

Boston's After-School for All Partnership

**Building Success: Sustaining Results**



**2003 - 2004 Annual Report**  
from July 1, 2003 through June 30, 2004



*Young Achiever's School Student Performance,  
The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation  
After School Project's Annual Meeting,  
Evening Reception, November 2003.*

**It all started with a vision.** A vision that all children and youth in Boston deserve access to safe and enriching activities after school. A vision that all children and youth need relationships with caring adults. A vision that all children and youth can learn and reach their full potential when everyone works together.

From initiating the Boston 2:00-to-6:00 After-School Initiative in 1998, to convening the Mayor's Task Force on After-School Time in 1999, to creating Boston's After-School for All Partnership in 2001, to launching a new intermediary to support Boston's after-school system in 2005; Boston is at the forefront of the national after-school movement. This is a city that understands our children – our leaders of tomorrow – need our financial, intellectual, and moral support today to help them not only thrive but succeed in our global society.

This city also understands how to work together on behalf of our children. This year, we are proud to announce the next generation of support for after-school programming through the creation of Boston After School & Beyond. This organization will build off the successes of the Boston 2:00-to-6:00 After-School Initiative and Boston's After-School for All Partnership to create a permanent after-school system to buttress the hundreds of organizations serving children when they are not in school through academics, arts and culture, sports and community service.

The success of Boston After School & Beyond rests upon the shoulders of many in the city and we have been proud of the collective efforts to work together to support children when they are out of school. All public and private members of Boston's After-School for All Partnership will continue to commit their financial support and active engagement to ensure "after-school for all" through Boston After School & Beyond's efforts. Our children deserve no less.



Thomas M. Menino  
Mayor of Boston



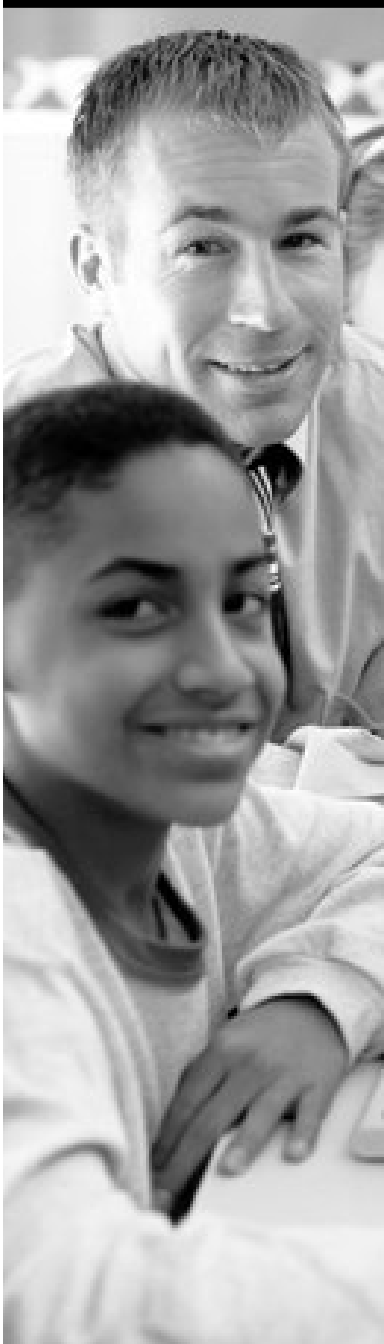
Chris Gabrieli, *Chairman*  
*Boston's After-School for*  
*All Partnership*



**A Joint Letter  
from Mayor  
Thomas M.  
Menino and  
Chris Gabrieli**



Nearly  
**\$7.8 million**  
distributed to  
after-school  
organizations in  
2003 – 2004.



## Building Success: Sustaining Results 2003 – 2004 Partnership Highlights

### INVESTING IN AFTER-SCHOOL

- Invested nearly \$7.8 million in the after-school field.
- Supported 130 organizations through Partnership's Direct Grants.
- Provided 65 grants through Partnership's Pooled Initiatives.

### UNDERSTANDING THE FIELD

- Collected data on 443 after-school program sites finding tremendous diversity and growth in the field despite changing economic climate.
- Identified trends from surveying parents and after-school providers through development of "**Learnings from the Field: Boston's After-School Sector**" to be released in late spring 2005.
- Developed mid-term reports to showcase lessons learned from expanding school sites, faith-based, and community-based programs.
- Hosted national meeting of The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's After School Project to share learnings from Boston's after-school efforts with other cities in the country.

