

THE AFTER-SCHOOL INSTITUTE

Annual Report 2009

BUILDING THE CAPACITY
OF AFTER-SCHOOL
PROGRAM PROVIDERS
TO EMPOWER CHILDREN AND YOUTH
TO EXCEL



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Board Members

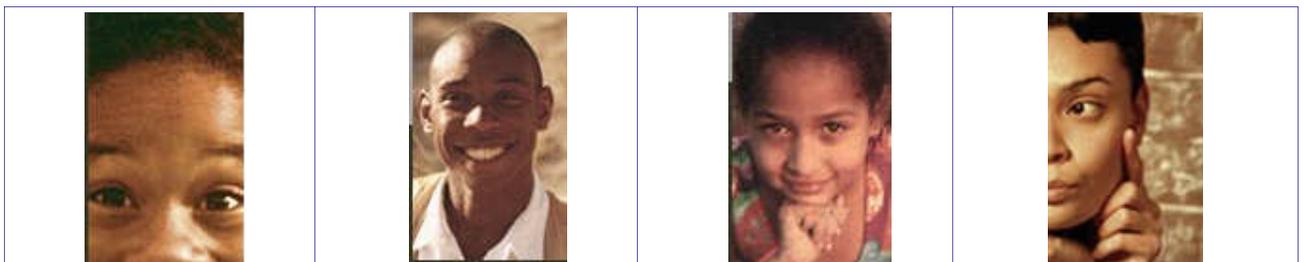
As TASI enters its second year as an independent nonprofit organization, we’d like to recognize our board members for their continued commitment and support.

* Rebkha Atnafou * Jennifer Brady * K.C. Burton * Beahtha R. Davis * Vanessa Diggs * Amy Michelle Gross * Dr. Cheryl De Pinto * Ayanna Fewes * Stephanie Franklin * Shawn Stelow Griffin * Kenneth Morrison * Nancy Peter * Sabrina Y. Sutton *

Funders

TASI would like to thank everyone that has funded us over the past year. Without the support of so many different organizations, we could not do what we do.

* After-School Matters * Baltimore City Health Department * Baltimore City Mayor Sheila Dixon and the Baltimore City Council * Family League of Baltimore City * Baltimore City Public Schools Office of Health and Science * Collaborative for Building After-School Systems * East Baltimore Development Inc.—Elev8 * Education Development Center * M & T Bank * Martinsville Henry County After 3 * Maryland Infectious Disease and Environmental Health Administration * Montgomery County Collaboration Council * U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Women’s Health * Fifth Annual Eastern Regional Conference Co-Sponsors * Second Annual Fundraiser Attendees *



The After-School Institute (TASI) was established in 1999 as a citywide, capacity-building organization linked to the Safe and Sound Campaign and Baltimore's After-School Strategy.

Our Mission: 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.

Our Vision: The After-School Institute's vision is to be the premier training and technical assistance organization for after-school programs in Maryland, focused on professionalizing and expanding the field by:

- providing innovative and multiple approaches to distilling and presenting national best practices,
- providing quality training experiences,
- providing tailored technical assistance,
- providing unique networking opportunities,
- promoting effective policies,
- engaging, convening, and supporting critical constituencies,
- brokering and leveraging resources and monitoring program quality, and
- establishing quality standards and promoting accountability.

From the Executive Director

Dear friends,

Another exciting year has passed at The After-School Institute! It has been a momentous year for this country, and a year of new initiatives and partnerships for us.

As we close out our tenth anniversary year, and first year transitioning as an independent nonprofit organization, we are delighted to share with you—our supporters, our funders, our partners, and our friends—some of the highlights of what we accomplished in 2009, and what we are looking forward to in 2010. This annual report is a compilation of our work, and the work of our partners in Baltimore and throughout the country. As many of our colleagues—and TASI—struggle in these economically challenging times, we must be even more intentional about partnering, and pay more attention to our budgets to maximize limited resources.

We hope you can find a few moments to read this report. We welcome your input, your thoughts, and your continuing support. **We look forward to working with you in the future.**

Here's to another momentous year!



*Rebekha Atnafou, TASI's
Executive Director*

Best Wishes,
Rebekha Atnafou
Executive Director

Government Leaders' Perspectives:



Mayor Sheila Dixon, Baltimore City

“As mayor, I am committed to improving the availability and quality of after-school programming in this City. **For both of the past two years, I have committed over five million dollars to after-school programming in Baltimore.** This funding has also supported infrastructure and systems building, including The After-School Institute’s capacity building, the Family League’s fund and contract management, and the web-based MIS system to track program participation. I have also supported Baltimore’s Community Schools Initiative, and I am proud of my investment in Baltimore Rising, the City’s mentoring program, and to have the Maryland Mentoring Partnership right here in the city. I believe that improving and supporting after-school programs, the availability of community schools, and strengthening mentoring opportunities are all vital steps towards advancing youth development and opportunity in this City. I know from experience that all of these services help improve the quality of life in this City, not only be helping youth, but by helping their schools, families, and communities as well.”



