

# Afterschool Advocate

A media outreach newsletter published by the Afterschool Alliance

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## **JOIN THE AFTERSCHOOL FOR ALL CHALLENGE**

The Afterschool Alliance will host its third annual *Afterschool Challenge* on Capitol Hill on May 19 and 20 in Washington, DC. Building on the success of last year's event, afterschool providers, parents, students, business leaders and other advocates will once again meet with their Congressional representatives to thank the most ardent afterschool champions and to urge all representatives to support full funding for afterschool programs this year.

Everyone's participation is crucial to growing afterschool funding. If Congress funds the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers initiative at the \$2 billion level authorized by the No Child Left Behind Act this year, rather than the \$1 billion level as currently proposed, twice as many children will be served and the country will come closer to meeting the demand for afterschool.

The two-day event will include training to prepare activists to visit Members of Congress, and a welcome reception on Wednesday, May 19. On Thursday, the day will kick off with the Alliance's third annual "Breakfast of Champions" with Members of Congress, youth and afterschool program providers from around the nation.

Following the breakfast, providers and advocates will fan out across Capitol Hill for meetings with their elected representatives.

### **Youth Participation**

This year the Afterschool Alliance is excited to welcome youth participation at the Challenge!

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## **STATE-BY-STATE ANALYSIS OF THE PRESIDENT'S PROPOSED AFTERSCHOOL BUDGET**

As reported in an earlier *Afterschool Advocate*, President Bush's Fiscal Year '05 budget proposal calls for flat funding for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers (21<sup>st</sup> CCLC), rather than the increase authorized by the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB). Under the President's proposal, the 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC initiative would receive only \$1 billion next year, rather than the \$2 billion authorized by NCLB. "If Congress agrees to \$1 billion in funding for the fourth consecutive year, thousands of children in each state will be denied the chance to participate in afterschool programs," said Afterschool Alliance Executive Director Judy Y. Samelson.

The Afterschool Alliance has analyzed the impact that flat funding will have on children and programs in each state. Its new state charts provide concrete numbers on how many children in each state participate in federally funded afterschool programs under a 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC program funded at \$1 billion, versus the number of students that would be served if \$2 billion were appropriated. The charts also show how much money each state will receive under the program at \$1 billion and \$2 billion.

"Without more adequate funding for afterschool programs, millions of children will be unsupervised during the critical hours after the school day ends and before their parents return home from work," Samelson added.

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**Challenge Continued...**

Advocates are encouraged to invite youth from their community to join them in Washington, DC for the event. Special events will be planned for youth and the Alliance will post details on its web site, [www.afterschoolalliance.org](http://www.afterschoolalliance.org), as they become available.

**Register Today**

For more information and/or to register for the *Afterschool for All Challenge*, visit [www.afterschoolalliance.org](http://www.afterschoolalliance.org). Upon successful registration, you will receive an email confirming your participation.

While there is no cost for this event, you will be responsible for your own travel costs and arrangements. Space is limited at this year's *Afterschool for All Challenge*, so please respond today. For additional information, contact the Alliance via email at [challenge@afterschoolalliance.org](mailto:challenge@afterschoolalliance.org).

**State-By-State Analysis Continued...**

"Last year, Congress rejected the President's proposed afterschool budget. Those of us who care about children should encourage Members of Congress to do so again this year. Federal funding for afterschool programs needs to grow."

Each state's news release and budget analysis are available on the Afterschool Alliance's web site, at [http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/budget\\_report\\_FY2005.cfm](http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/budget_report_FY2005.cfm)

**Send a Message**

To send a message to your senators and representative in Congress, go to the Alliance home page, at [www.afterschoolalliance.org](http://www.afterschoolalliance.org), and click on the blue "Contact Congress" button at the lower left.

**AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS MAKE FOR LESS STRESSED PARENTS**

Parents worried about their children's afterschool arrangements have significantly more job disruptions and dramatically lower psychological well-being, finds a new study by Brandeis University's Community, Families & Work Program. The ongoing research, led by Brandeis Senior Scientist Rosalind Chait Barnett, Ph.D. and Community, Families, & Work Program Director Karen Gareis, Ph.D., is aimed at identifying the causes, effects, and solutions to what the researchers call Parental After-School Stress (PASS).

"On average, parents with high PASS miss as many as five more days of work a year than their low PASS counterparts," said Brandeis Senior Scientist Rosalind Chait Barnett, Ph.D. "They also frequently make errors, turn down requests to work extra hours and miss meetings and deadlines."

The study, to be presented at a summer meeting of the American Psychological Association and subsequently published in a peer-reviewed journal, offers new yardsticks for measuring PASS and job disruptions and distractions for working parents. It finds that parents with greater concerns about their children's afterschool arrangements are three times as likely to report high levels of job disruptions and four-and-one-half times as likely to report low levels of psychological well-being. Significantly, parents with children under adult supervision – either in afterschool programs or under the care of a trusted friend or family member, for example – are less likely to experience high levels of stress over their children's afterschool arrangements.

