

## *“Making the Connections for After School”*

Connecticut  
**After School**  
Network

# 2007-2008 Annual Report



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**Board of Directors 2007–2008**

Michele Rulnick—Chair  
Tracey Lay—Vice Chair  
Ginger Vickstrom—Secretary  
Suzanne Cutler—Treasurer  
Hyacinth Douglas Bailey  
Linda Janowitz  
Mike Lengle  
Tracey Madden-Hennessey  
Lynne Malone  
Mary Jane Pych  
Christina Ramoglou  
Bill Stover  
Arlene Swatson  
Carole Weisberg

**Network Staff**

Michelle Doucette Cunningham  
Executive Director  
  
Kathy Wilby  
Director of Professional Development  
  
Jennifer Peifer  
Communications Specialist  
  
Marla Berrios  
APlus Support Training Specialist  
  
Gardy Theodore  
APlus Support Training Specialist  
  
Susan Krampitz  
Office Manager  
  
Patricia Brown  
Business Manager  
  
Monica Whalen  
Conference Coordinator

*Our mission is to lead, educate and advocate  
for excellence in the after school field by  
building professionalism, strengthening  
program quality and increasing availability  
and affordability.*



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## Network Honors Senator Thomas Gaffey at Middletown *Lights On* Event

The eighth annual *Lights On Afterschool* day was celebrated October 18, 2007 with close to 100 events at after school programs throughout Connecticut.

State Senator Thomas Gaffey was awarded the Connecticut After School Network's 2007 "Children's Champion" award at a *Lights On After School* celebration at the Middlesex YMCA's Kids' Korner program at Bielefield School in Middletown on October 17th.

The Children's Champion Award is given annually to recognize individuals who have furthered the cause of after school in Connecticut. Senator Gaffey was chosen for the 2007 award because of his support for after school initiatives, which garnered enough funding through the legislature to make after school programs available to an additional 6,000 Connecticut stu-

dents. He has a long history of supporting children's and educational causes in Connecticut.

"We are honored to present Senator Gaffey with this award because he understands the crucial role after school programs play in the lives of so many children in the state," said Michelle Doucette Cunningham, Executive Director of the Connecticut After School Network. "Senator Gaffey's efforts have ensured that thousands of children will have the opportunity to participate in quality after school programs."

Senator Gaffey accepted his award and addressed an audience that included Sebastian Giuliano, mayor of Middletown, school officials, parents and children about the importance of reading and getting a good education. He acknowledged that after school programs play an

important role in helping children succeed in school.

"Learning doesn't stop when the school bell rings, and kids need all the support they can get whether it is help with homework in an after school program or at home. Everyone needs to be involved if we want to see our children succeed," said Gaffey.



Senator Gaffey with students from YMCA's Kids' Korner program

## Network Hosts Statewide *Lights On* Photo Contest

As part of the 2007 *Lights On* celebrations, the Network sponsored its first photo contest open to after school participants in grades K through 12 throughout the state. The finalists received certificates of recognition and their photo entries displayed on our Web site.

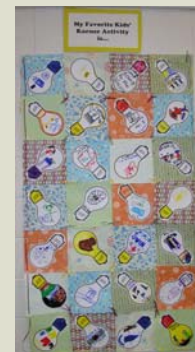
The first prize—a digital camera—went to the program of the winner, Six-to-Six Interdistrict Magnet School in Bridgeport.

The winning photo (pictured at right) was taken by fourth grader Vanessa Vizcarrondo.



## Network Accomplishments 07 - 08

- Our Training & Consultation Service instructors conducted 64 workshops that provided training to 1,545 staff. Additionally, a Camp Yankee Summer Camp Training was conducted in collaboration with the YMCA.
- Fifty-two after school programs received at least one technical assistance visit from Network staff or consultants as part of two projects, one supporting after school grantees of the State Department of Education and the other an IBM-sponsored “Play it Safe” initiative.
- **September 2007**—The Connecticut After School Network’s *Best Practice Guidelines and Self-Assessment Tool* was published. Over 500 printed copies were distributed in addition to those that were downloaded directly from our Web site.
- **October 2007**—Senator Thomas Gaffey honored as Children’s Champion at a Lights On After School event in Middletown. (See page 3)
- **October 2007**—The Network sponsored a photo contest open to all after school participants in Connecticut.
- **November 2007**—The Network hosted its annual fall conference.
- **January 2008**— Network conducted its first training sessions on *Best Practice Guidelines and Self Assessment Tool*.
- **February 2008**—The Network conducted its first Webinar directed at private funders and how they could recognize quality in an after school setting.
- **February 2008**—Network hosts 2-day Presenter Training with Laurie Noe.
- **March 2008**—The Network hosted its annual spring conference.
- **May 2008**—The Perrin Family Foundation awarded the Network a \$30,000 capacity building grant to improve its strategy for educating key stakeholders, create more resources and greater support for after school programs and promote the importance of offering high quality after school programs throughout Connecticut.
- **May 2008**—Network sponsored a Strategic Planning for After School Programs training.
- **May 2008**—The Network hosted its first Middle School /High School Conference in Rocky Hill. The keynote speaker was Anthony Wolf, best selling author of, **Get Out of My Life, But First Could You Drive Me and Cheryl to the Mall?**
- **May 2008**— The Network initiated a scholarship program that awarded \$600 stipends toward tuition reimbursement to after school professionals currently working in after school programs in Connecticut who take college credit-based courses that are relevant to their work with children and youth.
- **June 2008**— A new intermediary after school group was formed in Middlesex County with the help of a grant from the United Way. The group meets bi-monthly to discuss issues specific to Middlesex County. The Network participates in the meetings and offers insight and assistance with funding, advocacy and training matters.