### WORKING TOGETHER

- Supported five Pooled Funding Initiatives, each of which promoted systemic change in expanding access to after-school programs, improving learning quality, and sustaining the after-school sector.

### SECURING RESOURCES

- Obtained \$2.25 million over three-years from The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to support efforts to build an after-school citywide infrastructure.

### STRENGTHENING THE SECTOR

- Created Boston After School & Beyond, a new intermediary that builds off the successes of the Boston 2:00-to-6:00 After-School Initiative and Boston's After-School for All Partnership.
- Will develop strategies to add value to the field in four key areas:
  - Knowledge Strategy**
  - Communications**
  - Strategic Initiatives**
  - Resource Development**
- Will maintain its financial commitment for the final two years of the Partnership to support Boston After School & Beyond's system-building activities, continue its Pooled Funding Initiative efforts, and make direct grants to after-school organizations in the city.

## Telling Our Story

### WHY AFTER-SCHOOL MATTERS

Children spend 80% of their time not in school. What happens during these hours? How can this time be used to help children reach their full potential? Research continues to prove that children, when left unsupervised, are more at risk during the hours of 2 PM and 6 PM than any other time of the day. They are more apt to experiment with drugs, and engage in unprotected sex; they are more at risk of being victims of crime or to commit crime. Parents know this too. A recent Brandeis University study revealed that parents' productivity on the job suffers more when school lets out because they are worried about their child's whereabouts. Parents and policymakers also know this time can better be used to help children succeed academically and socially.

Recent research conducted by Deborah Lowe Vandell at the University of Wisconsin at Madison indicates that children who participate in any supervised after-school program receive more benefits than children who do not. They do better in school, have better behavior in the classroom, and have better work habits. This research also showed participation in quality after-school programs mitigates risk factors for children and fosters the development of the whole child by exposing them to arts, music, drama, sports, and other meaningful activities. Finally, participation in after-school programs helps level the playing field for low and moderate-income urban youth by offering them access to the types of experiences that will help them succeed in and out of the classroom.

### AFTER-SCHOOL THEN AND NOW

The success of Boston's efforts to increase children's participation in after-school programs has been dramatic. Between 1989 and 1998, the number of children enrolled in after-school programming increased from 18% to 27%. Our 2003 Parent Survey found 48,000 children now participate in after-school programs. That is over 50% of Boston's children; a figure that is likely leading the nation. In 1998, 27 Boston Public Schools offered after-school programming between the hours of 2 PM - 6 PM. That figure has now nearly tripled to 79. The 1998 Parents United for Child Care Guide to Before and After School Programs found approximately 230 after-school programs existed in the city. Our 2004 provider survey found 443 after-school programs showing a 25% increase in new programs in the last five years. National support for after-school programs has grown as well. In 1999, national polling data shows that over 90% of voters feel there should be some type of activity for children after school. Our 2003 Parent Survey found that eight of ten parents believe that after-school programming is an essential public service and critical to their children's academic and social success.

These successes would not have been possible without public and private sector leaders working together to impact the city's after-school field. The Partnership provided a vehicle for 15 like-minded organizations to act in concert to promote the well being of children when they are not in school.

**Children spend  
only 20% of  
their waking  
hours in school.**

## **Boston's After-School for All Partnership: Working in Concert**

Launched in 2001, Boston's After-School for All Partnership is the largest public/private partnership devoted to children's issues in Boston's history. Created in response to recommendations from Mayor Thomas M. Menino's Task Force on After-School Time, community leaders formed the Partnership to work in concert to:

- understand better the needs of the field through data collection and research
- provide critical financial resources to diverse after-school programs
- pilot new approaches to more effectively reach children when they are not in school
- create a permanent and resilient system to support after-school providers and the field

Committing \$26.1 million of new investments to the after-school sector over a five-year period, the Partnership focused on three goals to expand access, to increase learning opportunities, and to support efforts to financially sustain the after-school field in Boston.

