



After School Announcements

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Bringing together those who serve Maine youth

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Lights On Afterschool was a great success in Maine on the 12th of October. Maine had 26 events total and a proclamation by the Governor. Congratulations to the people and programs who won awards and honors.

The Maine Afterschool Network will be co-hosting a training on Wednesday, November 15 at the Augusta Civic Center with the Maine School-Age Care Association and the 21st Century Community Learning Centers. Please contact the Network office to get a registration form.

Amanda

Quality

Evaluating Your Staff Meetings

From Exchange Everyday August 3, 2006

In Margie Carter's popular article, "Planning Staff Meetings" from the Exchange book, The Art of Leadership, she offers this advice on evaluating the learning going on in your staff meetings...

Reflect on your last three meetings. Creating three columns on a paper with the dates of each meeting as the headers, quickly jot down the agenda for each and a summary of how time was spent, the tone, focus, and primary voices that were heard. Consider these questions as well:

- Was the space well-organized, comfortable, and inviting?
- What kinds of choices did the staff have about how time was spent?
- In what ways were people able to deepen their relationships and experience being part of a community?
- How was staff given opportunities to construct their knowledge about something worth learning?
- In what ways was their learning or experience made visible?

Looking over your answers, do you feel your staff had a meaningful learning experience and deepened their connections with each other, the program philosophy and vision, or possibly the value of their work to the wider community?

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Advocacy

Maine Afterschool Network November Training Wednesday, November 15, 2006. Augusta Civic Center. \$50 per person, registration required. Continental breakfast, lunch, snacks and workshop materials are included. FMI Amanda Chappell 207-778-7576 or amanda.chappell@maine.edu

Beyond School Hours 10th Annual Conference February 7-10, 2007 Greenboro, SC Sheraton. \$349+ Special guest keynote presenter, Dr. Maya Angelou. FMI info@foundationsinc.org or call 888-977-KIDS (5437) or <http://www.foundationsinc.org/events/conference/beyond10/default.asp>.

National Afterschool Association Conference March 21-23, 2007 Phoenix, AZ. \$175-\$435+. Best Practice workshops, accreditation information, exhibits. FMI www.naaweb.org.

Funding/ Resources

Mr. Holland's Opus Music Foundation Grants

The Melody Program that targets qualified school music programs and **The Special Projects Program that targets community schools of the arts, after school programs and youth orchestras** in need of assistance will fund programs to repair instruments and acquire new instruments. School music programs K-12, community schools of the arts, after-school programs, and youth orchestras are encouraged to apply. Deadline: None FMI <http://news.publiceducation.org/t/5780/222252/181/0/>

Pathways Within Inc.'s Roads to Reading Initiative, **supports libraries in rural communities and organizations with literacy and other reading programs to receive books and other educational materials** with the overall objective of preparing young children to learn to read and to motivate older children to read regularly. This year, **preference will be given to after-school programs and day-care and community centers**. Organizations classified as tax-exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, religious organizations and municipal organizations in poor or rural communities with annual operating budgets under \$95,000 are eligible. For more information, please contact: Kathryn Jenkins, Pathways Within 84 Forest Avenue, Millinocket, Me. 04462; (207) 723-6898 pwi@pwirtr.org or visit the website at: <http://www.pwirtr.org>

This Sports 4 Kids (S4K) website contains useful **resources for programmers interested in establishing sports programs**. S4K targets low income students and is driven to create youth sports and recreation opportunities that emphasizes skill-based activities. This resource is available at: <http://www.sports4kids.org/resources.html>

A new set of FRAC **materials that promote the child nutrition programs** or provide useful nutrition information for families are available. They include:

- Ø Start Serving Suppers at Your Afterschool Program
- Ø Nutrition Guidelines for Afterschool & Summer Programs
- Ø Helping Our Children Achieve: The Wellness Connection
- Ø Striving for Good Nutrition on a Tight Budget
- Ø Food and Nutrition Programs: Getting Connected

They are available on FRAC's website at

http://www.frac.org/Out_Of_School_Time/Afterschool/back_schoolres.html

New publications have been added to the **Afterschool Investments** website:

<http://nccic.org/afterschool/>.

- ♦ Promoting Quality in Afterschool Programs through State Child Care Regulations
- ♦ Making Smart Investments in Afterschool: A Policy Primer for State and Local Leaders
- ♦ A Guide for Effective Governance: Considerations and Lessons Learned for Afterschool Networks

Purpose:

To enable every child to have access to quality, inclusive, affordable after school programming that meets the needs of the child, the family and the community.

Vision:

Every school-age child in Maine will have access to quality; inclusive, affordable programs during out-of-school time that meet the needs of the child, the family and the community.

Network Goals:

1. Foster statewide, regional, and local partnerships through clear communication among policymakers and providers, in order to coordinate services across the state.
2. Assist in securing resources needed to develop new after school programs and sustain existing programs.
3. Assist with training, technical assistance and coordination to ensure that programs are inclusive, high quality, and meet the needs of children, families and communities.