



# Newsletter

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## She's Touched So Many Lives in 26 years

So many kids have passed through Janet Bangs' life in 26 years.

"It's the kids I've really had to work with who become my favorites," said Bangs. "Because when you really work with them and see them change, it's a miracle."

Bangs is retiring after 26 years with AFTER SCHOOL.

She began her career with AFTER SCHOOL in 1979 as an assistant teacher at the Hoyt program.

"I made \$2.90 an hour," Bangs recalled.

She also worked at Leopold, Crestwood, McFarland, Muir and Stephens AFTER SCHOOL programs as a site supervisor.

"One of the things I've enjoyed the most about being with kids is that they're so honest about their feelings," said Bangs. "You know where you stand with kids, how they feel about you and what they're thinking. You don't always get that from adults."

Learning about all the different personalities of the children has also been fascinating to Bangs.

"I had one kid who'd come in the door to AFTER SCHOOL and go 'Ta da! I'm here!'" said Bangs. "Then I had a little girl who followed me around for three months. We sure see the range of personalities with kids."

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*Janet Bangs*



*Two Merton boys work on their embroidery*

## Merton Kids Learn Embroidery, Life Skills

Merton Primary Site Supervisor Lena Carlstedt believes there are no limits to what you can teach children. She proved her theory this year when all the children in her AFTER SCHOOL program took up embroidery, even the boys.

"I teach the boys and girls exactly the same," said Carlstedt. "You have to individualize it and you need to show them how the stitches go."

The children made wall hangings, pillow covers and self portraits out of embroidery.

"The best way to motivate them is to have

them draw their own picture or you can get patterns of sports pictures like hockey," said Carlstedt.

Kids learn more than just sewing skills at Merton.

"I tell them to think ahead to what you want to be when you grow up," said Carlstedt. "I plant a little seed."

Carlstedt has been planting seeds for AFTER SCHOOL for five years. A native of Sweden, Carlstedt taught first-third grades at a Swedish school in Brazil for three years. She moved to the U.S. with her family in 1988.

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## WYC Summer Programs Keeping Kids Busy



*Kids at Camp Viking, Mt. Horeb, play a version of tag that they invented called "Kingdom." It involves a king, a queen and some villagers and lots of running around on the playground equipment.*



*Kids taking part in the "Something Fishy" summer camp unit at Camp Viking got to taste and cook different kinds of fish including perch and salmon.*

Activities are in full swing in all four Wisconsin Youth Company summer programs, summer day camp, Middle School U, Wander Wisconsin and Generation Tours. Wisconsin Youth Company (WYC) is the parent company of AFTER SCHOOL.

WYC is operating nine summer day camps in Dane County, four in Madison and one each in Middleton, Mt. Horeb, Stoughton, Verona and Waunakee. Two summer day camps are also running in Waukesha County. Middle School U, which is geared for kids entering sixth grade through ninth grade has two locations this summer: Madison and Stoughton.

Most day camp programs are full with xx being the most popular sessions for five to seven year olds and xx being most popular for eight to 12 year olds.

Wander Wisconsin, WYC's travel and adventure camping program, is running a series of trips all summer. The trips are for youth ages eight to 15 and vary in length from five days to two weeks. Wander Wisconsin Travel Club sessions are very popular and filled quickly. These five day units feature field trips to a different destination every day. Trips go places like the Kalahari Water Park or the Milwaukee Museum.

Generation Tours has scheduled three one day family field trips and four one to three night regional vacation trips. The trips include everything from an overnight to the Mall of America to a hot air balloon flight.

Middle School U, which features week-long, in depth skill classes has rock climbing and candy making as two of the most popular.

## AFTER SCHOOL Web Site to Go "Live"



The new AFTER SCHOOL website has been under construction for about six months and is set to go live very soon.

"There's so much detail involved in this web site - supervisor bios, site descriptions, hours, phone numbers - that it takes awhile to gather it all up," said Jean Colvin, Wisconsin Youth Company Writer/Consultant.

The web site is being designed by E-Media Resources. When completed prospective parents will be able to get a good idea of what the individual programs offer and some information about the supervisors who work

at those programs by visiting the web site. There is also a kid's page with photos from some of the programs and educational web sites for children to visit. Parents will be able to check on non-school dates by accessing the calendar. The possibility of downloading registration forms is planned for the future.

A password-protected staff section will also be available for staff to access resources and training tips.