## Our Network

81 Individual Professional Members  
109 Organizational Memberships  
1,639 Total Professional Members  
1,939 e-Alert Subscribers

## Our Donors

\$2,000 fall conference (2007)  
Sponsorship, AT&T

## In-kind Donations

Office Space and Utilities,  
Branford School Age Care

Meeting Space,  
Frenchtown Elementary School, Trumbull

Meeting Space,  
State Dept. of Education, Middletown

Meeting Space,  
YMCA of Eastern Region, Manchester

Meeting Space,  
Northern Middlesex YMCA, Middletown

## Volunteers

Dave Krampitz  
Board members

## 2007 - 2008 Supporters

### Silver

Jill Stewart, Norwalk  
CASTLE, Colchester

### Gold

YMCA of Greater Hartford  
Youth Development Training and Resource  
Center (YDTRC), New Haven

## Financial Statement

July 1, 2007 - June 30, 2008

### Income

State Funds	\$370,728
Program Service Fees	296,571
Grants	60,650
Donations (In-Kind)	19,900
Membership Fees	15,533
Miscellaneous	2,145
Donations—Individuals/Businesses	1,140

**Total Income: \$766,666**

### Expenses

Wages	\$254,044
Program Related Contracts	177,320
Conferences / Meetings / Workshops	63,487
Payroll Taxes/Benefits	35,385
Travel / Mileage	22,073
Grants	17,473
Office Expenses	16,899
Occupancy Expense	15,907
Printing	6,758
Professional Fees	6,650
Telephone	5,036
Dues / Subscriptions	4,064
Postage	3,399
Insurance (non-employee)	2,441
Miscellaneous	1,500
Staff Development	1,085
Depreciation Expense	935
Equipment Lease / Maintenance	814

**Total Expenses: \$635,269**

## 2007—2008 AT A GLANCE

- ◆ 1,639 professional members.
- ◆ 64 workshops serving 1,545 after school professionals.
- ◆ Three conferences serving more than 500 after school professionals.
- ◆ \$12,000 in Network tuition reimbursement grants awarded for 20 college courses.
- ◆ *Lights On* events held throughout the state including a photo contest award ceremony in Bridgeport and a Children's Champion award given to Senator Thomas Gaffey in Middletown.
- ◆ *After School Best Practice Guidelines and Self-Assessment Tool* published and distributed.
- ◆ Three new full time staff joined the Network.
- ◆ Network awarded \$30,000 grant from the Perrin Foundation.
- ◆ Network awarded \$75,000 Mott Innovation Grant (year 2 2/1/08—9/30/08).

### Network Grows—Hires Three New Full Time Employees

Beginning in 2008, the 21st Century Community Learning Centers and the State Department of Education funded after school programs are required to use Cayen Systems database software (APlus) to track their student records. As a result, the Network was able to hire two full time Software Support and Training Specialists to assist those programs with training and technical assistance related to using the APlus system.



**Marla Berrios** joined the team in March of 2008 and brings five years of technical work with the APlus Cayen Systems. She previously was employed with the New Haven Board of Education, and served as a program coordinator for one of the 21st Century Community Learning Centers at the Columbus Family

Academy. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Business Management.



**Gardy Theodore** joined us in June of 2008 and brings over 10 years of Information Technology consulting experience to the Network. He earned his Bachelor's degree in Human Services from Springfield College, and a Master of Education degree from Cambridge College. Gardy is the co-founder of Technology Leader, LLC, located in Newington, CT and currently provides on-line/on-site and one to one technology training and consultation services.



**Ken Anthony** joined the Network as the Director of Professional Development in June of 2008. He

was formerly the District Family Resource Center Coordinator for the Windsor Public Schools, administering five family resource centers as well as a before and after school component at each site. Ken created many school, family and community partnerships by working with other agencies and committees throughout the state. Ken also served as child care services Director at the New Britain-Berlin YMCA for several years. During his time there he joined the school competencies with after school enrichment activities to enhance student performance. Ken holds a Bachelor's degree in Psychology with a concentration in Child Development, and a Master's degree in Human Services with a concentration in Organizational Management and Leadership.