Nancy Grasmick, Maryland State Superintendent of Schools

“As public school educators, we believe that each child is capable of learning and acquiring the skills and knowledge necessary to become a responsible citizen and enjoy a productive life. After-school, community school, and mentoring programs are a vital and integral part of our ability to achieve this mission. Often, there are students who require additional time and resources other than what is provided during the regular school day; therefore, services and programs that occur outside of the regular school day are a priority in Maryland. We have consistently formed statewide partnerships to ensure multiple funding streams to support extended learning opportunities...**In addition to improving the academic achievement and self-confidence of students, these programs keep students safe and help working families.** Students in these programs are less likely to be involved in potentially detrimental activities and more likely to have better grades and conduct than their counterparts who are reluctant to take advantage of constructive activities after school. Moreover, parents and grandparents can have confidence that while they are earning a living, their most precious possessions are well cared for while learning.”



Heather Hauck, Director, Maryland AIDS Administration

“TASI has demonstrated an ability to foster collaborations with other community entities and an ability to negotiate having HIV prevention education and activities incorporated into new venues...Our partnership with TASI is a successful relationship that has **benefited thousands of youth statewide in the fight against HIV/AIDS.**”

“The Family League of Baltimore City, Inc. congratulates The After-School Institute for ten years of service to Baltimore City’s children and youth. TASI has worked hard to improve the quality of after-school / out of school time programs in our City. **Their commitment to helping build the capacity of community and faith based organizations to improve outcomes for our children and youth is to be applauded.**”

-Rafael Lopez, Family League of Baltimore City

Practitioners' Perspectives:

"I am the co-director/ program coordinator for GBWBEC Inc./ Project Soar. I have been attending TASI meetings and trainings for the past 3 years. I have found these meetings to be very useful, especially when I first started working with after-school programming. I never knew all of the resources that were available for our program, or trainings as an individual worker. Our program targets high schoolers and sometimes it is very difficult to find resources for this age group. **TASI has provided extensive trainings for my staff, resources that we would not know where to start looking for, and constant updates on community events and meetings.**"

-Pamela Hampton, GBWBEC Inc./Project Soar



Project Soar students on a college visit



Liberty Learning Center youth participants

"Thank you for this opportunity to share how TASI has helped us with our after school programming. The Liberty Learning Center is a school-age child care center in our fifth year of after-school programming. It has been my long-standing goal to bring our staff up to speed on the best practices in the youth development industry. **TASI provided exactly the training we needed.** Two of our group leaders graduated from AYD this year and two of our supervisory staff just attended the supervisors training. The staff that attended AYD were energized and excited after the training which gave them new ideas about how to engage and empower our youth. After the senior staff is trained, we will implement AYD in all of our after-school and summer programs. This is exactly what we need to get everyone on the same page about providing the best possible youth development program for the at-risk young people we serve."

-Steve Molling, Liberty Learning Center

"TASI plays an important role for us, providing a forum to keep in touch with our peer agencies, and keep abreast of best practices in the field. **We always look forward to TASI events, trainings, and communications.**"

-Jan Goldstein, Arts on the Block



Arts on the Block participants, in front of their mosaic at the Gilchrist Center for Cultural Diversity

"St. Louis for Kids has greatly valued the wisdom and experience of TASI over the last several years. You and your staff have always been willing to answer questions and send us information about systems building in the after-school field. When we visited Baltimore in 2005, TASI and Family League staff gave us time, information, and expertise that was of great value to us as we began our systems building efforts in St. Louis. **We greatly admire what TASI has achieved in Baltimore. Your model is very impressive and is making a real difference not only for improving program quality, but most importantly, is improving outcomes for children/youth in your community.** Congratulations on a decade of significant contributions to the after-school field."

-Ron Jackson, St. Louis for Kids

Eastern Regional Conference on After-School



TASI's Conference in May, 2009

On May 5th and 6th, 2009, TASI held its Fifth Annual Eastern Regional Conference on After-School. Over three hundred fifty people from across the Mid-Atlantic attended this exciting event. The Conference included thirty workshops and institutes on a variety of topics, such as forming strong partnerships, quality assessment, creating a community school, developing a mentoring program, marketing, coping with the economy, and more. All workshops, institutes, and speakers were connected to the Conference theme, “Integrating Practices of After-School, Community Schools, and Mentoring.” This theme reflected TASI’s belief that strong partnerships, coordination, and wise use of resources will help us all better serve youth and help them to succeed. The three keynote speakers—Dr. Jane Quinn, Dr. Robert Stonehill, and Dr. Susan Tave Zelman—the state network meetings, and exhibitors reinforced the theme as well.

As always, Conference evaluations were extremely positive. According to the evaluation, completed by the Out-of-School Time Resource Center at the University of Pennsylvania, participants were satisfied with the Conference, felt it provided them with relevant content, and felt they gained new knowledge and skills.

