

# Afterschool Advocate

A media outreach newsletter published by the Afterschool Alliance

Volume 5, Issue 4, April 13, 2004

## **DON'T BE AN AMERICAN IDLE!**

Afterschool students and programs can win new equipment or cash prizes through the Afterschool Alliance's new contest, *Don't Be An American Idle*. To enter the contest, youth must create public service announcements (PSAs) – or advertisements that encourage their peers to check out afterschool programs. Students can create print, radio, television or web PSAs touting the fun and educational activities offered by afterschool programs.

Judges for the contest include television's Judge Glenda Hatchett; Youth Speaks Executive Director James Kass; H2Ed Vice President Patricia Wang; themusicedge.com's Laura Johnson; and others.

Students age nine to 17 can submit entries, which are due by May 31. Awards will be given in each category (print, radio, television, web) to students in two age groups: nine to 12; and 13 and older. For more information, the specifications for entries, submission information, and the contest's official rules, go to [http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/youth\\_site/Contest\\_Rules\\_Draft\\_04072004b.pdf](http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/youth_site/Contest_Rules_Draft_04072004b.pdf)

## **Youth-Oriented Web Site to Launch**

The winning PSAs will be displayed on the Afterschool Alliance's youth-oriented web site, Afterschool Scene, which will be launched in late April. The site's address, which is not functional yet, will be [www.afterschoolscene.com](http://www.afterschoolscene.com). It will serve as a showcase for afterschool efforts and innovations. The aim of this new site will be *Continued on Page Two...*

## **YOU'RE INVITED!**

The Afterschool Alliance will host its third annual *Afterschool Challenge* in Washington, D.C. on May 19 and 20. Join hundreds of other afterschool program providers, educators, parents, students, business leaders and other advocates at this fun and educational event. Take this opportunity to share your afterschool successes with Members of Congress and educate them about the benefits of full funding for afterschool programs!

The event will include: training on May 19 to prepare advocates to meet with lawmakers; a "Breakfast of Champions" on May 20 featuring Members of Congress, youth and afterschool leaders; and visits with Representatives and Senators following the breakfast. For more information and to register, go to: [www.afterschoolalliance.org/challenge\\_2004.cfm](http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/challenge_2004.cfm)

If you cannot come to Washington, D.C., you can participate from home! Invite students and parents to email messages about the importance of afterschool programs to Congress on May 20. Have a postcard or letter writing party at which parents send messages to state and federal officials about why afterschool matters to their family and community. Or arrange for students to visit the district office of one of your senators or your congressional representative on May 20, to share information about why afterschool programs are important.

**Don't Be an American Idle! *Continued...***

to encourage middle school youth to check out afterschool programs and share their afterschool stories.

The Alliance is asking programs to take advantage of this opportunity to show off their hard work by submitting materials for the site. To learn how to get your program featured, visit [http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/after\\_school\\_scene.cfm](http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/after_school_scene.cfm)

"Afterschool programs all over this country are offering innovative, educational and fun activities that help students explore their creativity, learn and grow," said Afterschool Alliance Executive Director Judy Y. Samelson. "Our new web site, at [www.afterschoolscene.com](http://www.afterschoolscene.com), will offer visitors a window to afterschool programs. And it will give young people the chance to share their experiences and successes."

In addition to featuring activities taking place at afterschool programs, new projects and productions, the site will offer games, polls, bulletin boards, celebrity chats, and resource and activity finders.

The new web site will be promoted in the Afterschool Alliance/Advertising Council youth-oriented public service announcements, which will be distributed to stations around the nation in May. More information on the spots will be featured in a future *Afterschool Advocate*.

Partners for the Afterschool Scene youth-oriented web site include [themusicedge.com](http://themusicedge.com), Nortel Network's Kidz Online, and Just Think.



## **FEW HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN AFTERSCHOOL ACTIVITIES; MORE WANT TO**

An overwhelming majority of Chicago high school students (80 percent) spend some time - on average more than two hours - alone

in the afterschool hours. Fourteen percent of high school students would like to participate in some form of structured activity, but do not. These are among the preliminary findings from a study conducted by the Chapin Hall Center for Children at the University of Chicago.

