Afterschool Advocate

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NEW STUDY: 15 MILLION YOUTH NEED AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS

Our nation is failing to give its children safe, supervised activities during the oftendangerous afternoon hours. The most indepth study ever to explore how America's children spend their afternoons finds that 14.3 million kindergarten through 12th graders take care of themselves after the school day ends, including almost four million middle school students in grades six to eight.

America After 3 PM: A Household Survey on Afterschool in America finds that just 6.5 million children are in afterschool programs – but the parents of another 15.3 million children say their children would participate if an afterschool program were available.

Funded by the JCPenney Afterschool Fund, the study was released by the Afterschool Alliance at a May 19 news conference in Washington, D.C. It featured Alliance Executive Director Judy Y. Samelson; JCPenney Afterschool Fund Chair Gary Davis; YMCA of the USA Executive Director Ken Gladish; Providence, Rhode Island Mayor David N. Cicilline; Maryland Secretary for Juvenile Services Kenneth Montague; Winchester, Virginia Police Chief Gary W. Reynolds; and a 12-year-old afterschool student from Las Vegas.

"We have a responsibility to look at youth development in a different way, and not just limit it to the school hours of 8 AM to 2 PM," Mayor Cicilline said at the news conference.

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YOUTH JOIN ADVOCATES TO ASK CONGRESS TO FULLY FUND AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS

"The 21st Century Community Learning Centers are doing tremendous work in this country," Senator Elizabeth Dole (R-NC) told an enthusiastic crowd of afterschool supporters at the *Breakfast of Champions* on Capitol Hill Thursday. "For so many working families, it is important that not only are their kids safe but that they are receiving educational activities after school."

"When we do the appropriations, we will do as much as possible for afterschool," Representative Ralph Regula (R-OH) promised. Regula, who chairs the Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies, viewed a special videotaped message from students at the Alliance, Ohio Middle School's Navigators Afterschool Program, who thanked him for supporting afterschool programs.

Nearly 400 parents, children, educators and advocates from around the country traveled to Washington, D.C. to meet with more than 150 congressional leaders about afterschool programs. Advocates urged lawmakers to reject President Bush's proposal to flat-fund the federal 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) afterschool initiative in fiscal year 2005, and to instead appropriate the full \$2 billion amount authorized by the "No Child Left Behind Act of 2001." The *Breakfast* was part of the third annual Afterschool for All *Continued on Page Two...*

America After 3 PM *Continued from Page One...*

"If your kids, or the kids in your neighborhood, if they have contact with me, then it is too late," Chief Reynolds added. Afterschool programs are "all about prevention."

The "Best Value" in America

"Afterschool programs are the best value in America," Davis said. "We've known for some time that the demand for afterschool far exceeds supply, and now we know by how much. The parents of more than 15 million kids say that their children will participate in an afterschool program if one is available in their community. We have a lot of work to do."

America After 3 PM finds that need is especially high for middle school children. Just six percent of middle schoolers are in afterschool programs; another 34 percent are unsupervised in the afternoons.

"Parents worry about their children from 3 to 6 PM, for good reason," Samelson said. "Despite our nation's increased focus on afterschool programs, we aren't yet doing enough. Unless we increase support for afterschool, we risk more juvenile crime, more young crime victims, more teen pregnancy, more academic struggles, and more poverty because childcare responsibilities prevent parents from getting or keeping jobs."

Other Findings

America After 3 PM, which includes a first look at state data, found:

- Only 11 percent of the nation's youth are in afterschool programs. Twenty-five percent care for themselves in the afternoons.
- African American and Hispanic youth spend more time unsupervised than other children.
- Demand for afterschool programs is much higher for African American

and Hispanic families. Fifty-three percent of African American parents and 44 percent of Hispanic parents say they would enroll their children in an afterschool program, if a program were available. Twenty-three percent of Caucasian parents say the same.