TASI thanks all of the 2009 co-sponsors for their continued support and their assistance in making the 2009 Conference a huge success. Thank you to: Mayor Sheila Dixon and the Baltimore City Council; the Family League of Baltimore City; the Montgomery County Collaboration Council; United Way of Southeastern Pennsylvania; Maryland State Department of Education; Concerned Black Men—National Organization; DC Children and Youth Investment Trust Corporation; East Baltimore Development Inc.—Elev8; Enterprise Community Partners; and Martinsville Henry County After 3. We are now planning for the next Conference, which will be scheduled for May or June, 2010. If you are interested in being a co-sponsor, please contact us now—and see page 13 for more details.

Network Meetings

TASI holds Network Meetings every month. Network Meetings are an opportunity for after-school program providers to meet with each other, learn about what else is happening in after-school in Baltimore, attend workshops, and connect with community resources. Workshops are often led by members of the network, allowing for peer learning and for dissemination of promising practices at the local level. Workshops over the past year have included “5 Do’s and Don’ts of Grant Writing,” “Service Learning that Cultivates Healthy Relationships,” “Integrating Arts in After-School Programs and Our Community,” “Community Outreach and Available Resources,” “Internet Safety and Texting,” and “Operation CPR: Citizens Prepared and Ready.” Resource providers have included Job Corps, Maryland Nonprofit, Greater Baltimore Asthma Alliance, Summer Lunch Program, PBS Kids, Youth As Resources, Enoch Pratt Free Library, Alliance for Career and Education, and Sharp Music Company.

All Network Meetings are planned by the Network Steering Committee. The committee meets monthly to review evaluations from the past month, and plan for upcoming events. The committee chooses the theme and identifies workshops and resource providers. It is staffed by TASI, but comprised of individuals representing the diversity of after-school programming in Baltimore. (See page 15 for a list of Network Steering Committee members.)

Training Institutes

Since our last annual report, TASI has held two Training Institutes—one in January and one in October. The January Institute focused on quality relationships and project-based learning—TASI’s two focus areas last year. It also included a funding panel. The panel included the perspective of successful programs, foundations, and government.

The October Institute was planned by the newly-formed Training Advisory Committee. It provided an in-depth introduction to positive youth development, with workshops about Advancing Youth Development, Supervising Youth Development Practice, youth engagement, and the Search Institute’s 40 Developmental Assets. TASI also announced our new cohort model at this Institute. Our upcoming Training Institute in January, 2010 will focus on Youth Program Quality Assessment. (See page 8 for more details about the cohort; see page 15 for a list of Training Advisory Committee members.)

Technical Assistance

For over a year, TASI has been using the Youth Program Quality Assessment (YPQA) observation instrument as the basis for our technical assistance system. YPQA was developed by High Scope and the Center for Youth Program Quality. It is a self-assessment tool, focused on quality at the point of service (in other words, what youth in a program experience). It is a research-validated instrument that is being used by cities and states across the country.

TASI has been conducting site visits with newly funded programs using the instrument. **We use a team approach**, meaning that representatives from the program (including directors, frontline staff, parents, board members, principals, and students) observe the program and complete the instrument along with a member of TASI's staff. This joint observation allows for very productive follow-up action planning conversations. TASI is looking forward to continuing to expand this system throughout the city, by hosting YPQA Basics and External Assessors' trainings in January.



"Building with wonderful junk" at the GSG August training



The whole group, GSG August training



Bubble activity at March STEM/ project-based learning event



Balance activity at March STEM/ project-based learning event

Great Science for Girls

TASI is in its second year bringing Great Science for Girls (GSG) to Baltimore. GSG is a project of the Educational Equity Center at the Academy for Educational Development, with funding from the National Science Foundation. It aims to increase interest and persistence in the STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) subjects among girls and other traditionally underrepresented groups.

In the first year in Baltimore, six programs participated; this year, there are over 20 programs in Baltimore City and Montgomery County! GSG participants attended a two-day professional development institute in August, led by trainers from the national project. In September, TASI hosted a "speed networking" event for GSG programs and volunteers interested in serving as "STEM Mentors" with the programs. Several excellent relationships were formed that night, and volunteers from the Maryland Agricultural Education Foundation, the Baltimore County Police, Johns Hopkins, and many other organizations are working with GSG programs throughout the city. TASI is looking forward to an upcoming training in partnership with Baltimore City 4-H, the Maryland Science Center, and funding from the Mid-Atlantic Girls Collaborative.

*"I love this program...this program introduced science in the simplest and most fun way."
-GSG training participant*

National Partnerships for After-School Science 2—Maryland

TASI is very excited about a new national STEM project that we are bringing to Maryland, called National Partnerships for After-School Science 2 (NPASS2). NPASS2 is a project of the Education Development Center, with funding from the National Science Foundation. It is being implemented in eight states, and TASI is the lead agency for Maryland. NPASS2 builds on the Education Development Center's experience over the last decade creating and implementing the *Design-It!* and *Explore-It!* curriculum series, as well as NPASS1.