"E-Media Resources did our Wander Wisconsin, Generation Tours and Middle School U sites and they look great, so I'm sure people will be pleased with the AFTER SCHOOL site," said Colvin.

You can access the new site at [www.afterschool.org](http://www.afterschool.org) after September 1.

## There's More to Learn than Sewing at Merton

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She teaches Swedish for another organization once a week to children so "kids can keep up their (native) language."

So what does it take to be a teacher? If you're Carlstedt "You have to love your job".

"You need to help (children) succeed," she said. "It's important to get them on track to handle life. The responsibility is so big."

Carlstedt also teaches practical things at her AFTER SCHOOL program. This past school year she got a large wall map of the U.S. and "did a state each week". The children learned the capitol, animals, birds, plants common to the state and discussed if they had traveled there or had relatives there.

"I tell them a bad attitude (towards learning) is not acceptable," said Carlstedt.

“A bad attitude towards learning is not acceptable.”

## Stoughton Programs Get Wal-Mart Grant

The Stoughton AFTER SCHOOL programs were awarded a \$500 grant by the Wal-Mart Foundation of Bentonville, AR.

Zona Smith, Stoughton Program Director, accepted the check at a ceremony in June from the Assistant Manager of the Stoughton Wal-Mart, Ryan Whalen. She said the money would be used to purchase recreational games, sports equipment, craft supplies and a digital camera for use by the three programs.

AFTER SCHOOL operates programs at Fox Prairie, Kegonsa and Yahara Schools and serves a total of 150 children.

Wal-Mart Foundation awarded a total of five grants to non-profits through the Stoughton store in June.

AFTER SCHOOL also provides the management support for the Joining Forces Half-day Enrichment Program. For 2005-2006 school year, these enrichment programs will continue to service the community school.



*Zona Smith, Stoughton AFTER SCHOOL Program Director, accepts a check for \$500 from Ryan Whalen, Assistant Manager of the Stoughton Wal-Mart.*

## Education Director Designs B.O.O.S.T. Units

From buttons to soap, from magic to castles, from the everyday to the unusual, AFTER SCHOOL's B.O.O.S.T. curricula is all about capturing the interest of children. B.O.O.S.T. stands for Building On Out of School Time and is part of the regular program for younger children at all AFTER SCHOOL sites.

The name B.O.O.S.T. is the brain child of AFTER SCHOOL Program Director Kim Anderson. she attended a national conference on school-age children where everyone was talking "out of school time" to refer to after school programs.

"The idea of 'building on' is the enrichment part", said Anderson. "We're taking advantage of after school time and making it fun to boost their academic experience."

But before it turns into a curriculum module, it's a fun idea in the mind of Education Director Deborah Katz-Hunt.

"We want to give children the chance to follow their interests or to spark an interest," said Katz-Hunt.

Katz-Hunt began working for Wisconsin Youth Company (WYC) seven and a half years ago as a site supervisor at the Thoreau AFTER SCHOOL program and later at Crestwood.

"What a wonderful job! I loved it," said Katz-Hunt. "At my previous job I was doing more and more administrative work and really missed being around kids."

When WYC Executive Director Nancy Goodell came up with the idea of an enrichment program for younger children in the AFTER SCHOOL programs, she turned to Katz-Hunt whose educational background and experience made her a good candidate for the job. She has a bachelor's degree in English Literature and a master's degree in Educational Psychology. She worked for two years at a Johns Hopkins sponsored program for gifted children at the Maryland Science Museum.

The other "hat" Katz-Hunt wears for WYC is co-coordinator of the annual Social Emotional Conference. The conference serves as a learning opportunity for anyone interested in children and youth and features cutting edge nationally known speakers.

When her husband, Lester, took a job teaching Philosophy at UW, the family, including son Nat, moved to Madison and Katz-Hunt became involved with a group called the Wisconsin Center for Academically Talented Youth.

"I'm very committed to the 'severely gifted'," said Katz-Hunt. "I'd done so much on enrichment with gifted kids that I was able to use that experience on B.O.O.S.T."

B.O.O.S.T. is built in the belief that children are "eager learners" all the time, not just when they're sitting in a classroom and that, given the opportunity, would love to dig deeper into topics that interest them.

B.O.O.S.T. consists of 20 modules for each of five focus areas: Art a la Carte, Great Outdoors, Games Galore, It's A Wonderful World and Life and Leisure. AFTER SCHOOL staff presents the modules to the children daily using props, supplies and other materials that compliment and support the curriculum.

