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## BOSTnet Information

### October 30th, 2007

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### Special Announcements

Welcome to the October 2007 edition of the BUZZ! Please send your feedback and ideas on the BUZZ to [info@bostnet.org](mailto:info@bostnet.org).

- **BOSTnet is celebrating its 20th Anniversary in 2007!** Please watch the [BOSTnet website](#) and the next BUZZ for updates on our 20th Anniversary special events. See BOSTnet's work through the "[BOSTnet Milestones](#)" timeline, which highlights year-by-year activities since 1987.
- **BOSTnet's 2007-2008 Leadership Roundtable, Forums & Conference Calendar**  
For ten years, BOSTnet has been providing free, monthly Leadership Roundtables for directors, managers and supervisors of out-of-school time programs. [View the schedule](#). If you would like to contribute to one of our Roundtables, please contact us at [info@bostnet.org](mailto:info@bostnet.org).

- **BOSTnet's 2007-2008 Special 20th Anniversary Edition of the *Guide to Boston's Before and After-School Programs*** is now available at libraries, community centers, just in time for the new school year! To request a copy, please contact [info@bostnet.org](mailto:info@bostnet.org) or 617-720-1290 x232. To search for programs online in your neighborhood, please visit [webguide.bostnet.org](http://webguide.bostnet.org).

### Upcoming BOSTnet news and events:

- **Leadership Roundtable-Afterschool Program Quality Improvement: Developing Strong Management Techniques**  
Thursday, November 1, 2007  
10am - 12noon  
City Year Boston Headquarters, 287 Columbus Ave, Boston.

Based on 10 years of BOSTnet's Facilities Initiative, the November Roundtable focuses on an important issue in out-of-school time field: Strong Management Techniques. Learn about strategies to improve how your program is managed, how financial resources are leveraged to make every dollar count for your kids, and how to turn a program that is constantly in crisis to one that runs smoothly from week to week. [Click Here](#) for Directions. Contact BOSTnet for more information or to RSVP at [info@bostnet.org](mailto:info@bostnet.org) or 617-720-1290 x232.

### Out-of-School Time Field Announcements:

- **BOSTnet Celebrates Twenty Years and Going Strong!** Thank you to everyone who helped us celebrate twenty years of active service for Boston's families and youth. Over 160 old and new friends of BOSTnet gathered on Wednesday, October 24th on the beautiful 36th floor of the State Street Financial Center. The only thing better than the view was the company of so many inspiring people who helped us honor the contributions of six individuals who have worked hard to make Boston a better place for children and youth. Their awards, paintings created by young artists from Artists for Humanity, highlighted one of the many innovative programs BOSTnet works with that provides diverse and creative opportunities to the City's children and youth.

#### **Our 20th Anniversary Honorees:**

Mayor Thomas M. Menino  
Elaine Fersh - Community Matters and BOSTnet's founder  
Chris Gabrieli - Massachusetts 2020  
Kerry Sullivan - Bank of America  
Linda Whitlock - Boys and Girls Clubs of Boston  
Eli Wolff - Center for the Study of Sport in Society, Northeastern University

BOSTnet's 20th Anniversary Celebration connected our early history as Parents United for Child Care to our ongoing initiatives to strengthen program quality, promote inclusion in OST, and engage and advocate for the field. BOSTnet Executive Director, Maryellen Coffey,

also highlighted our current efforts to expand our network activities through technology by announcing plans to develop a professional networking portal for OST providers. BOSTnetBenefits will provide a forum for providers and other stakeholders to access resources, network and collaborate around critical issues. We see BOSTnetBenefits as a natural extension of our work to engage the field, provide resources to programs and provide opportunities for peer-to-peer learning.

As with any event like this there are so many people to thank. We would like to extend a very special thank you to our tireless and engaged Board of Directors who not only worked hard behind the scenes to help plan the event, but also put their personal touches on the evening's program. Mayor Menino's Chief of Staff, Judith Kurland, was gracious to accept the Mayor's award and offer a keynote address in his absence. We would also like to thank State Street for their generous support in hosting the event, and specifically Laura Cipriano, Sandra Cooper, and Mary Moran for all their energy in planning the evening. Finally, this event would not have happened without the ongoing efforts and determination of BOSTnet Executive Assistant, Monica Zgola. [View photos](#) of the event.

- **BOSTONavigator Launches** - Mayor Thomas M. Menino along with BOSTnet and Boston After School & Beyond recently announced BOSTONavigator, a new unified, citywide database that will help connect kids with after school opportunities. Created through a partnership with the City of Boston, BOSTnet and Boston After School & Beyond, BOSTONavigator includes information on any program in the City of Boston that offers services to youth between the ages of 5 and 18 during out-of-school time, including before school, after school, weekends, school vacations and the summer.