*What Ninth-Grade Students in the Chicago Public Schools Do in their Out-of-School Time* found that more than a quarter of high school students say they participate in structured activities such as community sponsored programs, private lessons, classes outside school, religious programs and community service.

### **Why Teenagers Participate**

According to the study, friendship and fun play a more important role than skill acquisition or job readiness in high school students' desire to participate in structured activities after school. A little more than a fifth of the students said they engaged in structured activities to be with friends and slightly less said they participated to have fun. Only 13 percent cited new skill acquisition as the reason for participating, and less than five percent cited job preparation.

### **Barriers**

Students mentioned several reasons they are unable to participate in afterschool programs. About a third said they supervise siblings or other children after school, and about six percent work. Other barriers include the availability of afterschool programs and transportation to and from programs.

### **Methodology**

The survey was completed in January and February of 2003 by more than half of Chicago Public School's 33,000 ninth grade students. According to the 2000 Census, those who attend public schools - about 83 percent of all ninth graders in Chicago - are more likely to be youth of color coming from low-income families. "Clearly, as families

increasingly have two wage earners and more poor, single parents work, how supervised these youth are after school is an important issue for all of us,” said Robert Goerge, co-author of the survey.

The study is part of a larger research effort to understand young people’s perspectives on their neighborhoods, schools, and afterschool opportunities. Upcoming phases of the research will also examine young people’s assessments of the opportunities available to them and will document the supply of out-of-school opportunities in communities across Chicago.

*A copy of the full report is available online at [www.chapinhall.uchicago.edu](http://www.chapinhall.uchicago.edu).*



## IN THE NEWS...

**California** – Sony Pictures Entertainment, California Institute of the Arts and the Community Arts Partnership have collaborated to establish the Sony Pictures Media Arts Program at five pilot afterschool sites, reports the *Los Angeles Times*. Students are provided the opportunity to create animated short films and artwork at established art centers. The organizers hope to expand the program when the pilot project ends in 2005.

**Colorado** – On April 7, as part of the NBC *Today Show*’s Lend A Hand Today celebration, weatherman Al Roker presented YouthBiz \$25,000 worth of merchandise, including computers, digital cameras and clothes for the students in the afterschool program, as well as a new Toyota Highlander for the organization. YouthBiz is a non-profit organization that teaches business skills to Denver inner-city youth and gives them hands-on experience in an afterschool environment. For more information on YouthBiz, visit [www.youthbiz.org](http://www.youthbiz.org).

**Illinois** – During Alcohol Awareness Month in April, Be Real, a youth alcohol and drug-prevention program in Illinois, is educating the community about teen drinking and distributing a free brochure with tips and advice. A recent survey of middle and high school students shows that one-third of sixth graders get alcohol from their own homes. To reduce the chances that teens will drink, Be Real advises parents to: limit the time their kids spend without supervision by identifying afterschool programs; keep alcohol locked up and out of reach; and talk to their teens about alcohol. For more information about Be Real or to order the “Parent’s Guide to Raise Drug-Free Children,” visit [www.berealteens.com](http://www.berealteens.com).

**Illinois** – The Robert Half International employment agency awarded bicycles to 14 afterschool students for their improvement in academics, reports the *Chicago Tribune*. The elementary students attend Boys and Girls Clubs in Chicago. The employment agency plans to donate 100 more bikes to students excelling in local afterschool programs.

**Michigan** - On March 24, Governor Jennifer Granholm announced that Benton Harbor Area Schools, Benton Harbor Boys and Girls Club, Genesis Outreach Development and Jump Start Incorporated will receive a \$581,000 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers grant for recreation, arts and afterschool programs, reports the *Associated Press*. Last year, the governor appointed a task force to identify priorities to improve the quality of life in the community after two nights of rioting in the summer. The task force recommendations included improving and expanding recreation and afterschool programs for youth. The task force report is available online at [www.michigan.gov/documents/BH\\_final\\_report\\_76471\\_7.pdf](http://www.michigan.gov/documents/BH_final_report_76471_7.pdf).

**Nebraska** – The Physically Healthy and Toned (PHAT) Kidz Program has teamed up with the University of Nebraska Medical

Center, Girls Inc., Boys and Girls Clubs and Visiting Nurse Association to provide an afterschool program aimed at reducing childhood obesity and promoting healthy lifestyles, reports the *Omaha World Herald*. The program includes food diaries, monitoring blood pressure and heart rates, nutrition classes and physical activities.