Researchers plan to gather more data and conduct further analysis. Among the topics they intend to address further is how afterschool programs compare, in terms of parental stress, with other types of adult-supervised care for children.

Other findings indicate that working parents with flexible employers have lower stress levels. “We found that the ability to come in late, leave early or take a midday break significantly lowers the parent’s stress level,” says Dr. Gareis. “Being able to leave work at a regular time, having an understanding supervisor, the ability to make phone calls and deal with family matters at work all directly improve employee productivity.”

Drs. Barnett and Gareis also invite their colleagues in the research community to explore a variety of important issues raised by their conclusions: What management policies best reduce parental stress? Does parental stress affect employees’ evaluations?

The study’s early findings affirm a longtime contention of afterschool advocates: That afterschool programs help working parents on the job. As afterschool programs increasingly turn to the business community for financial support, business leaders are likely to be interested in the study’s conclusion that working parents with children in adult-supervised care, including afterschool programs, suffer from less stress and are therefore more reliable employees.

For more information on the report and Brandeis University’s Community, Families & Work Program, visit [www.bcfwp.org](http://www.bcfwp.org).



## IN THEIR OWN WORDS...

“Utah’s Republican-controlled House of Representatives has voted to ignore all mandates in President Bush’s No Child Left Behind Act that would cost more than the federal government is willing to pay. No wonder. The act places onerous - some say impossible - demands on schools to raise test scores, but offers far less money than many impoverished schools need to have even a chance to comply. But the act has some features that could make a real difference for schools and school children. One of these is a

promising program to keep children safe after school, help them improve academically and support working families. It is called the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers Initiative. It can be, literally, a lifesaver for so-called latchkey kids who are on their own from the time classes end until their parents return from work. But like so many well-intentioned federal programs, the projected funding is less than needed and less than promised.”

- Editorial by Senior Editor Alex Adwan, *Tulsa World*, February 15, 2004

“Philadelphia’s homicide rate has reached a five-year high of 347, and this has been a particularly violent period for the city’s children. From 2001-02, an average of 64 young people ages seven to 24 were gunshot victims each month. During that same time, the city dis-invested in public afterschool programs and other community-run, positive, preventive activities for kids. Our children - without these extra havens - are paying for this, some with serious injuries, too many with their lives. In 2000, the city budgeted \$1.6 million for public afterschool programs. Today that figure is \$0. Money for city afterschool programs now comes from federal grants... For whatever reason, Philadelphia is failing miserably in addressing these issues. We all must rethink our positions. What kind of city is it that cannot protect its youngest and most vulnerable?... Our children deserve our strongest and best effort. Anything less is just not good enough.”

- Michael McCrea, President and CEO of the Philadelphia Recreation Advisory Council, *Philadelphia Inquirer*, February 16, 2004

“Afterschool programs are a critical community need for our young people. Recent national research studies indicate that the two greatest risk factors for youth are

unsupervised time after school and academic failure. These risk factors cut across all races and ethnicities, family income levels and family structures. High-quality afterschool programs help our youth stay drug- and alcohol-free, avoid the pressures of gangs, succeed at school, form positive relationships with adults, make new friends, contribute to the community and learn new skills. Neither the elementary [School-Age Child Care] nor the middle school afterschool programs are close to meeting the needs of Fairfax County youth and families. There is an opportunity here to create affordable, quality afterschool programs that offer constructive activities in safe, caring environments – an opportunity to provide our young people with positive alternatives to spending time on the streets, at the mall or being home alone. To be successful, it will take a concerted effort on the part of all of us – citizens, businesses, schools, community- and faith-based organizations, the School Board and the Board of Supervisors.”

- Mark H. Emery, Director of Fairfax County After-School Network,  
*Washington Post*, February 19, 2004



## IN THE NEWS...

**National** – Most parents who know about the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) like the concept, but would oppose implementation of its punitive components in their own child’s school, finds a national Results for America survey. Given the chance for additional federal money for their child’s school, 52 percent of the respondents would put the money towards providing smaller classes, 12 percent would use additional federal monies to restore or expand arts learning programs, and eleven percent would increase access to afterschool programs. For more information on Results for America and the NCLB survey, visit [www.ResultsForAmerica.org](http://www.ResultsForAmerica.org).

**National** – On February 26, the National Council for Community and Education Partnerships received a \$5 million grant for Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP) from the SBC Foundation, the philanthropic arm of SBC Communications Inc. The grant will help train and assist teachers in using technology in the classroom; fund technology-based afterschool programs to help students in math, science, reading and technology; measure student achievement and program impact; and establish new K-16 partnerships based on the GEAR UP model throughout the 13-state region. For more information about GEAR UP, visit [www.ed.gov/programs/gearup/index.html](http://www.ed.gov/programs/gearup/index.html).