The goal of NPASS2 is to support both STEM trainers as well as after-school programs. STEM trainers will be trained at a three-day state institute in late January. STEM trainers will then be paired with after-school programs throughout the state, leading trainings for staff and providing other support as needed. TASI is currently reviewing applications for STEM trainers, and is looking forward to announcing the final decision soon. We are still accepting applications for after-school programs interested in becoming STEM sites—the project is completely free during this first year of implementation, and programs will receive both staff training and the materials needed for all of the activities. **We are seeking Institutes of Higher Education and STEM-related museums and corporations to partner with us and extend STEM learning in after-school.**

"The training gave me a truly different way of thinking about how I work with youth. AYD will be a great aide in my work and my life in general."

-AYD participant



AYD graduates—one class of many

"I went back to my site and had long conversations about how we work with youth and how our organization can improve. The activities and presentations were excellent illustrations of the concepts we needed to learn and practice everyday."

-AYD participant

Advancing Youth Development (AYD)

In 2002, TASI was awarded the honor of being one of twenty-five national BEST intermediaries by the Academy of Educational Development. BEST stands for Building Exemplary Systems for Training Youth Workers. This award allows us to certify youth workers and their supervisors in positive youth development. The purpose of the BEST Initiative is to help local communities establish delivery systems capable of training youth workers in Advancing Youth Development and then connecting youth workers and their employers to an array of programs, policies, and resources that help institutionalize a youth development approach in their organizations and communities (BEST Impact Study 2002). By definition, youth development is the process by which all young people seek ways to meet their basic physical and social needs, and build the competencies necessary to succeed in adolescence and adulthood. If youth workers do not provide young people with opportunities and supports, youth will go elsewhere to meet their needs. Via two curriculums, Advancing Youth Development (AYD) and Supervising Youth Development Practice (SYDP), over 400 youth workers and supervisors from across the State of Maryland and Baltimore City have received national certification. ***TASI is the only organization in Maryland certified to deliver AYD and SYDP.***

Via surveys, TASI learned that AYD and SYDP have had a large impact on youth worker practices. Prior to taking these courses, most participants reported that they could not define youth development. Afterwards, providers and administrators reported that they had a deeper understanding of formal youth development language and practical strategies to increase youth participation. They stated that having a common language allowed them to better articulate their work, network with colleagues and other stakeholders, and build stronger partnerships.

TASI offers both AYD and SYDP in the fall and spring. This past fall, TASI also trained eight new AYD facilitators. Becoming an AYD facilitator is an intense process, and these new trainees are well on their way after assisting with the fall AYD courses in Baltimore City and Montgomery County.

Cohort Model

This year, TASI is piloting a new cohort model as a way of providing programs with intensive support and training, and in depth professional development. There are eleven organizations in Baltimore that are in the cohort. The organizations are: the McKim Center, Chesapeake Center for Youth Development, Hope Worldwide, Education Based Latino Outreach, Paul's Place, Pimlico Road Youth Center, Higher Achievement, Belair Edison Community Coalition, Community Law in Action, Liberty Learning Center, and REACH/Civic Works. Organizations that are part of the cohort have already sent staff to the AYD and SYDP training. ***By sending frontline staff to AYD and supervisors to SYDP within a few weeks of each other, we are ensuring that people at all levels of after-school programs are trained in what positive youth development is and how it can be incorporated into everyday programming and activities.*** Each participant completed a youth worker or youth director survey, to help us better understand the youth workforce in the city. After completing AYD and SYDP, participants completed action plans, detailing what changes they will make based on what they learned. These action plans will serve as the basis for technical assistance follow-up site visits that TASI will start conducting in January.

The next step is for all of the cohort organizations to receive the YPQA Basics training. YPQA is a self-assessment instrument that aligns well with AYD and SYDP. Both include a strong focus on youth development and engagement—elements that are extremely important to a quality after-school program. The training will happen in January, and TASI will continue to provide assistance in implementing the tool after that.

Become a fan of TASI on Facebook!

Put "The After-School Institute" into the search box and we are the first fan page that comes up! As we get more fans, we'll start using Facebook to share updates, pictures, and more!

TASI Newsletters

TASI's newsletters are produced quarterly (February, May, August, and November). For the first time this year, newsletters have been available as hard copies, on our website, and as an e-newsletter. **Newsletters allow us to communicate updates and information about upcoming events, share successes, and feature programs in the area.** For example, newsletters produced in 2009 have featured after-school programs in Baltimore City and Montgomery County, community schools, and programs participating in Great Science for Girls. Newsletters are a chance to celebrate what we have done, and learn from each other.



Deputy Mayor Salima Siler Marriot at TASI's Fundraiser

Research Highlights

Research highlights are produced and distributed every month. They are available at TASI events, on our website, and via list-serv. Research highlights keep TASI's network informed about the latest news and developments. They are tailored to align with TASI's focus areas, trainings, and events. For example, research highlights distributed at the Fifth Annual Eastern Regional Conference in May included research on mentoring, community schools, and after-school, to complement the conference theme.

