



Build the **Out-of-School Time** Network

**ANNUAL REPORT 2004**

# challenge

*BOSTnet envisions a future in which all families have a rich network of out-of-school time opportunities that challenge, reward, and inspire children and youth. Our mission: to enhance the quality and increase the capacity of the out-of-school time field.*

# inspire

# reward

from the

# executive director

It is quite obvious just from looking at the cover that one of the things we did last year was to change our name to **BOSTnet (Build the Out-of-School Time Network)** from Parents United for Child Care.

With the increased recognition of the need for adequate OST (Out-of-School Time) services in our communities, and emergence of new entities and collaborations working to provide those services, we needed a new name that better reflects our vision of a network of OST resources that meet the needs of today's urban families and neighborhoods. The name also reflects our mission to build and strengthen this network.

As we have evolved from our beginnings as a grass-roots parent resource organization, we remain committed to building a better OST system in Boston by focusing on strategies that **improve the quality** of OST programs, **strengthen the organizational capacity** of OST providers, **generate data** to better inform parents and policymakers, and **strengthen the connections** among Boston's OST providers.

## an evolving mission for an evolving need

In evolving from our founding mission as a parent resource, we now have the **capacity** and **experience** to leverage the trust we have earned from families, the working relationships we have established with over 400 OST programs in the Greater Boston area, and the reputation we enjoy among policymakers as an informed source on OST issues. With this leverage, we can work more effectively than ever before to make the OST sector stronger, more cohesive, and more responsive.

In this Annual Report you will learn about the progress and achievements of some of our initiatives. In addition to those initiatives, as an organization, BOSTnet in 2004:

- **expanded the number of programs** listed in our 15th annual edition of the *Guide to Boston's Before and After School Programs* from 290 to over 400
- **published and distributed 3,000 copies** of the *Guide* to parents, schools, and libraries citywide, available on-line in both Spanish and English
- **provided monthly professional networking forums** for 125 OST Program Directors who attended Boston Directors' Roundtable and Youth Directors' Roundtable meetings
- **held the BOSTnet Annual Conference** "All Means All," which provided over 200 after school professionals with workshops on the inclusion of youth with disabilities into their programs

And that is just a start. In these pages, you will also read about how we are continuing to build on these achievements. Our successes are due in large part to your support of our mission and our work. We look forward to continuing to earn your trust in the future.



MARYELLEN COFFEY, *Executive Director*



# 2004 highlights



In November, more than 40 directors of programs that serve older youth attended the kickoff of the **Youth Directors' Roundtable (YDR)** at the Museum of Science. Modeled on our successful Boston Directors Roundtable, which offers a forum in which OST providers meet to share information and discuss important issues, the quarterly YDR meetings will foster professional development, resource sharing, and networking opportunities to help providers meet the growing demand for services for older youth. The YDR has been made possible through the support of the State Street Global Philanthropy Fund and the Boston Globe Foundation.



Since 1997, our **Facilities Initiative**—a collaboration with the Child Care Capital Investment Fund—has distributed over \$3 million in planning and capital grants to 60 programs that have submitted proposals for renovating their physical space to improve their environments and increase enrollment capacity. In 2004 alone, we distributed over a half-million dollars in grants and provided on-site technical assistance to 9 programs. The following are examples:

- **Arts in Progress** in Roxbury, for the final capital stage of its new Black Box Theatre
- **Bruce Wall Ministries' Project 21 Afterschool Program** in Dorchester, for art and science equipment, cubbies, tables, and chairs
- **CAP/SPARK Imani Village** in Mattapan, for the purchase of a mobile unit to expand teen programming
- **Hattie B. Cooper Community Center** in Lower Roxbury/South End, for furniture and art, math, and science spaces
- **East Boston YMCA's** capital campaign, for a new building serving the families of East Boston
- **Greenwood Shalom Afterschool Program** in Dorchester, to outfit a "Kindergarten Classroom on the stage"



Through the **Engaging Families Initiative (EFI)**, a collaboration of BOSTnet and the United Way of Massachusetts Bay that aims to lay a foundation for active parental involvement in student learning in grades 1–5, nine licensed after school programs have received training enabling them to help parents navigate school bureaucracies. These outreach efforts have been especially important to families whose first language is not English, and who are not familiar with US school systems.

