—see page three for more details.



March 13th Training

Our **April Network Meeting** was held on April 28th. The theme was “Cultural Arts” and it featured presentations about incorporating the arts in after-school, a resource fair—complete with live owls, snakes and

lizards! —and an Executive Director’s Roundtable led by TASI, focused on program updates and announcements.

Upcoming Training Opportunity: Save the Date

TASI is excited to announce an upcoming training opportunity for after-school and summer programs that we will be hosting in conjunction with the National Center for Summer Learning (CSL). This workshop will be focused on summer programming and reducing summer learning loss. It will be held on May 15th, 2009 at the Johns Hopkins University’s School of Education, in the Great Hall from 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Breakfast refreshments will be provided. The fee for the training is \$100. Interested? Contact TASI or Erin Ulery at CSL for details.

“The Keys to Success”

On June 26th, TASI will be holding its **Second Annual Fundraiser and Tenth Anniversary Celebration: “The Keys to Success.”** The event will be from 6:30—9:30 p.m. at the Radisson Cross Keys Hotel in Baltimore.

Last year, TASI raised several thousand dollars through our fundraiser—and we are hoping to raise even more this year. The event will feature food, drink, entertainment, a raffle, and a silent auction.

Individual tickets are \$45, and are available now—that’s half the price of last year!

The following ticket packages are also available:

\$100 ~ 2 entry tickets and 4 raffle tickets
\$350 ~ 8 entry tickets, 8 raffle tickets, one reserved table

\$425 ~ 10 entry tickets, 10 raffle tickets, one reserved table, and name in the program booklet

Want to help in another way? TASI is looking for donated items for the raffle and silent auction, volunteers to perform as part of the evening’s entertainment, and organizations or companies interested in co-sponsoring the event.

For more details on any of this, contact Rebekah Lin at: rlin@afterschoolinstitute.org or 410.580.0750, ext. 206.

Summer

TASI has been working with the National Center for Summer Learning over the

past few months to help ensure a coordinated plan for summer programming in Baltimore this year.

Part of this coordination was a Strategic Planning Forum held in March. The



Strategic Planning Forum

Forum had time for principals and representatives from community based organizations and government agencies to network and discuss future partnerships. The Forum helped lay the groundwork for an exciting summer and set a tone of partnership for the future.

Martinsville

TASI continues to provide consultation to Martinsville Henry County After 3. They have been implementing the Youth Program Quality Assessment tool, after attending TASI’s training. Next year, with funding from the Harvest Foundation, TASI will bring Advancing Youth Development (AYD) and the start of a professional development system to the area. MHC is also a co-sponsor for our Regional Conference.

Youth Summit

The Annual Maryland HIV Prevention Youth Summit is coming up soon! The Summit will be on June 19th from 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. at the Radisson Cross Keys Hotel. It is free to all youth in Maryland, as long as they are registered, and there is limited space for interested adults. Registration can be completed online at: <https://www.afterschoolinstitute.org/tasi/aboutn/register.aspx?eventId=371>.

Workshops include “Relationships and Sex...After HIV,” “STD? Have You Seen Them?” “Leaving Hate Behind,” “Relationships in the Real World,” “HIV/AIDS Community Conversation,” and “To Know Me is To Love & Respect Me!” Exhibitors include 92Q Jams, Johns Hopkins Life Line, Baltimore City Health Department, Maryland AIDS

Administration, Maryland State Department of Education, and Chris Camp. As in the past, STAR TRACK will be providing free, onsite HIV testing. Lunchtime entertainment will include spoken word, a fashion show, dance, and drumming.

There will also be a panel discussion with three young people who are HIV positive. This will provide invaluable insight into living with the virus, and its effects on everyday life.

For more information, contact Stacey Reed at sreed@afterschoolinstitute.org or 410.580.0750, ext. 203.