- Ninety-one percent of parents of children in afterschool programs are extremely or somewhat satisfied with those programs.
- Public schools are the largest provider of afterschool programs. YMCAs, religious groups, Boys & Girls Clubs and private schools round out the top five providers.
- On average, families spend \$22 per week for afterschool programs.

Methodology

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For *America After 3 PM*, 30,791 screening interviews were conducted from July to October of 2003 to determine overall participation in afterschool programs. More than 1,800 parents of afterschool participants and more than 16,000 parents of nonparticipants completed follow-up questionnaires. At least 200 parent households were screened in each state.

National participation levels have a sampling error of +/- one percent.

GE Consumer Finance donated the team of experts who analyzed the data.

Rothstein-Tauber-Directions for Decisions (RTi-DFD) helped with survey design, data collection and data weighting procedures.

America After 3 PM *is available online* at www.afterschoolalliance.org/america_3pm.cf

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Afterschool for All Challenge Continued from Page One...

Challenge, sponsored by the Afterschool Alliance.

"There are not nearly enough afterschool programs in this country to meet the need," said Afterschool Alliance Executive Director Judy Y. Samelson. "That is why hundreds of parents, students, educators, program directors and others have come to Congress to ask for full funding for the 21st Century Community Learning Centers initiative. If we don't increase afterschool funding, millions of children will miss out on programs that keep them safe and inspire them to learn, and countless working families won't get the support that they need."

Breakfast of Champions

During the *Breakfast*, Members of Congress spoke to a large crowd that included more than 70 students from around the country. The Senators and Representatives encouraged advocates to share their experiences that demonstrate the many ways afterschool programs help youth and families, and to press for more funding. The 21st CCLC program "should be authorized at \$2 billion," Representative Nita Lowey (D-NY) said. "These programs make an incredible contribution."

President Bush's proposal to fund the 21st CCLC at \$1 billion for the fourth year in a row would mean the program would provide afterschool care for 1.4 million children again next year. If Congress appropriated the full \$2 billion authorized by the "No Child Left Behind Act," the program could serve 2.8 million children next year.

In December 2003, a bipartisan group of all 14 Senate women sent a joint letter to President Bush urging him to provide enough funding to allow the 21st CCLC to grow in the next fiscal year.

Senator Debbie A. Stabenow (D-MI) encouraged her fellow Senators to honor the "No Child Left Behind Act" by fully funding afterschool. "Even though we find ourselves in challenging times, we must invest in our children."

Representative Zoe Lofgren (D-CA) added, "We have a very large challenge for

funding," and assured the crowd she fully supports afterschool. Senator Patty Murray (D-WA) said the nation is currently "moving in the wrong direction in [afterschool] funding... but I will keep on fighting for these programs."

Several students brought the crowd to their feet when they spoke passionately about their programs, reminding everyone why they had come to Washington, DC. "I hope to go to college some day," said a sixth grader from Las Vegas. "Afterschool provides me the key to open the door to my future."

Representative Dale Kildee (D-MI) thanked the many businesses that have become role models for their communities by partnering with afterschool programs, singling out the JCPenney Afterschool Fund for praise for its strong and ongoing support.

Congressional Visits

After the *Breakfast of Champions*, students, parents and educators delivered more than 40,000 paper light bulbs with messages about afterschool that were sent by children and parents from all across the country. The messages urge lawmakers to increase funding for the 21st CCLC, the federal government's chief funding stream for afterschool.

The light bulbs were created last October at *Lights On Afterschool!* events. *Lights On Afterschool!*, the Afterschool Alliance's annual rally for afterschool, is set for October 14 this year.