Findings from the first three years of EFI are being developed in collaboration with Harvard Family Research Project into a **best-practice manual** for OST providers, focused on developing relationships with families to support both in-school and out-of-school learning. In 2006, BOSTnet will launch an **Engaging Families Leadership Initiative**, which will train a group of providers to become leaders in community-wide efforts to support family involvement with schools and with OST programs.



Our **Lead to Opportunities for Youth with Disabilities (LOYD)** initiative promotes inclusion of youth with disabilities in out-of-school time. This year, LOYD selected five grantees that received the assistance of a consultant, a grant award, and technical assistance to expand the number of youth with disabilities involved in the programs.

Through a new partnership with the Boston Community Learning Centers (BCLC), the Gardner Extended Services School also received consultant services from the LOYD initiative. All twenty-seven BCLCs participated in **two free trainings** on the inclusion of children and youth with disabilities. This partnership was supported by the Massachusetts Department of Education's Enhancement Grant Program and has enabled BOSTnet and the BCLCs to create **1,500 Inclusion Tool Kits**—an innovative tool providing tips to staff on the best practices to serve kids with disabilities.



Our **Community After School Initiative (CASI)**, a collaboration between BOSTnet and the Boston After-School for All Partnership, provides support for small community-based providers to expand their enrollment and maintain growth in order to serve a greater number of youth in Boston. These

### *EFI Brings a Family Together*

Rochelle Hines is a single parent who works all day and has limited free time. Her daughter, Shakeira, is an energetic little girl who needed time with her mother. Unfortunately, the more Rochelle had to work, the less time they spent with each other. When Rochelle started to work longer days, it became harder to find time to do things with her daughter at night.

That all changed last year, when Rochelle and Shakeira participated in our **EFI Family Fun Night** at the Museum of Science. They enjoyed the trip, got a rare chance to share a meal together, and stayed until the event was over.

While roaming the Museum, Rochelle found information about upcoming family events that she and Shakeira could attend together. EFI helped this family to try something different and commit to spending time together.

programs improved their organizational and management practices through high quality technical assistance and training, which also helped support their growth efforts.

This past year, 13 programs completed a 2-year CASI cycle. By the end of 4 years, CASI will have directed \$1.5 million toward expanding quality opportunities and improving the after school sector. **Entering the fourth year, CASI programs will have created increased opportunities for OST participation by 500 additional youth.** 21 organizations across the greater Boston area have developed their individual capacities and explored new approaches to building the field.

In addition, CASI funding partners supported the **Community After-School Scholarships Program (CASS)** which increased the affordability of out-of-school time activities for 91 Boston youth by giving scholarships to families who would otherwise be unable to afford the programs.



In 2004, we launched a pilot training project called **Strong Directors/ Skilled Staff**. Supported by the Boston Compassion Capital Fund, the project helped 19 OST program directors build their capacity to implement professional development strategies for their staff members. The training materials BOSTnet developed for the Strong Directors/Skilled Staff series are currently being revised and developed into a best practices “train the trainers” workbook.



In 2004, BOSTnet continued to coordinate local participation in the national **Lights On After School!** public awareness campaign, by promoting celebrations at local programs. In October 2005, Bostnet will celebrate Lights On! month by hosting a **Youth Program Resource Fair**, designed to link youth program providers with a wide array of resources to enhance their services.