**National** – During its 34<sup>th</sup> annual convention, the National Indian Education Association (NIEA) passed a resolution in support of afterschool programs that urged a \$2 billion appropriation for the federal 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers initiative in FY 2005, as authorized by the No Child Left Behind Act. NIEA is the largest national Indian organization of American Indian, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian educators, administrators, parents and students in the country. The resolution was spearheaded by Afterschool Ambassador Carolyn Harry, from Nixon, Nevada. More information about NIEA is available at [www.niea.org](http://www.niea.org).

**California** - In early February, Andrea Laudate and Alicia DeCastro received the California Lottery’s “Heroes in Education” volunteer award for their innovative afterschool program for girls. Laudate and DeCastro formed the “Sister-to-Sister” afterschool program at San Francisco’s A.P. Gianinni Middle School to empower pre-teen girls by teaching them how to make healthy life choices for their minds and their bodies. Using interactive classes, they teach girls about safety, time management, goal setting, cooking, budgeting and self-protection.

**Missouri** – The Partnership for Children gave the Kansas City metropolitan area a grade of C+ for the overall status of children, reports the *Kansas City Star*. The city received a lower grade than last year’s B- because of cuts in services for low-income families, an increased number of children in poverty, and an increase in drug and alcohol use by teens. To combat the growing problems, the Partnership plans to create afterschool programs for pre-teens and teenagers, using government and foundation funding. For more information on Partnership for Children and its annual report card, visit [www.pfc.org](http://www.pfc.org).

**New York** - Ninety-four percent of New York state registered voters agree that quality afterschool programs are important to supporting the academic and social development of children in the state, finds a new statewide poll commissioned by The After-School Corporation (TASC). Seventy-six percent of voters are willing to pay an additional \$100 per year in taxes to ensure that every child in New York has access to an afterschool program. Based on the estimated 5.6 million tax returns from full year New York state residents who have income tax liability, a \$100 tax would generate \$560 million for afterschool programs. For more information about TASC, visit [www.tascorp.org](http://www.tascorp.org).

**Utah** – On February 11, Salt Lake City Mayor Rocky Anderson and Superintendent McKell Withers announced a “Community of Caring” initiative between the city’s YouthCity program and the Salt Lake City School District. The initiative is modeled after the national Community of Caring character education program that aims to bring greater community involvement to helping children succeed both in and out of school. The first cooperative effort will be a senior citizen-afterschool student mentoring program. Afterschool students will help seniors learn basic computer and Internet skills, and the seniors will build personal

relationships with the students and help them with life skills and homework.



## AFTERSCHOOL PROFILE: ArtREACH

“This program is a blessing. They come home so excited.” That’s what Jenny Malcolm, mother of three daughters, recently told a reporter for *South Florida’s Sun-Sentinel*. What makes the afterschool program she was describing uncommon is that the home to which her girls come at the end of the day is a transitional shelter for homeless families.

Like the other residents of the Salvation Army’s Plymouth Colony shelter in Hollywood, Florida, Malcolm holds down a job; in fact, it’s a requirement for residents. But her paycheck doesn’t stretch far enough to pay for an apartment, so the shelter program is helping get her family back on their feet. Her daughters, in the meantime, attend the “ArtREACH” afterschool program run at the shelter by Young At Art Children’s Museum, a local children’s museum.

ArtREACH (Reconnecting and Educating homeless Adolescents through Creativity and Hope) is the product of a collaboration among the museum, the Salvation Army, and the School Board of Broward County, and it is funded by a two-year, \$185,000 federal grant from the Institute of Museum & Library Services. Young At Art has secured an additional \$80,000 in matching grants. The program is seen as a pilot effort, and the museum’s experience running it will be the basis of a handbook for broad dissemination, beginning next year.

“One of the most striking things for me was being reminded of just how many young kids are in homeless shelters,” says project director Samuel Joseph. “We’ve tried to design the program to use the arts not just to create beautiful artwork, but to help gain access to some subject areas with the kids that

they might not otherwise get to.” So, the program’s first art assignment required children to design their own “artistic license.” “We did some background for them on ‘what is art,’ and we wanted them to experience that creative freedom, to not get locked into having to color within the lines.”

The art projects all relate to the school district’s character education curriculum, so children work in a variety of media to create art that depicts individual character traits – integrity, respect, self-control, and so on.

The program runs every day from 2:00 to 6:00 p.m. in spaces provided at the shelter complex. It now serves 27 children daily, with plans to expand to 60. Children are bused from nearby schools – eight in all, are fed a snack, and then rotate between three activities: homework assistance led by certified teachers from the school district; the arts-based curriculum; and outdoor recreation. The program also offers counseling for students once a week. Once a month, students visit the Museum itself for more hands-on arts activities.