We ask all providers of out-of-school time opportunities to access and update their program information on BOSTONavigator. To receive your username and password, please contact [help@bostonnavigator.org](mailto:help@bostonnavigator.org) or call us at 617-720-1290 x 210.

- **Engage Children in Science Through Sunflower** - An innovative, hands-on science curriculum developed especially for afterschool programs by the Intercultural Center for Research in Education (INCRE). Designed specifically for children in grades 2-4, the Sunflower Science Discovery Curriculum is fully bilingual and highlights the accomplishments of Latino scientists. INCRE has received a grant to offer curriculum training and materials to fifty out-of-school time programs in the City of Boston for FREE. This is a wonderful opportunity to get your kids excited about science.

For information, please contact John Zuman at [jzuman@incre.org](mailto:jzuman@incre.org) or Michael Bennett at [bennett@bostnet.org](mailto:bennett@bostnet.org). Applications will be considered on a first-come basis, so please respond right away. If you have any questions you can call INCRE at 781-643-2142.

- **GoGirlGo!** - Billie Jean King invites YOU to the launch of The Women's Sports Foundation's GoGirlGo! Boston. November 27, 2007, 9:00 - 3:00pm, Campus Center Ballroom, University of Massachusetts Boston. Join us for breakfast, a press conference, workshops and lunch. This program is designed to get Boston-area girls age 8-18 physically active. You'll have an opportunity to apply for grant funding; receive training on how to use and order our free award-winning GoGirlGo! curriculum, and attend workshops on how to partner with area colleges and how to raise visibility and improve funding for your

organization. REGISTER TODAY! Go to [www.GoGirlGoBoston.com](http://www.GoGirlGoBoston.com) or contact Whitney Post, GoGirlGo! Boston Project Manager, at 617-373-4557 or [WPost@WomensSportsFoundation.org](mailto:WPost@WomensSportsFoundation.org).



Strengthening Programs...

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### ***Quality Improvement in Afterschool***

For the past year, through the BOSTnet After School Quality (BASQ) Initiative, BOSTnet has been working with eight after school programs in Boston to assist them in gaining accreditation status from the National After School Association (NAA). The accreditation process focuses on increasing program quality through a set of national standards on quality and programming. Through a seven-step process, programs implement the NAA Standards for Quality School Age Care in their program and create an ASQ (Advancing School-Age Child Care Quality) Team. The ASQ Team brings parents and staff together to observe the after school programs and to recommend changes based on the NAA Standards for Quality.

Going into the 2007-2008 school year, BOSTnet wants to share these important Keys to Quality that are the cornerstones of high quality after school programming. Through a series of three Leadership Roundtables and a Half-Day forum on After School Program Quality Improvement, BOSTnet will look at topics such as developing strong management techniques (November 1st), Making the Most out of Shared Space (December 6th), and Promoting Positive Human Relationships (January 3rd). In Boston, eight programs have decided to become accredited because they believe in increasing their program quality and creating programming that meets high national standards. Tanna Preston, the Executive Director of Greenwood Shalom After School Program, described her involvement in the BASQ Initiative as: "wanting a stronger quality program and a better trained staff." The need for quality programming and a workforce that is better qualified and more competent are reasons that most programs become accredited.

Lessons from the BASQ programs, along with understanding the Keys to Quality, are important in understanding quality programming and quality improvement. Programs do not have to commit to accreditation to take advantage of the Keys to Quality or even the ASQ process. These Keys, and the accreditation process, were created through years of research and represent a comprehensive and nationally tested approach to developing and maintaining high quality programming. Programs are encouraged to look at the Keys to Quality as a roadmap to creating a strong and sustainable out-of-school time programming.

For more information about the BASQ Initiative, please visit [www.bostnet.org](http://www.bostnet.org). For more information about Accreditation, please visit the National After School Association website at [www.naaweb.org](http://www.naaweb.org).

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## Out-of-School Time Landscape...

### ***Evolution of a Family Resource - BOSTnet's OST Guide Celebrates 20 years!***

As we begin to near the end of 2007, BOSTnet's 20th Anniversary, it is amazing to reflect on how BOSTnet has grown in leaps and bounds in its 20 years as a networking resource for Boston's before and out-of-school time programs. BOSTnet, then known as Parents United for Child Care, began publishing the first editions of the Guide to Boston's Out-of-School Time Programs, a seminal document then and now, and each year continues to reflect the growing numbers of programs in the city and offers more family-friendly information about program locations, their accessibility and content.