March 9th Health Fair

Health Fair

On March 9th, TASI held a health fair at Northwestern High School. The fair—“Promoting Sexual Health: Spotlight on HIV”—was attended by nearly 75 youth and others from the Park Heights and Northwestern community. The event included exhibits, resources, free testing, and presentations about HIV, sexual health, and other related topics.

Funding for the health fair came from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Women’s Health. TASI would also like to thank the Maryland AIDS Administration, Baltimore City Health Department, and Baltimore City Public Schools Office of Health and Science for additional support, as well as Northwestern High School for allowing us to hold the event in their cafeteria.

GSG/STEM

On March 13th, nearly 40 after-school program providers gathered at Port Discovery Children’s Museum to learn about STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math), why it’s an important topic to include in after-school programming, and how it relates to project-based learning. Nationally recognized trainers from the Academy for Educational Development and Education Development Center presented, and the event was even covered in the Baltimore Times.

The morning portion of the day focused on providing programs who are participating in Great Science for Girls (GSG) with some individualized ideas and technical assistance.

The afternoon portion was open to anyone, and was attended by a wide variety of people—participants came from the Maryland State Department of Education,

Port Discovery, community-based organizations, school-based programs, and community schools. It included learning about skills such as observing, investigating, questioning, explaining, setting the context, pacing, engaging with youth, and modeling process skills.



Bubble Activity on March 13th

TASI would like to thank Port Discovery for the space, as well as all of the enthusiastic participants!

CBASS

Along with seven other intermediaries from across the country, TASI is part of the Collaborative for Building After-School Systems (CBASS).

At the National Afterschool Association/National Association of Elementary School Principals conference in April, CBASS participated in a plenary session on aligning after-school with the

school day to support positive youth outcomes. At the National Center for Summer Learning’s conference, also in April, a meeting exploring a new vision for summer school was co-hosted by CBASS, and CBASS members—including TASI—presented on a panel discussing the power of partnerships in creating summer learning experiences for students.

CBASS partners will also be leading a presentation at TASI’s conference about strategies for recruiting older males to after-school programs. The presentation will cover findings from a report CBASS and Public/Private Ventures worked together to produce.

To learn more about CBASS, visit: <http://www.afterschoolsystems.org/>.

Community School Feature: Spotlight on the Y

In this issue of TASI's newsletter, we are spotlighting the Y of Central Maryland, Youth Asset Development Division, as a featured Community School Coordinating Partner. The Y runs the Community Schools at Chinquapin Middle, Dr. Rayner Browne Elementary/Middle, Dunbar Middle, George Washington Elementary, Northern High School, Patterson High School, Walbrook High School, and Wolfe Street Academy.

In order to keep their Community Schools strong, the Y

frequently engages in needs assessments and resource mapping in the communities where their schools are located. This allows them to understand the uniqueness of each community, and appropriately tailor programming that best supports individual strengths and

challenges. They hold monthly network meetings for the eight site coordinators, and have hired Parent Involvement Facilitators (PIF) to work in their schools.

Some highlights from this past year include with work

the University of Maryland at George Washington Elementary, work with Morgan State University at Dr. Rayner Browne Elementary/Middle, career exploration programs at Patterson and Northern High Schools, securing Ravens Foundation support at three schools, receiving climate and safety support at three schools in partnership with Goucher College and the Department of Justice, implementing mentoring programs at George Washington Elementary and Chinquapin and Dunbar Middle Schools, holding GED and family literacy classes, and holding community events such as "WolfFest" at Wolfe Street Academy.

For more information, contact Marianne Reynolds or Bradley Alston: MarianneReynolds@ymaryland.org or BradleyAlston@ymaryland.org.



Students and families from George Washington Elementary hiking the Gwynns Falls Trail, organized by the YMCA

What Principals have to say...