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AFTERSCHOOL CHAMPION AWARDS

At the *Breakfast of Champions*, three afterschool programs and two corporations were recognized for their outstanding commitment to afterschool programs. Members of Congress joined the Afterschool Alliance in presenting Afterschool Champion Awards to the following organizations:

* Kansas' Geary County Schools 21st Century Afterschool Program, for its collaboration with community partners to establish comprehensive afterschool programming and adult education classes that have led to job placements. Geary County Schools 21st Century Afterschool Program serves more than 1,200 children, ranging in ages from five to 18, in Junction City, Geary County and the Fort Riley military base. In addition to curricular and enrichment activities offered to all students, the program provides unique classes for older students and parents. An innovative partnership with Millennium Rail allows the program to offer skills training to parents and high school seniors, helping them acquire critical job skills.

* 21st Century Community Learning Centers C.O.O.L. (Children's **Opportunities for Outside Learning**) **Program in Farrell and Sharon School** Districts in Pennsylvania, for its work to improve academic achievement in students. The Farrell and Sharon School Districts together coordinate the 21st Century Community Learning Centers C.O.O.L. Program at six school sites. The program serves students in grades three through nine and their families, offering educational, health, recreational and cultural activities and services. It schedules regular field trips, monthly family events and classes for parents. Community involvement is a major component of the C.O.O.L afterschool program. Organizations and agencies including the Shenango Valley Urban League, Penn State Cooperative Extension, UPMC Horizon, and Neighborhood Based Family Intervention Services - give students classroom curriculum, demonstrations and educational events.

* South Carolina's Richland County School District One After School

Programs, for its efforts to establish, expand and improve educational afterschool

programs at each of the district's elementary and middle schools. The Richland One Office of After School Programs is responsible for supervising the district's before-school and afterschool initiatives, including child-care programs at 28 elementary schools, athletic tutorial programs at nine middle schools and seven high schools, and comprehensive remediation afterschool programs at 28 elementary and nine middle schools. The district demonstrated its commitment to quality programs when it created the Office of After-School Programs as a part of the division of Student Support Services in 2000.

* Time Warner, for its ongoing efforts to sustain creative and energetic afterschool programs across the country, through a focused program of giving at the national and local levels. Time Warner and the Time Warner Foundation invest in afterschool or other youth programs that involve hands-on learning, leadership development, decisionmaking opportunities, and skill building. Its grant recipients include national and community-based afterschool organizations that engage in the creative and media arts and prepare underserved teens for college; organizations that work to raise awareness of the need for quality afterschool programs; and efforts to foster leadership opportunities for public school students in selected cities. In all its philanthropic efforts, Time Warner focuses on areas where its expertise can have the greatest impact, and in its corporate life and culture, the company promotes an ethic of volunteerism and civic engagement.

* **Nortel Networks**, for its support for Nortel Networks Kidz Online, an ongoing program that uses technology training to prepare kindergarten through 12th grade students, as well as teachers, to live and work in the information age. Kidz Teaching Kidz Live is a key component of Nortel Networks Kidz Online. Talented teens produce live interactive webcasts, designed for in-school

and afterschool programs. The webcasts allow kids to share their expertise with a global audience of peers. Topics include website design, video production, and an "Introduction to Information Technology" curriculum that teaches tech skills in an "edutaining" format. For teachers, these videos demonstrate the potential for integrating technology skills into core academic subjects. Another important component of Nortel Networks Kidz Online is Streaming Futures, which provides a free, interactive, Internet content program for teenagers searching for the right career path. It is designed to help teens make this important choice by allowing them to watch and interact with innovators and leaders from all different sectors.

AFTERSCHOOL FOR ALL: PROJECT 2010

On May 19, the Afterschool Alliance unveiled **Afterschool for All: Project 2010**, a powerful new initiative that will help make afterschool a national priority. Supported in part by the Open Society Institute, this unprecedented project already has brought together almost 250 powerful groups and national leaders representing more than 20 million Americans who believe that all children and youth should have access to high-quality, safe and enriching afterschool programs by the year 2010.

Partners of "Project 2010" include educators, youth, youth advocates, policy makers, faith-based leaders, parents, business leaders, law enforcement and judicial experts, and others.