### *Gratitude from the Greenhouse*

BOSTnet and its **Lead to Opportunities for Youth With Disabilities (LOYD)** initiative supported the Charlestown High School's After-school Greenhouse/Ecology Club in its efforts to make the program more inclusive. According to club director Jack McCauley:

“The commitment and contributions from LOYD and BOSTnet have enabled us to cultivate and provide opportunity for students who may otherwise continue to be left out. Several of the students, both with and without disabilities, who participated in the Greenhouse/Ecology Club reside in the Bunker Hill housing development, which is directly across the street from our school. The afterschool club that you supported provides a safe haven and a nurturing environment for our students. We are most appreciative for your dedication and commitment to provide and support opportunities for all members of our learning community.

“It has been my great pleasure and reward to participate in this pilot program. We look forward to a long and healthy relationship together with LOYD and BOSTnet.”

# connect strengthen



# financials

## Statement of Financial Position

for the year ending June 30, 2005 (unaudited)



### ASSETS

#### CURRENT ASSETS

Checking/Savings	99,040
Investments	1,126,725
Receivables and Prepaid	58,752

#### FIXED ASSETS

Furniture and Equipment	17,063
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**Total Assets 1,301,580**

### LIABILITIES AND EQUITY

#### LIABILITIES

Current Liabilities	22,882
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#### EQUITY

Net Assets	1,278,698
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**Total Liabilities and Equity 1,301,580**

## Statement of Activities

for the year ending June 30, 2005 (unaudited)



### INCOME

Private Foundations and Corporations	675,634
Public Funding	36,761
Program Service Fees	9,890
Other Income	34,486

**Total Income 756,771**

### EXPENSE

Salaries and Fringe Benefits	458,426
Contracted Services	115,379
Grants	48,600
Meetings and Conferences	16,085
Publications and Printing	21,054
Other Expenses	117,421

**Total Expense 776,965**



# funders

BOSTnet gratefully acknowledges the financial support of the following organizations:

- Anonymous Foundation
- Boston's After School for All Partnership
- Boston Centers for Youth and Families
- The Boston Foundation
- Boston Globe Foundation
- Boston Public Schools
- Boston Women's Fund
- Carl and Ruth Shapiro Family Foundation
- Center for the Study of Sport in Society
- Child Care Capital Investment Fund
- Clipper Ship Foundation
- Compassion Capital Fund
- Dammann Boston Fund
- Hyams Foundation
- John W. Alden Trust
- Liberty Mutual Foundation—Corporate Philanthropy Program
- Lloyd G. Balfour Foundation
- Massachusetts Office of Child Care Services
- Nellie Mae Education Foundation
- State Street Global Philanthropy
- United Way of Massachusetts Bay
- Verizon Foundation
- Victoria B. and David D. Croll
- Wallace Foundation

# initiative participants

*The following programs received funding, technical assistance, and training support through the listed initiatives for the 7/2004–6/2005 year.*

## **Community After School Initiative (CASI)**

Arts in Progress (AIP)—Teen Arts Center  
Boston Medical Center—Imani Village Out of School Time at Children's AIDS Program (SPARK)  
Dorchester Nazerene Compassion Center (DNCC)—Dorchester Higher Ed Resource Center  
Hyde Square Task Force—Jovenes en Accion  
Inquilinos Boricuas en Accion, Inc. (IBA)—Cacique Learning Center for Teens  
St. Peter's Parish—Bowdoin Street After School Program  
United South End Settlements (USES)—After-School Program  
Women Express, Inc.—SHOUT!