"The education and development of a child is a complex matter. The Community School Initiative understands this complexity. Through the Y of Central Maryland's Community School at Wolfe Street Academy, we are able to truly educate the whole child. The Community School helps



An oral health program at Wolfe Street Academy with students from the University of Maryland

provide students and their families with such basic needs as food, shelter, and security. Without these resources—acquired, organized, and delivered with the assistance of the Y Community School at Wolfe Street Academy—our

children would be less prepared to take on challenges of the mind and fulfill their potential. The Community School is central to the success of our children, our families, and our city."

-Mark Gaither, Principal of Wolfe Street Academy

The Community Schools Initiative represents a partnership between TASI, the Mayor and City Council, Enterprise Community Partners, and Baltimore City Public Schools.

Community School Updates

This year, the Community Schools Site Coordinators the Community Supports for Schools Grantees have had joint professional development (PD) sessions. The focus for the sessions have been on the three results areas: attendance/chronic absenteeism, school climate and safety, and parental engagement.

The March PD Session focused on School

Safety and Climate. Participants learned how the school system addresses school climate in a presentation by Debbie Thomas from the Office of Student Support. Adrienne Noel, from Family Skills Alliance International, discussed how knowledge of extended family relationships and connections can impact school climate. The April PD session focused on the connection between the

three results are and how they are addressed by offices within the school system.

Community Schools have also become a key part of TASI's Regional Conference, with workshops geared specifically toward community school site coordinators. The Community Schools track was created through a partnership with the Children's Aid Society.

Montgomery County

Network Meetings, Training Institutes, and Advancing Youth Development are in full swing in Montgomery County.

The **February Network Meeting** included a presentation by Jaracus Copes, Executive Director of New Destiny, as well as small group discussions which led to suggestions for the March Training Institute.

The **March Training Institute** focused on health and safety quality standards, health and safety core competencies, and recruiting and retaining youth. To demonstrate

creative and affordable healthy snacks, Sheila Crye from Young Chefs, Inc. and Rebkha Atnafo from TASI led a cooking session. Activities with small types of exercise equipment showed that incorporating cardiovascular and muscular fitness into programming can be easy, fun, and affordable. Finally, Jan Goldstein from Arts on the Block and Sheila Clyburn from GapBusters led a workshop about

successful recruitment and retention strategies.

At the **Monthly Excel Beyond the Bell Partners Meetings**, topics such as funding, data, evaluation, youth worker capacity-

building, and the Second Annual Excel Beyond the Bell symposium were discussed.

TASI also participated in Up- and Down-County Community Meetings that occurred in March, providing an overview of Excel Beyond the Bell and our capacity-building efforts in the county.

Looking ahead, **Supervising Youth Development Practice (SYDP)** will take place May 27th- 29th. SYDP is similar to Advancing Youth Development (AYD), but is tailored to meet the needs of those in management and leadership positions. If you are interested in participating in SYDP, email Andrea Tillery at atillery@afterschoolinstitute.org or visit https://www.afterschoolinstitute.org/tasi/aboutn/event_detail.aspx?eventId=366.

See below for more upcoming event dates.

“This training session exceeded my expectations. I appreciated the diverse population and delivery. There was a lot of relevant information that met the needs of our communities.”
-Training Institute participant

Advancing Youth Development (AYD)

Congratulations to the Spring, 2009 class of AYD participants and graduates!

- Jorge Altamirano**, Long Branch Athletic Association
- Peter Balogun**, Ghandi Brigade
- Kimberly Bryant**, Montgomery County Recreation Department
- Marti Crosby**, GUIDE Youth Services
- Elizabeth Gordy**, Identity, Inc.
- Tamika Madden**, New Destiny LLC
- Mario Martinez**, Identity, Inc.