TASI's List-Serv

TASI's list-serv goes out on Tuesdays and Fridays. List-serv reaches over 400 people in the area, including after-school program providers, educators, government officials, foundation officers, community based organizations, and more. Anyone can send TASI information for list-serv, making it representative of the variety of activities and opportunities in Baltimore City. We also send out other announcements to over 1,500 people throughout the country, to highlight special events and important opportunities.

TASI's Website

TASI's website is www.afterschoolinstitute.org. The website is a vital way for TASI to communicate with the network. It lists all of our upcoming events, and allows for online registration. Research highlights, newsletters, and other publications—by TASI and others—are posted there as well. ***Since website updates are costly, we appreciate any volunteer or financial service our readers can provide.***

TASI's Second Annual Fundraiser

On June 26th, TASI held its second annual fundraiser—"The Keys to Success." The event was held at the Radisson Cross Keys Hotel. It included live entertainment, a spirited silent auction and raffle (including tickets from Airtran Airways!), food, drinks, and—most importantly—great company. TASI raised thousands of dollars over the course of the night. Thank you again to Deputy Mayor Salima Siler Marriot for attending, speaking, and for her unwavering support; thank you also to all of the businesses, organizations, and individuals that donated items for the raffle and auction; and thank you to all of TASI's supporters for their energy and hard work.

Press Conference

On October 21st, TASI held a press conference in honor of *Lights On! After-School*, the national advocacy day for after-school. TASI held the press conference with Mayor Dixon at City Hall as an opportunity to thank the Mayor and other city officials for their continued commitment to after-school, despite challenging economic times.

In the words of Mayor Dixon: "I will do everything in my power to continue to protect this funding. We must continue to work together with the government partners, the faith and business community to ensure our children have everything they need."



Mayor Dixon speaking at TASI's press conference

HIV Prevention

According to the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, in 2006 there were over 1,000 new HIV cases reported in the Baltimore metropolitan area. There were also over 1,000 new AIDS cases—the second highest rate in the country. Of the 1,000 new HIV cases in 2006, 200 of them were in people under age 30—***teenagers are quickly becoming the new face of HIV/AIDS, and it is up to those who work with youth to find a way to stop this trend, and keep youth safe and healthy.***

Becoming A Responsible Teen (BART)

Becoming A Responsible Teen (BART) is an HIV prevention curriculum that TASI uses to train both youth and youth workers. BART is approved by the Centers for Disease Control, and has been researched and proven effective with African American youth ages 14-18. With funding from the Maryland Infectious Disease and Environmental Health Administration (IDEHA, formerly the Maryland AIDS Administration), TASI trains hundreds of youth and youth workers every year. TASI also works with the Mayor's Office of Employment Development's After-School Matters II and other apprenticeship programs to train youth leaders to be HIV prevention peer educators. ***BART training helps youth make decisions that will keep them safe and healthy—and helps them spread the word to others as well.***



"Prevention" graffiti art at the 2009 Youth Summit

Spread the Word, Not the Disease: AIDS is NO Joke

"Spread the Word, Not the Disease" is TASI's HIV prevention social marketing campaign. It started in 2007 with support from the Baltimore City Health Department. TASI conducted focus groups with youth across the city, and learned that condom usage and testing were the most important messages to get across to youth. Using this feedback, TASI and youth created Public Service Announcements (PSAs), t-shirts, bags, bracelets, posters, and a billboard that was up at Mondawmin Mall for over a year. The campaign was so successful that it was extended through 2008. ***In 2009, the campaign went national***—with the "Spread the Word" logo in cities across the country, as part of the Centers for Disease Control's "ACT" Campaign.

Health Fair and Summit

In March of 2009, TASI held a health fair at Northwestern High School. The fair—"Promoting Sexual Health: Spotlight on HIV"—included exhibits, resources, free testing, presentations, and entertainment. Funding for the fair came from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Women's health, with additional support from IDEHA, the Baltimore City Public Schools Office of Health and Science, and Northwestern High School.

Every year, TASI holds the Maryland HIV Prevention Youth Summit. This event draws more than 200 youth, youth workers, parents, and others from across the state. It includes workshops on topics such as relationships, STDs, and living with HIV; presentations and panel discussions; free testing; live entertainment; and more. This year, funding was provided by IDEHA and the Maryland State Department of Education; 92Q Jams kept the lunch session lively; and all attendees helped with a graffiti art project on the theme of "Prevention."