## **Community After School Scholarships (CASS)**

American Chinese Christian Educational Social Services, Inc. (ACCESS)—Enrichment Program  
Bird Street Community Center—School Age Child Care  
Charlestown Boys & Girls Club—The Friendship Club  
Colonel Daniel Marr Boys & Girls Club—School Age Program  
East Boston Social Centers, Inc.—School Age Child Care Program  
Ellis Memorial & Eldredge House—School Age Program  
Federated Dorchester Neighborhood House—Little House After School Program  
Gallivan Community Center—Boston Centers for Youth and Families  
Greenwood Shalom Outreach Community Center—After School/Summer Enrichment Program  
Hawthorne Youth and Community Center, Inc.—After School Program  
Jackson Mann Community Center Council, Inc.  
KidsArts!—Jamaica Plain Multicultural After School Arts Program  
Ohrenberger Community Center—After School Program—Boston Centers for Youth and Families  
Roxbury Presbyterian—Social Impact Center After School Program  
South Boston Boys & Girls Club—School Age Child Care  
YMCA of Greater Boston—Central Branch School Age Program

YMCA of Greater Boston—East Boston Branch at Umana Barnes Middle School  
YMCA of Greater Boston Egleston Square Program Center  
YMCA of Greater Boston—Hyde Park Branch  
YMCA of Greater Boston—Roxbury Branch School Age Child Care Program

## **Engaging Families Initiative (EFI)**

Grace Renaissance Academic Studies Program (GRASP)  
Greenwood Shalom Outreach Community Center—After School Program  
Hyde Square Task Force at the Kennedy Elementary School  
Project 21 at Bruce Wall Ministries  
Roxbury Presbyterian After School Program  
Twelfth Baptist After School Program  
YMCA of Greater Boston—East Boston Branch at the Guild Elementary  
YMCA of Greater Boston—Roxbury Branch at Blackstone Elementary  
YMCA of Greater Boston—Roxbury Branch at Curley Elementary

## **Facilities Initiative**

Arts in Progress  
Bruce Wall Ministries  
Boston Medical Center—Imani Village Out of School Time at Children's Aids Program (SPARK)  
Cooper Community Center  
Greenwood Shalom Outreach Community Center—After School Program  
Hyde Square Task Force at the Kennedy Elementary School  
Jackson Mann Community Center—Boston Centers for Youth and Families  
Ohrenberger Community Center—Boston Centers for Youth and Families  
Urban Dreams, Inc.  
YMCA of Greater Boston—East Boston Branch  
YMCA of Greater Boston—Oak Square Branch

## **Lead to Opportunities for Youth with Disabilities Initiative (LOYD)**

East Boston High School Together Everyone Achieves More (TEAM)  
Gardner Extended Services School  
Greater Boston Arc (GBArc) Kids of All Learning Abilities (KOALA) and the Charlestown Urban Greenhouse Program  
Piers Park Sailing Center

Tenacity  
West End House Boys & Girls Club

## **Strong Directors/Skilled Staff**

For Kids Only Lincoln Extended Day Program  
Girls World at Dimock Community Health Center  
Federated Dorchester Neighborhood House—Little House After School Program  
Native American Youth Enrichment Program  
Roxbury Tenants of Harvard After School Program  
Swift Waters  
Urban Dreams, Inc.  
Write Boston  
YMCA of Greater Boston Dorchester Branch Kindergarten Transitional After School Program  
YMCA of Greater Boston—East Boston Branch  
YMCA of Greater Boston—Roxbury Branch at Blackstone Elementary  
YMCA of Greater Boston—Roxbury Branch Youth Development Center

## **Summer Series**

Colonel Dan Marr Boys & Girls Club  
Grace Renaissance Academic Studies Program (GRASP)  
Greater Boston Catholic Charities  
Greenwood Shalom Outreach Community Center After School Program  
KidsArts!  
Marshall Community Center—Boston Centers for Children and Families  
New England Aquarium  
Roxbury Tenants of Harvard  
Wellesley Community Children's Center After School Program  
YMCA of Greater Boston—East Boston Branch  
YMCA of Greater Boston—Roxbury Branch  
YWCA of Greater Boston—Generations Learning Together Program

**78 programs** received over **\$1.2 million** to expand programmatic capacity and enrollment of children in Out-of-School Time organizations through BOSTnet's joint commitments with our partners United Way of Massachusetts Bay, Boston's After School for All Partnership, and Child Care Capital Investment Fund.



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