**New York** – On April 7, Earnestine Russell-Drumgold was named “America’s Greatest Hometown Hero” at the second annual Volvo of Life Awards ceremony and was awarded a new Volvo car every three years for the rest of her life. Russell-Drumgold, the founder of the Baychester Youth Council afterschool program in the Bronx, also received a \$50,000 contribution for the Baychester Youth Council. Over the past two decades, more than 3,000 children have attended her program. Every child that has taken part in the program has graduated from high school and there have been no unplanned pregnancies. For more information about the Volvo for Life Awards, visit [www.volvoforlifeawards.com](http://www.volvoforlifeawards.com).

**Oklahoma** – Fewer students are dropping out of public school in Oklahoma, finds a state Education Department study, reports the *Daily Oklahoman*. State school superintendent Sandy Garrett credits afterschool programs for helping reduce the dropout rate. Last year, 7,780 Oklahoma students dropped out of school; in 2002, 8,380 students dropped out of school.


**Oregon** – In May, Salem residents will vote on a ballot measure to increase funding for afterschool programs, reports the *Salem Statesman Journal*. The Kids and Cops measure calls for a five-year surcharge for businesses and residents to help raise approximately \$3.6 million for afterschool programs and additional police officers to combat the drug problem in the city.

**Texas** – Hoping to inspire students to become engineers, Lockheed Martin Aeronautics Co. is partnering with the Fort Worth Independent School District’s 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers program at Riverside Middle School to give the students exciting engineer activities and projects, reports the *Dallas Business Journal*. Each week, engineers visit the afterschool program and participate in building robots and other projects. Three students from the program were selected to participate in a national Future City competition. “Minorities and females make up a large part of Lockheed’s vision for the future,” said Lockheed director of community relations Norman Robbins. “If we aren’t reaching them now, then we’re going to be in trouble.”





**WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU**



Is there an interesting program in your area? Has a corporation or business in your community become involved in funding or establishing an afterschool program? Please share with us, and other readers, your success stories, comments and suggestions. Contact *Afterschool Advocate* editor Ridgely Benjamin with story ideas or information via email: [advocate@afterschoolalliance.org](mailto:advocate@afterschoolalliance.org); phone: 202/371-1999; or fax: 202/371-9142.



**IN THEIR OWN WORDS...**

“If you had to choose between spending \$1,000 this year on programming for school children or spending \$3,000 in a few years for incarceration and rehabilitation, which would you choose? Any reasonable person would take the first option - not only to save money, but to save our young people and our

community the misery of the alternative. City officials see it differently. Despite extensive research showing that for every dollar spent on afterschool programming, local government saves three dollars down the line, this year's recommended allocations of Community Development funds cut in half support for the Kids' Club program at the Westcott Community Center... For the parents who depend on this program, this is surely an emergency. There must be something in the city budget we adults could sacrifice rather than cutting children's programs, especially those like Kids' Club that have done so much with so little."

- Barbara Kobritz, Co-Chair of the Westcott Community Center Board of Directors in Syracuse, *Syracuse Post-Standard*, March 16, 2004

"Millions more children need afterschool programs than have them. And at a time when we should be creating more, we are instead struggling to keep existing programs' lights on. Around the nation, programs still in their infancy are being forced to close their doors or pare back their services because funding is running out... Funding from state and federal sources is drying up. States are being squeezed by the economy and by increased federal demands on their resources. Meanwhile, federal funding has flat-lined - having barely survived a White House-proposed 40 percent cut this past year... Of course, it's not just the federal government that needs to step up. If the afterschool revolution is to be sustained, we will need increased funding from all sources - state, federal and private. Now is the time to invest in our children's safety and academic success."