- Pat Mosby**, “Mo” County All Stars
- Mary Pelz**, Montgomery County Recreation Department
- Carlos Prudencio**, Montgomery County Recreation Department
- Paula Rodgers**, Montgomery County Recreation Department
- José Segura**, Montgomery County



Spring AYD graduation

- Recreation Department
- Jacilyn Smith**, Community Bridges
- Cindy Styles**, GUIDE Youth Services
- Jerald Umazor**, Ghandi Brigade
- Wilmar Ventura**, Ghandi Brigade

Upcoming Montgomery County Events

Second Annual Excel Beyond the Bell Symposium: May 20th; 8:30-2:00; Universities at Shady Grove

Supervising Youth Development Practice (SYDP): May 27th, 28th, and 29th; 8:30-noon; Eastern Montgomery County Regional Services Center

Maryland HIV Prevention Youth Summit: June 19th; 9:00-3:00; Radisson

Cross Keys Hotel in Baltimore

AYD/SYDP Reunion: June 26th; 9:00-1:00; Eastern Montgomery County Regional Services Center

TASI’s Fundraiser: June 26th, 6:30-9:30 p.m.,

“The facilitator ensured the workshop was interactive, informative, and thoroughly enjoyable.”

-Training Institute participant

Radisson Cross Keys Hotel in Baltimore.

Preparing Staff to Work with Immigrant Youth: June 29th 9:30-5:30 and June 30th 9:30-1:30. Location TBD.

End-of-Year Celebration: TBD

Baltimore City Featured Program: Umar Boxing

What Youth have to say about it...

TASI talked with Dominique and Zachary, two youth who participate in the program.

Why do you think your program is successful?

D: I think our program is successful because we have educated teachers and dedicated coaches who really want to help each of us and make us become better people.

Why do you enjoy attending this program?

Z: I get to do my homework and have fun.

How do you feel your

after-school program has helped you?

D: My after-school program has helped me be a better person and look forward to life.

What about your program is unique or creative?

Z: It has a tutoring and boxing program together.

What about your program has changed since you started attending?

D: We got better computers and new printers.

Z: The program just got new computers, a school camp, there is more parental involvement, and a partnership with the library.

How do you think other programs could learn from yours?

D: Always have dedicated teachers and coaches who want the best.

Z: They can learn by using the idea of putting a tutoring and sport program together.

Anything else?

Z: With Umar I got to meet lots of different people and go to New Jersey.



Youth and youth workers in the program

What Parents have to say about it...

TASI talked with Ronnie, a parent of youth in the program.

Why did your children start attending this program?

The education program and the price/affordability. Umar's program is geared towards children, and exercising both the mind and body.

Why do you think the program is successful?

"This program is the best thing in the boxing world and I am glad it was made affordable for my five children. It would be a great loss if this program disappeared."

-Ronnie, parent

There is a lot of support from outside the program as well as inside it.

How has the program changed your children since

they started attending?

The children are getting healthier and making better grades in school from the help of the teachers and trainers.

What opportunities have you had as a parent or guardian to be involved in the program?

I have the opportunity to see my children grow for the better. I would love the opportunity to be involved with the Board of Directors.

Umar Youth and Boxing Program

Umar Youth and Boxing Program, Inc. was established in 1996. It is dedicated to reclaiming community youth from the city streets of Baltimore and helping them prepare for future roles as productive citizens in society. Umar's motto is "No hooks before books!" The program combines academic tutoring and the sport of boxing to create an incentive-based learning environment—students master both mathematics and the art of

boxing.

Currently, Umar serves about 75 youth at its North Avenue location and has a reputation for producing national and international competitors.

Youth in the program are able to compete in amateur competitions throughout the country, and many current and former youth have won national championships and titles.

For more information:



Want to learn more about Umar Youth and Boxing?

Phone: 410.728.3600
Fax: 410.728.3500

Website:

www.nohooksbeforebooks.org

Montgomery Featured Program: Young Chefs

What Youth Workers have to say about it...

TASI talked with Sheila Crye, who ran the Young Chefs program at Sligo Middle School in the fall.

What do you see as the mission of your program?

The purpose of establishing cooking clubs is to bring back the cooking part of Home Economics as an after-school program. Young people are not so interested in nutritional book knowledge, but many are interested to learn how to cook. Cooking is hands-on nutrition.

What about your program is successful?

