

Looking At The ISSUES

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Afterschool: A New Canton Collaboration

Since the early 1990s, quality afterschool programs that provide a safe haven for latch key kids, recreational opportunities, and additional time on task in key academic areas have been recognized as one of the most effective interventions in urban education. The irony is that often without knowing it, afterschool providers end up competing for the same kids. Boys and Girls Clubs compete with church groups who compete with

school based programs. The problem is that while centers are in neighborhoods, most programs are not neighborhood-based. Now, a group in Canton is taking afterschool in a new direction and cities elsewhere should take note.

The Neighborhood-based After School Initiative (NASI) is a new collaboration designed to provide strong neighborhood-based afterschool programs for elementary school students in Canton. NASI calls for the development of a network of afterschool programs, each focused in a specific high need Canton neighborhood.

NASI has identified twelve such neighborhoods and eight are currently being served by programs. Children who participate can be self-referred (walk-ins) or referred by the school system. NASI involves the Canton Cavalry Mission, The Community Drop-in Center, Dueber United Methodist Church, Heartbeats to the City, Lighthouse Ministries, Multi-Development Services of Stark County, St. Marks Baptist Church, and the Stark Social Workers Network.

Did You Know

Helping to build the capacity of afterschool providers to serve more kids in higher quality programs has been an ongoing priority for the Stark Community Foundation for the last several years under the leadership of President James Bower and Vice-President for Program Cynthia M. Lazor.

The foundation has helped create the Stark County Afterschool Council, where key providers and community leaders meet on a regular basis. Lazor, representing NE Ohio, has served on the Ohio Afterschool Network (OAN) Steering Committee for three years, with representatives from Ohio Departments of Education, Job and Family Services, and the Ohio Child Care Resource and Referral Association, and Childrens Hunger Alliance, and other state area representatives.

In The News

Plain Dealer Addresses Post Secondary

Dr. Adrienne O'Neill was quoted in the Cleveland Plain Dealer on August 5, 2007 in the article "Few Takers for College-Credit Program, Study Says." Read the complete article [here](#).

Looking At The Week

P-16 Network Meets

Dr. Joe Rochford represented the Stark County P-16 Compact in Columbus on Thursday at the first quarterly meeting of Ohio's emerging network of locals and regional P-16s.