If you would like to encourage your mayor or governor to become a partner, contact Jenny Austin at jaustin@sorosny.org or 212/548-0309. For a complete list of partners and more information on Project 2010, visit www.afterschool2010.org. AAAAA

IN THE NEWS...

Arizona – Julie Jimenez, Director of the Maricopa 21st Century Community Learning Center, reports that two students from her program - Danielle Calderone and Ashley Gomez - were awarded honorable mentions from the Arizona Governor's Office for their essay on "How the Brown vs. Board of Education decision improved public education, and what challenges remain despite legal school integration." The Governor's Office, in conjunction with the Hayzel B. Daniels Bar Association, sponsored the statewide high school essay contest and selected one senior/junior and one sophomore/freshman as the winner, with two honorable mentions to accompany each winner.

California – In April, the California School-Age Consortium awarded Dr. Roy Mendiola the 2004 Award of Excellence for his outstanding accomplishments building successful afterschool programs in the Fresno area. Mendiola is the founder of Fresno CORAL (Communities Organizing Resources to Advance Learning). A recent study found that CORAL participants have improved homework completion and academic performance, and parents have become more involved in their children's classroom successes.

California - Warren Mecca, project director at the Fullerton School District After School Learning Program, reports that students from his junior high afterschool program participate in a "Shakespeare Theater Group" with a local community college professor. Students from the college earn class credit by volunteering in Mecca's afterschool program. The professor begins each session with engaging theater activities such as roleplaying, the "mirror" technique, improvisational skits and other acting activities with the junior high students. "Our students very much enjoy the activities, and membership in the group has grown," Mecca explains. "Shy students have participated and 'high energy' students have found an outlet for expressing themselves, all in the same group. We are very fortunate to have this collaboration between the college and our afterschool program."

Georgia – The Peachtree Presbyterian Church's La Amistad afterschool program received the "A Plus" award from the Atlanta Public Schools for community achievement, reports the Atlanta Journal-Constitution. Approximately 50 Spanish-speaking students from Jackson Elementary attend the program four days a week and participate in recreational activities, tutoring and reading programs. "These are kids who, from the time they get out of school until they go back the next day, don't speak a word of English," Peachtree Recreation Director Bill Maness told the paper. "We engage them in conversation so they learn to speak easily. At first, these kids didn't feel comfortable unless they were with each other, but now we have some who are on the [church's] basketball and hockey teams. And we have four who have gone on to Sutton Middle who often come back and help with the younger kids."

Michigan – On May 12, baseball star Ivan "Pudge" Rodriguez joined Boys & Girls Clubs of America (BGCA) and JCPenney Afterschool at Comerica Park to celebrate JCPenney Afterschool's contribution of \$12 million to BGCA over a five-year period. A portion of funds donated this year will be used to translate BGCA's homework assistance program, Power Hour, into Spanish. It is a direct effort to address the dropout rate among Latino youth. According to the U.S. Department of Education, 37 percent of Hispanics do not finish high school, compared to the national average of 15 percent of students.

New York – On April 28, New York City Schools Chancellor Joel I. Klein and Dell Inc. Chairman and CEO Michael S. Dell announced the establishment of Dell TechKnow program, a new technology initiative that serves more than 350 students at 24 public schools throughout the city. The Department of Education (DOE) and Dell are working together to enroll more than 1,000 students in the program through the next academic year, making New York City the largest participant in the program to date. Dell TechKnow is a 40-hour afterschool program that provides students - primarily students in middle school in underserved communities - with an opportunity to earn a home computer and learn technology skills upon completing the program. Dell and the DOE will provide participating schools with teacher training, computers and administrative funding for the program.

Washington – Metro Parks Tacoma has established a youth council to offer input on the parks and recreation programs it oversees in Tacoma and Pierce Counties, reports the *Tacoma News Tribune*. Twenty-four teenagers were selected to participate in a leadership training in April and will help shape the afterschool programs and community service projects offered to youth, as well as the design of play areas, trails and other facilities.