Work with DJS

TASI has recently begun a partnership with the Maryland Department of Juvenile Services (DJS). After months of planning, we led Becoming A Responsible Teen (BART) overviews for youth at the Waxter and Cheltenham facilities. These overviews took place during the school day, and provided youth with an open environment to ask questions and learn how to protect themselves and those they care about. As this partnership progresses, TASI and DJS plan to work together to bring National Partnerships for After-School Science 2 (NPASS2), Advancing Youth Development, the full BART curriculum, and more to youth and staff that are part of DJS statewide. This is an exciting opportunity to reach a population that is often underserved, and to expand our reach throughout the state. **Any funding support for these trainings will be greatly appreciated.**

"Because of the presentation I will go back home and have a talk with my brother and sister and my girlfriend."
-BART overview participant at Cheltenham

Developing Leaders

Last year, TASI started holding Executive Director Leadership Circles during our monthly Network Meetings. The meetings were an opportunity for people in similar positions to discuss issues and topics related to their jobs, such as funding and staffing. Last year's group was extremely productive, providing recommendations to local funders, and responding to the funding panel held at our January Training Institute. Due to the popularity of the group (and the participation by many people in roles other than that of Executive Director), TASI has formed two separate groups this year—an Executive Director and a Senior Management Leadership Circle. TASI is committed to supporting after-school leaders in any way we can; these groups are just the start of this exciting possibility.

There is much more TASI would like to do to support Baltimore's Executive Directors and Senior Managers, and we are looking for partners interested in joining us on this endeavor.

Executive Director Leadership Circles

The Executive Director Leadership Circle is intended to provide Executive Directors (EDs) with support and information tailored to their needs. Participants have been extremely enthusiastic about the meetings. **They are a forum for support and discussing difficult issues that are most productively addressed among peers.** ED Circles also ensure that TASI's training is relevant for everyone in the after-school world, from frontline staff to EDs to everyone in between. By maintaining regular communication with EDs, TASI can better tailor our trainings and events to meet their needs as individuals, and for their organizations.

"The Steering Committee has played an integral role in my professional and personal development. I am thankful for my opportunity to be involved in and support the outstanding work of The After-School Institute."
-Julia Baez, Baltimore City Public Schools

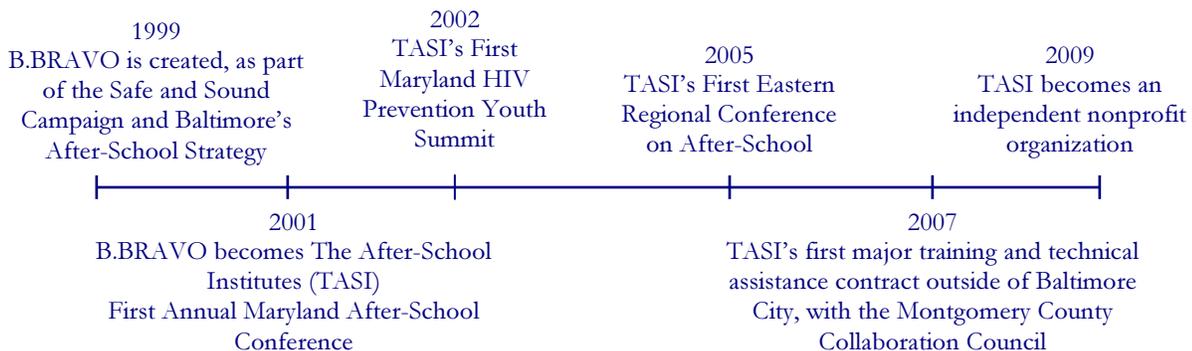
Senior Management Leadership Circles

The Senior Management Leadership Circle is an opportunity for after-school leaders to network and learn from each other, and a chance for those poised to take on even greater leadership roles to gain vital skills and knowledge. The SM Leadership Circle is the group that suggested using TASI's *Lights-On!* press conference as an opportunity to thank Mayor Dixon and other city officials, and very quickly helped organize thank you cards, speakers, and other elements of the event.

Training Advisory Committee

To help shape our trainings, we have established a training advisory committee composed of Executive Directors, program directors, evaluators, and representatives from TASI, Family League, and the Baltimore City Public Schools. The full list is on page 15.

Timeline of Major TASI Events



Montgomery County

In 2007, TASI started working with after-school programs in Montgomery County through a contract with the Montgomery County Collaboration Council. In the winter and spring of 2009, TASI held various meetings, trainings, events, and workgroups as part of a systems-building and professional development effort in the county. Throughout all of 2009, TASI has been training youth workers in AYD, their supervisors in SYDP, and five people from Montgomery County are in the process of becoming AYD facilitators themselves.

Meetings, Trainings, Workgroups, and Events

"The 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

In winter and spring of 2009, TASI held Training Institutes and Networking Breakfasts; convened workgroups to discuss quality standards, core competencies, and professional development; and organized a Serving Immigrant Youth symposium. **Training Institutes and Networking Meetings focused primarily on the quality standards and core competencies created the year before related to health, safety, and human relationships.** Workgroups began creating quality standards and core competencies related to professional development and administration, and discussed how an after-school professional development system in Montgomery County could best reach as many programs as possible. The Serving Immigrant Youth symposium, held for the second consecutive year, provided a venue for organizations to learn about and discuss this important topic. The event was planned by members of the workgroup, and included panel discussions with youth, youth workers, a principal, county agency staff, parents, and others.



AYD graduation

Advancing Youth Development

Since our last annual report, TASI has led two AYD courses and one SYDP course in Montgomery County. The course is always well attended, and representative of the diversity of after-school programming in the county. Feedback is consistently positive, and TASI is looking forward to reaching even more youth workers this coming year.