### **THE PARTNERS ARE:**

Mayor Thomas M. Menino, City of Boston

Bank of America, Trustee of the L.G. Balfour Foundation

Bank of America Charitable Foundation  
(successor to the FleetBoston Financial Foundation)

The Barr Foundation

The Boston Foundation

Harvard University

The Hyams Foundation, Inc.

Liberty Mutual Group

Massachusetts 2020

Nellie Mae Education Foundation

New Profit Inc.

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

United Way of Massachusetts Bay

Verizon Foundation

The Yawkey Foundation II



**The percentage of children in Boston participating in after-school programs has nearly doubled since 1998!**

## The Partnership's Three Goals

**EXPANSION** To expand the availability of quality after-school and summer programs to serve an additional 5,000 low-income children in Boston.

**LEARNING** To help improve the academic achievement and positive development of children by supporting after-school and summer providers in their efforts to integrate high-impact learning activities into their programs.

**SUSTAINABLE FINANCING** To support efforts to put in place sustainable, significantly increased streams of public revenue to fund a system of quality after-school and summer programs in Boston.



**In the last three years, the Partnership has invested \$24.4 million in Boston's after-school field.**

## Partnership Successes: A Three-Year Snapshot

Since 2001, the Partnership has made tremendous strides to strengthen Boston's after-school sector by understanding and supporting the field, building networks, learning through innovation, and investing in the future.

### UNDERSTANDING THE FIELD

To better support the field, the Partnership first set out to understand the field through various research projects. Since 2001, the Partnership surveyed youth, parents, and after-school providers to find out what youth wanted in after-school programs, to determine the demand for after-school programming, and to discover how providers were positioned to meet this demand. The Partnership's data collection and research efforts found great support for after-school programs from parents and youth and that a majority of children participate in one or more after-school activity. It was further found that a majority of parents want and support after-school programming for their children and feel funding should not be cut for these programs, even in tight fiscal times. It was discovered that the field continues to grow despite a complex economic climate. To deepen its understanding of the field, the Partnership will make ongoing commitments to research and knowledge creation to help providers, intermediaries, and donors better serve Boston's children and to support families in their out-of-school hours.

### SUPPORTING THE FIELD

In the last three years, the Partnership has provided \$24.4 million to hundreds of organizations through its direct grantmaking and pooled funding activities. This large-scale investment in after-school programming has provided community-based, faith-based, and school sited programs the necessary operating resources to serve thousands of children in all neighborhoods of the city.

The Partnership has provided a total of \$4.8 million in Pooled Funding Initiatives since inception.

## BUILDING NETWORKS

The Partnership has partially gauged its own success by its ability to help incubate and participate in new collaborative networks to strengthen Boston's after-school sector. These collaborative partnerships provide a means to work across disciplines to address pressing needs of the after-school field. Collaboratives such as the **Teen Initiative** (increasing after-school opportunities for Boston's teen-age population), **Access for All** (increasing access to after-school programs for children and youth with special needs), **Achieve Boston** (Boston's professional development collaborative for youth and after-school workers), and the **Boston Youth Sports Initiative** (increasing youth access to sports programs through coordination and collaboration) are linked to the Partnership's efforts to create a new intermediary to coordinate the activities of these and other emerging after-school networks.

## LEARNING THROUGH INNOVATION

The Partnership highly prizes research and innovation as a way to inform its activities and policies. Since the Partnership began, it has conducted or commissioned research for each of its three goals to identify approaches to increase access to after-school programs, to create high-impact learning activities, and to develop strategies to sustain the sector through public revenue sources. Its research efforts helped create new working models to impact the field through five robust **Pooled Funding Initiatives**. These are:



Formed in the second year of the Partnership, Pooled Funding Initiatives garnered \$4.8 million, over a two-year period, providing grants to a wide variety of after-school programs. Mid-term reports and evaluations are helping donors and providers identify the successful strategies each approach used to better reach children.

## INVESTING IN THE FUTURE

With generous support from The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the Partnership embarked upon a year-long effort to determine what was needed to create a durable and resilient after-school system for the city. Over 85 interviews with key stakeholders and two community forums where 90 after-school organizations were represented, helped identify key functions of such a system. This work led to the next generation of support for after-school in the city by creating Boston After School & Beyond – a new intermediary that builds upon the successes of the Boston 2:00-to-6:00 After-School Initiative and Boston's After-School for All Partnership.