In the Guide's first year, 1989, about 50 out-of-school time programs were represented in the Boston area. In the current edition, **over 500 programs** are listed in the Guide and in BOSTnet's online database, presented in an easily searchable format for parents and resource centers. By the 1992 edition, about 70 programs were listed in the network and information on inclusion, transportation and vouchers were provided for the first time. Fifteen years ago, only about 45% of programs identified themselves as serving youth with "special needs," as compared to 71% in 2007. (Please read our [July BUZZ](#) for a full article on Inclusion in Boston's out-of-school time field). In 1992, only 47% of programs were listed as having a "parent advisory," as compared to this year's grouping where 68% report that they engage families.

Other notable features of recent Guide editions include full color maps of all programs and listings of Programs that Serve Older Youth and Summer Program offerings. BOSTnet recognizes the importance of quality out-of-school time programming that is not limited to just school-aged youth during the academic calendar, but also addresses the need to provide teens with safe, fun and accessible out-of-school time options including the summer months.

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## Access for All...

### ***Improving Teen Youth Spaces***

On October 4th 2007, the BOSTnet monthly Roundtable took place at the Yawkey Boys & Girls Club in Roxbury where participants had the opportunity to listen and learn first hand, the importance of designing program spaces to reflect the needs and interests of the youth who will use it. The October Roundtable, titled "*Developing Spaces by and for Teens in Out-of-School Time Programs*," was based on the recent BOSTnet publication of the same name and highlights learnings from BOSTnet's Facilities Project. Roosevelt Smith, Executive Director of Urban Dreams in Dorchester and a BOSTnet Board member, moderated the event and gave his perspective on the process of building a space for the teens he works with. Bronia Clifton, of the Child Care Investment Fund, discussed some of the finer points of cost structure and fundraising for breaking ground on new or redesigned spaces. Jesus Gerena from Hyde Square Task Force and Andrea Swain, Executive Director of the Yawkey Boys & Girls Club, talked about their personal experiences with the

renovation process in their own organizations and the impacts that are felt on a community-wide basis.

The question and answer session that followed allowed Roundtable attendees to get real answers to some of their thoughts and concerns as they begin to consider moving forward with their own renovation projects for the teens they serve. Andrea gave attendees a tour of the beautifully renovated Boys & Girls Club, accentuating the ways in which BGCB incorporated their youth's input on how to design and reconfigure the facility to make the best use of the space.

Of particular highlight to the discussion were the contributions of Ashley Cotton, a community organizer with the Hyde Square Task Force. Ashley has been working with Hyde Square for several years and contributed valuable first hand perspective as both a young consumer of out-of-school time programs and as the voice of her peers who frequent these programs. Ashley's remarks underscored for all present, the importance of incorporating youth and teen input into any process that directly impacts them, to keep youth coming back, utilizing the space and finding constructive ways to socialize and have fun!



### ***ASOST Commission***

Senator Thomas McGee and Representative Marie St. Fleur, Co-Chairs of the Special Commission on After School and Out-of-School Time, have confirmed the dates for the public release of the commission's report - Tuesday, November 13 at a location TBD in Western Massachusetts from 5:30-7:30PM, and Thursday, November 15th at the State House in Boston from 3:30-4PM. Any questions concerning these events should be directed to Debra McLaughlin, consultant to the commission, at 617-792-3173 or [dmclaughlin@kunnustra.com](mailto:dmclaughlin@kunnustra.com).

The Commission has been on a tight schedule since it first convened in March 2007 to develop a set of recommendations to strengthen the field statewide over the next 5 years. The report and its recommendations will help provide a framework to direct future advocacy efforts. To ensure maximum impact, we are discussing holding Lobby Day this winter rather than waiting until spring. Please stay tuned for future developments.

### ***EEC Workforce Taskforce***

The Department of Early Education and Care, the United Way of Massachusetts Bay, and the Schott Foundation have created the Massachusetts Early Education and Care and Out-of-School Time Workforce Development Task Force (Workforce Task Force). The Workforce Task Force is comprised of individuals and organizations with expertise and experience in workforce development and in the early education and care field.

The Workforce Task Force is responsible for the establishment and implementation of a comprehensive workforce development system for the state of Massachusetts. Based on the EEC's 2006 Workforce Development plan, the key elements of this system will include the following:

1. State-wide Infrastructure Building, Leadership, and Strategic Planning;
2. Core Competencies;
3. Professional Development Data Management System;
4. Credentialing and Career Lattice (Career Pathways);
5. Professional Development Opportunities and Resources Aligned with Requirements and Workforce Needs

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*To access more Community News, Events, Resources and Job Listings, please visit our website, [www.bostnet.org](http://www.bostnet.org), to view our Resources Page.*

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## Quick Links

- [Our website](#)
- [Newsletter Archive](#)
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- [Connecting You to Resources](#)

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## Contact Information

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