"What we do is take something that's ordinary, something we use everyday and we point it out to children," said Katz-Hunt. "We may take it for granted but it's all new for children."

Having researched and written all those curricula she must have a favorite right?

"You know, it's always the one I'm working on," said Katz-Hunt, "although I do love 'bubbles.' It's got everything - physics, art, painting, photography - so it can be in all five focus areas."

She stops to think a moment.

"The 'Buttons' curriculum turned out to be so much fun. It took me 12 hours to do and the one I did on 'Soap' was just wild," said Katz-Hunt. "It's so amazing what kids think is fun."

“We want to give children a chance to follow their interests.”



*Deborah Katz-Hunt*

## Janet Remembered for Her Quiet, Calm Presence

**Nancy Goodell, Executive Director:** 1988 was the year Nancy Goodell came to AFTER SCHOOL and remembers her daughter, Jenny, now 30, working as a youth volunteer in the summer program run by Janet Bangs.

"Janet has had a significant impact on countless staff and volunteers through the years," said Goodell. "She's an incredible mentor in her quiet way."

Goodell said Janet's contributions to the organization in terms of staff development have been a huge asset for AFTER SCHOOL.

"Janet is the epitome of what you expect from a site supervisor," said Goodell. "She accentuates the positive and builds on people's strengths."

**Mary McCarthy, Director of Finance:** She started with AFTER SCHOOL in 1982 as what was then called "lead teacher." Now they are called site supervisors. She worked along side Bangs in summer day camp programs for two summers.

"The thing that sticks out the most (about Janet) is her calmness," said McCarthy. "That's what helped me to keep my sanity. She's just a delight to work with."

McCarthy recalled that Bangs taught her to sew.

"She was teaching the kids but I was watching," said McCarthy, noting that her daughter, Kristin, took two sewing classes with Bangs.

McCarthy has had many roles in her years with AFTER SCHOOL. Besides being a lead teacher and working in the summer program she served as snack coordinator and registrar.

"I remember people calling in to sign up their kids for summer camp and asking what courses Janet was teaching so they could get their kids in her group," said McCarthy.

**Andrew Studt, Program Director:** Studt began working for AFTER SCHOOL in 1995 at Muir with the Club age children and with Bangs as his first supervisor.

"I remember Janet saying to me in her very calm, quiet way, 'You're going to have to remember that you can't argue with these kids. Once you start arguing with them, it's all over,'" recalled Studt. "It seems so obvious now but at the time...."

Studt said Janet didn't say a lot but when she did "we knew to pay attention."

“She was teaching the kids but I was watching.”

## She's Touched the Lives of Her Staff Too

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Seeing those kids achieve success has been a thrill for her too.

"It really pleases me to read in the paper that they've won awards and I can say 'I had that kid in AFTER SCHOOL!'" she said.

People frequently ask her how children have changed over the years.

"I think kids are pretty much the same," said Bangs

Bangs has also touched the lives of a lot of younger staff that have been a part of her program. She feels that working with staff has been one of the best things about her job.

"I'm not much for telling people what to do but they learn by watching me," said Bangs.

Seeing staff develop skills in working with children and even decide to change their career plans to teaching has been rewarding for Bangs. She especially likes seeing those who are "natural" teachers develop.

Over the years she has become known for introducing countless children to the art of sewing by helping them make tote bags, vests, shorts and pillows.

"I think the children got the most satisfaction out of sewing," said Bangs.

And it sounds like Janet Bangs got the most satisfaction out of teaching children.

Bangs and her husband live in McFarland. She has three grown children and three grandchildren.



Janet Bangs

## Task Force Explores Social Enterprise

A task force consisting of Wisconsin Youth Company (WYC) Executive Director Nancy Goodell, Events Coordinator Spyder Carneol, Summer Camp Programs Director Jason Anderson and Writer/Consultant Jean Colvin is investigating creating a social enterprise to raise money for scholarships. The scholarships would fund low-income children's participation in WYC programs such as AFTER SCHOOL and Wander Wisconsin.

Anderson, Carneol and Colvin all attended the Social Enterprise Alliance annual conference in Milwaukee in April and received training on starting a social enterprise.

The task force meets monthly and is considering a number of possibilities for raising money. Because WYC has its own print shop, the group is exploring printing and selling staff-created training materials to other organizations that serve children.

## Don't Forget to Sign Up for Fall Programming

In the rush of summer activities it's easy to forget about the fall and the kids returning to school. But parents should be sure to register their children for before and after school programs soon.