AYD graduation

Baltimore Community Schools

In the winter and spring of 2009, TASI continued its work with Baltimore's Community Schools Initiative. TASI provided professional development opportunities for organizations in the Initiative, and assisted in the formation of the Citywide Coordinating Council. By coordinating after-school and community school trainings and events, TASI ensured that more people could participate and be a part of the work.

Fundraiser Thanks!

Thank you to the following individuals and organizations for their above-and-beyond support of TASI's Second Annual Fundraiser:

* Advance Business Systems * AirTran Airways * Atlantic Way Transportation * Docu Print Imaging * Five Seasons * Gold's Gym (Inner Harbor location) * Lori Carter Vassor * Lucas Seipp-Williams * Marshall Clarke Photographs * Meadow Mill Athletic Club * Mount Vernon Fitness * Parking Management Services * PowerCommunicators * Radisson Cross Keys Hotel * Sheila Crye * Tremont Plaza Hotel * Waterfront Hotel * Whole Foods Market (Harbor East location)*

The Year Ahead: New Projects

Martinsville

TASI is now in our third year of work with Martinsville Henry County After 3 (MHC After 3) in Virginia. MHC After 3 after-school programs are community centers located throughout Martinsville City and Henry County. **Programs offer an array of arts, academics, athletics, and youth development services to participants—after school and during the summer.** Centers are managed by community based organizations and work collaboratively with public schools, members of the community, families, and other service providers and partners. Over the past two years, TASI has been providing consultation and assistance as MHC After 3 builds a professional development system for after-school and creates quality standards for programs in the area, and MHC After 3 has been a co-sponsor of TASI's annual conference for the past two years, and will be again in 2010. MHC After 3 has also been using the YPQA observation instrument, after attending TASI's YPQA Basics training held in fall of 2008. This year, we will be expanding our partnership with MHC After 3 to include AYD and SYDP, focusing on positive youth development as a basis for quality after-school programming.



Participants at TASI's annual conference in May, 2009

Elev8 Baltimore

Starting in 2010, TASI will be working with Elev8 Baltimore, part of a national initiative with \$12 million in support from the Atlantic Philanthropies. The national initiative also includes Oakland, CA, Chicago, IL, and the State of New Mexico. Elev8 Baltimore is also a project of East Baltimore Development Inc (EBDI), the Annie E. Casey Foundation, and the Baltimore Community Foundation. **It focuses on students in the middle grades, and aims to improve the quantity and quality of programming and services available to students in these grades and their families at several schools in East Baltimore.** TASI will be supporting Elev8 Baltimore in this endeavor by providing AYD, SYDP, and YPQA training for staff, assisting with YPQA self-assessments, and partnering around communication. Additionally, Elev8 co-sponsored TASI's 2009 conference, and will do so again in 2010.

Building Bridges

TASI has recently been selected to participate in the Building Bridges National Implementation project. Building Bridges is an initiative of After-School Matters in Chicago, the Collaborative for Building After-School Systems, and the Muhammad Ali Center in Louisville, with support from the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation. **It aims to better align high school after-school programming and high school reform.** In Baltimore, TASI will be investigating student attendance, through a lens of quality programming. TASI will be training high school youth leaders and youth workers in AYD and YPQA, and working intensively with two high schools to better understand how quality after-school programming—focused on positive youth development—can support and inform school day attendance and engagement.

TASI's Sixth Annual Eastern Regional Conference on After-School—May, 2010

Conference co-sponsors allow this conference to be the best in the region. Co-sponsors help review abstracts and select presenters; serve on the conference planning committee; are guaranteed at least one workshop and multiple slots of participants; are acknowledged in all promotional materials; receive free exhibit space; and much more.

TASI is looking for co-sponsors from throughout the Mid-Atlantic region. If co-sponsorship ranges from \$2,500 to \$20,000—with different benefits for different levels.

If you are interested in learning more, contact Rebkha Atnafou at ratnafou@afterschoolinstitute.org.

TASI Nationwide

TASI is a leader in the field of after-school. We are in national organizations, participate in national advisory councils, and are sought out for consultation by organizations and municipalities across the country.

- ◆ Our annual conference is a regional event for the entire Mid-Atlantic, with representation from Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee, Washington, DC, New Jersey, Delaware, and Maryland.
- ◆ TASI is one of 10 organizations across the country implementing Great Science for Girls—GSG can also be found in Hampton, Virginia; Chicago; Washington, DC; Indianapolis, Indiana; New Haven, Connecticut; San Francisco; New York City; Martinsville, Virginia; and Charlotte, North Carolina.
- ◆ National Partnerships for After-School Science 2 is kicking off in eight states as we speak—Maryland, Georgia, New Jersey, Ohio, Minnesota, Missouri, California, and New Hampshire.
- ◆ Building Bridges is also happening in Providence, Boston, Charlotte, and New York City—TASI and these cities will be working together to identify models to implement in other cities.