The snack period serves a dual role, Joseph says, providing food to children for whom meals are unreliable, and also helping settle children down after the sometimes long bus ride from school to the shelter. “At the beginning, our art teachers’ impulse was to get right to the arts activities, but they pretty quickly saw the need for some time to help focus the kids and get the ‘sillies’ out.”

Joseph says that many of the challenges for the program are related to logistics. Many of the single parents at the shelter have jobs that keep them at work well after 6:00, when the program ends. Some children cannot participate as a result, while others have to make difficult arrangements. Also, because participating children come from so many schools, program instructors are hard-pressed to stay in contact with children’s daytime teachers to keep track of homework assignments. The number of schools the students attend also creates complicated transportation issues.

Student turnover is another big issue. In the first two months of the program, five of 27 children left the program, as their parents moved on to other housing. Anticipating that, museum staff structured the program curriculum in separate four-week units, so that new children will never be too far behind their colleagues.

Joseph also reports that behavior issues are common for the children. “The reality is that some of these kids haven’t had all that many supportive people in their lives. Their parents are under considerable stress from all the things that have combined to make them homeless, as well as from all the challenges of actually being homeless. So you see that come out sometimes in the kids’ behavior. We understand it, and we’re working with it, but it’s a constant challenge for us.”

Joseph says that the program has also had an important impact on the museum itself. “It’s really given us a chance to live up to our commitment to serving the community, including those in greatest need,” he says, “and has provided us the opportunity to make an even more profound impact and change lives for the better. It’s also given us a very tangible connection to the school district, and to the various nonprofits that work with us. Many of them are organizations we’ve worked with in the past, but this project has really given us a chance to look at all the possibilities for collaboration.”



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

 **April 4 – July 25**

The Great American Bake Sale,™ sponsored by PARADE Magazine and Share Our Strength, is a groundbreaking program to end child hunger in America. The nationwide bake sale runs from April 4 through July 25. Funds raised will translate into grants to anti-hunger organizations at the state, local and national levels. Each registered participant will receive a Great American Bake Sale Kit

with a poster, tips, recipes, and iron-on decals. For more information, visit [www.greatamericanbakesale.org](http://www.greatamericanbakesale.org) or call 800-761-4227.


 **May 6 – 7**

The After-School Corporation (TASC) will host a Working Conference for Strengthening and Developing Local After-School Intermediaries. With support from the Garfield Foundation, TASC is assisting “adapters” across the country who want to develop and strengthen afterschool initiatives. This two-day conference will work with eight to ten teams of representatives from school districts and intermediary and nonprofit organizations to explore essential functions of effective afterschool programs. They include: constituency building, fund development, grants management, program monitoring and quality assurance, coordinating training, professional development, and technical assistance; and supporting research, evaluation and best practices. For more information, visit [www.tascorp.org](http://www.tascorp.org) or call 212/547-6950.

 **May 19 - 20**

The Afterschool Alliance will convene its third annual **Afterschool for All Challenge** event in Washington, DC from May 19 to 20. Advocates, parents, youth, educators and program leaders and staff are encouraged to

participate in this event, which will include a “Breakfast of Champions” with Members of Congress and afterschool program providers from around the nation on the morning of May 20<sup>th</sup>. Following the breakfast, providers and advocates will fan out across Capitol Hill for a series of meetings with their elected representatives. For more information and the latest details, visit [www.afterschoolalliance.org](http://www.afterschoolalliance.org).

 **July 22-23; August 5-6**

The U.S. Department of Education is sponsoring two Summer Institutes, one in Los Angeles, California on July 22 and 23, and one in Washington, DC on August 5 and 6. There will be a pre-conference session for 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC Project Directors in the afternoon on the day prior to each Summer Institute. This year’s focus will be on ensuring that all programs provide exciting and effective content enrichment, and the conference will feature high-quality reading, mathematics, science, arts, technology, and homework/tutoring programs. The program is open to current grantees (including new state-administered grantees), former 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC grantees that are still operating afterschool programs, and other interested afterschool providers. For more information or to register online, visit [www.synergyentinc.com/21stcentury/index.htm](http://www.synergyentinc.com/21stcentury/index.htm).



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The Afterschool Alliance is a nonprofit public awareness and advocacy organization supported by a group of public, private, and nonprofit entities dedicated to ensuring that all children and youth have access to afterschool programs by 2010. The Alliance is proud to count among its founding partners the Mott Foundation, U.S. Department of Education, JCPenney Afterschool Fund, Open Society Institute/The After-School Corporation, the Entertainment Industry Foundation and the Creative Artists Agency Foundation.

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