Most of us eat three meals a day; eating is an ubiquitous part of living. Even if there

are no cooks in the family, people—including young people—somehow know that eating well is part of living well. It's wonderful to work with the 'tween age group, fourth to eighth grade, because they are curious about how kitchen appliances work, and they usually have the confidence to try new skills.

How do you think other programs could learn from you?

Incorporate the teaching of simple cooking skills in the

preparation of healthy snacks.

According to Tracey Webb from the Collaboration Council:

“As home economics courses are generally not found in today's schools, Sheila fills an important void. On the day I visited the ‘Pancake Cook-off’ activity, the students displayed kitchen safety skills, knew how to cut vegetables and fruit correctly, and shared how the program has helped increase their math skills. They were very excited about learning new ways to prepare pancakes and many asked if they could take their culinary creations home to share with their families.”



Students in the Young Chefs program

What Youth have to say about it...

TASI talked with Tabitha, a student at Sligo Middle who participated in Young Chefs.

Why did you enjoy attending this program?

Having fun with students my age and in different grades.

What about your program do you feel is unique or creative?

I believe when we invent new recipes,

that takes a lot of creativity. When we make the recipe and it turns into a new food, that makes you feel successful.

How did your program change you as you attended?

I didn't know anyone at first but when we socialized I became more comfortable.

What would you like to change

about your program?

I don't think there is anything to improve it. It's a great class.

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

My social skills have improved a lot and I know more sixth- and seventh-graders.



Students in the Young Chefs program

Young Chefs, Inc.

Young Chefs, Inc. ran one 10-week program at Sligo Middle School in the fall. It worked with about 22 students over the course of the ten weeks, in grades six, seven, and eight. The group met in a former home economics room that the school no longer uses. Students learned to cook dishes such as gumbo and Mexican orzo salad, and even participated in a pancake cook-off. The program resulted in a computerized

recipe book that all the students could use at home.

Sheila Crye co-presented with TASI at the March Training Institute, and will do so again at the May Excel Beyond the Bell Symposium. This summer, working with the Recreation Department, she will hold cooking classes at Sligo Middle.

For more information:

“The program was hands-on and experiential and the students got to see quick results. They also made a variety of dishes, which made it all the more interesting and useful.”

-Deena, parent

Want to learn more about Young Chefs?

Email: Crye4@aol.com

Phone: 301.512.8631

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's Baltimore address:

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Baltimore, MD 21208
(p) 410.580.0750
(f) 410.580.0754
info@afterschoolinstitute.org
www.afterschoolinstitute.org

TASI's Montgomery County address:

Montgomery County Collaboration Council
7361 Calhoun Place, Suite 600
Rockville, MD 20855
(p) 301.610.0147

TASI Staff

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Vanita Bhargava, Montgomery County Project Support

Sheila Drummond, Community Schools Professional Development Coordinator

Dr. Toks Fashola, Evaluator

Craig Kershaw, Chief Financial Officer

"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

Support After-School, Community Schools, and TASI

It's that time of year again-time to advocate for funding on behalf of after-school and community schools. Help support quality after-school programs, community schools, and TASI and spread the word about our work by writing a letter to your City Council member!

These letters help personalize our work, and your stories are the best way of communicating why what we do is important to youth, families, programs, and to the city as a whole. In this time of tight budgets and economic challenges, we need these letters more than we ever have before, and thank you in advance for your support.

To access a directory of city council members, visit www.baltimorecitycouncil.com/members.htm. For a draft letter and/or information about TASI's work to include in your letter, contact Rebekah Lin at 410.580.0750, ext. 206 or rlin@afterschoolinstitute.org.

Office Space for Rent

Looking to rent a private office? TASI has space for rent! The prices are as follows:

Cubicle: \$300 a month
Small office: \$500 a month
Large office: \$700 a month

If you are interested in learning more, contact Andrea Tillery at atillery@afterschoolinstitute.org or 410.580.0750, ext. 200.



April 28th Network Meeting Resource Fair