Collaborative for Building After-School Systems

The Collaborative for Building After-School Systems (CBASS) is an organization representing nine intermediaries from across the country. CBASS has had an exciting year, producing reports, recommending legislation, and working with a variety of organizations. Some highlights from the past year include:

- ◆ 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.
- ◆ Later in the spring, CBASS created a resolution sponsored by Mayor Sheila Dixon of Baltimore and the mayors of Providence, Boston, and San Francisco. The US Conference of Mayors passed the resolution calling on all levels of government to invest in coordinated, expanded learning, or “full day” strategies that integrate community after-school programs and organizations into the school day.
- ◆ The Campaign for High School equity, a coalition of leading civil rights organizations representing communities of color focused on high school education reform, invited CBASS to participate in their congressional briefing on November 19th in Washington to promote expanded learning opportunities.
- ◆ Also this fall, CBASS issued recommendations to the US Department of Education for the proposed priorities for the Invest in What Works and Innovation Fund (i3), calling for authority for nonprofit organizations to develop and implement an i3 grant; clarification that expanded learning time means enriching experiences grounded in principles of youth development and in partnership with community organizations, not more in-school instruction; and other considerations.
- ◆ Later in the fall, Rebkha Atnafou, Executive Director of TASI, and Suzette Harvey, Executive Director of Prime Time Palm Beach County, led a presentation called “Promoting racial equity in after-school: lessons learned and successful strategies from the field.” The presentation included findings from a recent Public/Private Ventures research study and made recommendations for systems-builders and providers looking to improve outcomes.

Learn more at
www.afterschoolsystems.org

TASI in the News: Year in Review

Over the course of 2009, TASI was in The Montgomery County Gazette, The Baltimore Times, part of several Baltimore City Press Conferences, acknowledged on the Baltimore City homepage as part of *Lights On! After-School*, a report by the National League of Cities and Forum for Youth Investment—among other publications—and television coverage on the Mayor's Cable Station and Channel 77. **Keep an eye on our list-serv for news about future reports and articles!**

The Year in Research

Looking for something good to read? Based on this year's Research Highlights, TASI recommends the following:

- ◆ "The Cost of Quality Out-of-School Time Programs," Public/Private Ventures and The Wallace Foundation (January, 2009)
- ◆ "Supporting Student Outcomes Through Expanded Learning Opportunities," Harvard Family Research Project (January, 2009)
- ◆ "Staff Selection: What's Important for Out-of-School Time Programs," "Training Out-of-School Time Staff," and "Using Coaching to Provide Ongoing Support and Supervision to Out-of-School Time Staff," Child Trends (February, 2009)
- ◆ "From Periphery to Center: A New Vision for Family, School, and Community Partnerships," Harvard Family Research Project (May, 2009)
- ◆ "Meaningful Linkages Between Summer Programs, Schools, and Community Partners: Conditions and Strategies for Success," National Center for Summer Learning and the Nellie Mae Foundation
- ◆ "Raising the Bar: Quality Improvement Systems for Youth Programs," The Forum for Youth Investment (August, 2009)
 - ◆ "America After 3 PM," Afterschool Alliance (data updated as of October, 2009)

Network Steering Committee

2009: Julia Baez * Camille Burke * Kaleisha Biggs; Gayl Brooks * Cinnamon Brown * Lori Carter Vassor * Maritza Gonzalez * Katie Green * Honour McClellan * Sandi McFadden * Joanne Robinson * Bernie Shephard

2010: Julia Baez * Kaleisha Biggs * Gayle Brooks * Cinnamon Brown * Lori Carter Vassor * Pam Hampton * Sean Keelan * Joanne Robinson * Bernie Shephard

Training Advisory Committee

* Dr. Toks Fashola * Katie McCabe * Monica Logan * Rob Clark * Judy Friedman * Charmayne Turner * Chisha Johnson * Joanne Robinson * Sheila Drummond *

TASI Staff

Rebkha Atnafou, Executive Director
Lori Carter Vassor, Professional Development Coordinator
Rebekah Lin, Communications and Technical Assistance Specialist
Andrea Tillery, Office Manager

Part Time and Consultants

Aidom Behailu, Communications and Technical Assistance Intern
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Briauna Gaines, Mayor's Office of Employment Development Intern
Craig Kershaw, Chief Financial Officer

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Mission Statement:

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

The After-School Institute by the Numbers

350+

The number of people at the Fifth Annual Eastern Regional Conference on After-School in May, 2009

240

The number of participants at the 2009 Maryland HIV Prevention Youth Summit

91

The percent of conference attendees who **would recommend it to a colleague**

80+

The number of attendees at TASI's **monthly Network Meetings**

24

The number of programs that have received **YPQA site visits and support** from TASI

4

The number of newsletters TASI produced in 2009

1

The number of organizations certified to deliver AYD in Maryland, organize a regional conference on after-school, produce and disseminate an HIV prevention service learning toolkit, and organize a statewide HIV prevention youth summit...

The After-School Institute!