Parents with children previously enrolled in AFTER SCHOOL programs should have received their registration packets in June. They were given first priority for registering their children. New families are now permitted to sign up. If you did not receive a registration packet or need another one, call or stop by the Madison office, 608-276-9782, 1201 McKenna Blvd., or the Waukesha office, 262-547-8770, N9 W24198 Bluemound Road.

In Dane County AFTER SCHOOL will again be serving 25 schools. The only change is that this year, Midvale students will be bused

to the Van Hise site and combined with that group. Last year the Midvale students were at Covenant Presbyterian Church on Segoe Road. Fifteen sites will again offer AFTER SCHOOL programming in Waukesha County this fall.

Start times and pick-up times differ for each location depending on school day start and dismissal times and other factors. Children may attend two, three, four or five days a week. Three, four and five-day enrollments have priority throughout the school year. During inservices and other non school days AFTER SCHOOL offers special programs. Separate registration is required for these. All families enrolled in an ongoing AFTER SCHOOL program will receive these registration materials.

## Middle School U Kids Locate a Surprise

How nine kids from Madison found a bear from Tennessee on Picnic Point is an interesting story.

The kids were participating last month in a week long MIDDLE SCHOOL U summer session called "Orienteering and Geocaching." Using the web site [www.geocaching.com](http://www.geocaching.com) the kids, with the help of their counselor Tom Munro, picked out "caches" or hidden boxes of items to search for. According to web site rules, the caches must be placed on public land and they may not be buried. Large caches are usually placed in Army surplus ammo cans. "Micro caches" go into 35 mm film cans. A few general clues about location are given and the Global Positioning coordinates are also listed. Then using hand-held GPS units, the kids try to find the caches. Once the caches are found they are replaced for someone else

to have the fun of finding them. What made this cache so special is that is contained "Beary Happy Camper," a stuffed bear with a "travel bug" attached to him. The "travel bug" contained instructions to send Beary on to camp which is what the kids will do.

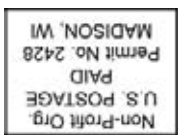
"It's kind of like a high tech hide and seek game," said Munro. "It's a good excuse to go out for walks in the park."

Munro, who serves as Community Programs Director for AFTER SCHOOL, is an avid "geocacher" himself and taught the skills to the kids.

"Once we got to Picnic Point it took them about an hour and a half to find the site," he said.



*The Orienteering and Geocaching team shows off "Beary the Happy Camper", the traveling bear they found in their cache*



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## Fun Trips to Faire, Six Flags, Farm, Kayaking Planned

You could be back in time, on the farm, on the water or underground depending on which Generation Tours family field trip or vacation you take advantage of this summer.

Generation Tours is a program of Wisconsin Youth Company (WYC), AFTER SCHOOL's parent company, and organizes trips to a wide variety of regional, national and international destinations. Trips are especially designed to appeal to families and all have an educational focus.

The remaining trips scheduled for this summer include two overnights and one four day trip: an overnight to the Bristol Renaissance Faire and Six Flags July 23-24, a visit to a farm July 30-31 and a four day trip to the Apostle Islands August 3-7. Cost of the faire and Six Flags trip is \$135 per person. Cost of the farm overnight is \$125 per person. Cost of the Apostle Islands trip is \$650 per cabin.

The Renaissance Faire in Bristol, WI features strolling minstrels, comedy skits, period music, booths selling handmade crafts such as jewelry, leather work or wood crafted items.

There are hawk flying demonstrations, mud wrestling and an authentic jousting tournament. Families can take advantage of kayak lessons on the Apostle Islands trip and enjoy a real wilderness experience.

Families looking for something equally fun but less expensive may want to try the one day field trip to Carolyn's Caverns and Montgomery Cave, near Chilton, WI. The cost of the trip is \$15 per person and it is scheduled for August 13. Children must be at least five years old to participate. The trip features a naturalist guided tour of the caves where you can learn about geology and the natural and human history of the cave. There will also be a visit to a "bat room" where you can see bats in their natural habitat. Caves are damp and muddy so participants are urged to dress in layers and prepare to get dirty. A flashlight is also helpful. This trip includes lunch, cave tour, transportation, educational materials, and youth coordinator and driver services.

For more information about the above trips or other Generation Tours opportunities, call 1-866-GEN-TURS (1-866-436-8877).



*"Fun on the Farm", July 30 - 31*