- Kristie Lee Lindblom, Artistic Coordinator of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers in Allegheny County Department of Human Services, *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, February 18, 2004



## RESOURCES

### **A Good Time: After-School Programs to Reduce Teen Pregnancy**

The National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy has released its newest publication, *A Good Time: After-School Programs to Reduce Teen Pregnancy*. Produced in partnership with Child Trends, *A Good Time* provides detailed descriptions of afterschool programs that have been shown through careful research to have a positive impact on adolescent sexual behavior. In addition to providing results from program evaluations, *A Good Time* contains practical information on the costs and availability of program curriculum, and lengthy descriptions of what is covered in each curriculum. This resource, developed as part of the ongoing Centers for Disease Control and Prevention-funded effort, Putting What Works to Work, joins the expanding base of program evaluation literature from which communities can draw from in making their decisions about what programs they might consider using.

*A PDF version of A Good Time can be downloaded from the link, [www.teenpregnancy.org/works/pdf/goodtime.pdf](http://www.teenpregnancy.org/works/pdf/goodtime.pdf). Hard copy versions can be ordered at [www.teenpregnancy.org](http://www.teenpregnancy.org).*

### **Partnerships For After-School Success Tool Kits**

The National Collaboration for Youth's *Partnerships for After-School Success* toolkits are now available online. The toolkits provide research supporting the need for school-CBO (community-based organization) partnerships; successful strategies for creating and sustaining partnerships; and checklists and tools. One of the toolkits is specifically written for CBOs and the other is for local

education agencies and state education agencies.

To view the toolkits, visit at [www.nydic.org/nydic/toolkits/index.htm](http://www.nydic.org/nydic/toolkits/index.htm).

**“Out-of-School Time Evaluation Snapshots”**

“Performance Measures in Out-of-School Time Evaluation,” the third publication in the “Out-of-School Time Evaluation Snapshots” series, is now available from the Harvard Family Research Project. This snapshot outlines the academic, youth development and prevention performance measures that out-of-school time programs are currently using to assess their progress, as well as the corresponding data sources for these measures.

“Out-of-School Time Evaluation Snapshots” is available online at: [www.gse.harvard.edu/hfrp/projects/afterschool/resources/snapshot3.html](http://www.gse.harvard.edu/hfrp/projects/afterschool/resources/snapshot3.html).



**CALL FOR AFTERSCHOOL PRACTICES**

The Center for Youth Development and Policy Research at the Academy for Educational Development (AED) in Washington, D.C. is pleased to announce a national Call for Afterschool Practices. AED is looking for promising practices in any one of seven component areas:

- Community & Family Involvement
- Programming
- Management & Administration
- Staffing & Training
- Financing
- Research, Evaluation, & Knowledge Base
- Policy & Advocacy

Practices can be submitted by anyone who works in the field of afterschool, and can be related to an afterschool program, an afterschool-related strategy or initiative, or a curriculum. Trained peer reviewers will look at all submissions. Those practices that are designated as promising will appear in the national database of promising practices featured on [www.afterschool.org](http://www.afterschool.org). Submitters will also receive an electronic copy of the Promising Practices in Afterschool (PPAS) logo to use on their web sites and in publications. Submitters will receive detailed feedback from reviewers upon request. AED is collecting practices as part of the PPAS System funded by the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation.

For more information, please visit the following link: [www.afterschool.org/submitting.cfm](http://www.afterschool.org/submitting.cfm). You may also send an email to [PPAS@aed.org](mailto:PPAS@aed.org) with questions, or call the AED Center for Youth Development and Policy Research at 202/884-8267. The deadline for submitting the first part of the application is May 7, 2004.



**Receiving the Afterschool Advocate via email**

We would prefer to send you the *Afterschool Advocate* via email so that you can receive it in a more timely manner. If you would like to receive the newsletter by email, please contact editor Ridgely Benjamin via email ([advocate@afterschoolalliance.org](mailto:advocate@afterschoolalliance.org)) or fax (202/371-9142). She will need your name, organization, phone and fax number, and email address. Thank you!



## 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 helping adapters across the country 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: 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, CA on July 22-23, and one in Washington, DC on August 5-6. There will be a pre-conference session for 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC Project Directors held in the afternoon on the day prior to the 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).

---

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.

\*\*\*\*\*

The *Afterschool Advocate* is produced for the Afterschool Alliance by PR Solutions, Inc., Washington, DC;  
Phone: 202/371-1999; Fax: 202/371-9142; E-mail: [advocate@afterschoolalliance.org](mailto:advocate@afterschoolalliance.org)

---