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AFTERSCHOOL PROFILE: INDYAFTERSCHOOL Programs Provide Incentives To Promote Achievement and Quality Behavior

Note to Readers: In this guest column, Lethenius "Lenny" Irons, Ed.S. and Grant Manager for the Indy AfterSchool programs shares strategies to promote achievement and quality behaviors among students.

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All eleven IndyAfterSchool sites in Indianapolis have initiated incentive projects to encourage students to improve their grades in language arts and math subjects. Students are also encouraged to monitor their behaviors while in school. If grades and behaviors improve, students are eligible to receive awards.

Students who have improved their grades in language arts or math and have no infractions for misbehavior at Forest Manor and Julian D. Coleman Middle Schools are eligible for the "Improve My Grades a Chance For a Helicopter Ride Project." Eligible students' names are entered into a lottery, which determine the students who have earned a chance to ride. An invitation is also extended to the parents of the selected students to come along for the ride.

Students at Emma Donnan Middle School will earn a free trip to Kings Island by showing improvement in their language arts and math grades, along with quality behavior while in school. Students at Harshman and Thomas Carr Howe Middle Schools also are eligible for a free trip to Kings Island if they earn enough IndyAfterSchool YMCA points by completing 45 minutes of homework and 20 to 30 minutes of reading, and by helping other Club Members with homework. Students even earn points if their parents/guardians visit the program site for a day. Students at the Pacers Academy earn points with improved character that shows Respect, Attitude, and Participation (R.A.P) while in class. Students at Shortridge take their homework assignments during lunch period to study with the Site Coordinator for free Wal-Mart cards. Over a period of two months, students can receive gift cards worth as much as \$40.

Students at Clarence L. Farrington, George Washington Community School and John Marshall Middle Schools are planning for spring break or end of school year trips to Chicago's Science and Industry Museum. Again, students must show improvement in their language arts and math grades, and

acceptable behavior to qualify. Willard J. Gambold Middle School students can earn "IndyAfterSchool Bucks" by good daily attendance, going to their assigned tutoring session, scoring 100 percent on their drug and violence prevention quiz, improving grades in language arts and math, earning A's and B's on their report cards, and bringing a parent to the program to visit. Students have an opportunity to spend their IndyAfterSchool Bucks at the IndyAfterSchool Stop-n-Shop. The program also is planning a parent/student dinner at a downtown restaurant, and a free three-day trip to Washington D.C. for those students with excellent grades, attendance and behavior, and who wear their uniforms each dav.

Incentive projects are directly related to academic achievement, as well as educational enrichment activities that enhance a student's attitude toward learning. Incentives also focus on student behaviors that will build character.

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IN THEIR OWN WORDS...

"Now more than ever, the increased emphasis on academic rigor and standardized testing during the regular school day has left little time for enrichment activities, art, music, sports or creative literacy-based learning that we know support academic success and youth development. Afterschool programs bridge that gap and give kids the opportunity to engage in activities that are not just 'more school' but are aligned with school day learning... Research shows that participation in afterschool enables students to earn better grades and test scores, develop higher selfesteem and show improved attendance in the regular school day. Afterschool programs offer children a safe and drug-free environment and the opportunity to engage in exciting, hands-on, informal, academic enrichment activities that are not always available to them during traditional school

hours like writing a play, learning yoga, making a comic book, planting a garden, receiving one-on-one tutoring, hip-hop dancing and fencing..."

- The After-School Corporation President Lucy Friedman, Letter to the Editor, New York State *Legislative Gazette*, April 19, 2004

"Only slightly more than a third of Connecticut's school-age children are physically fit, according to the results of a test administered to fourth-, sixth-, eighth- and 10th-graders in 2002-03. Worse, only 20 percent of students in Hartford, New London, Waterbury and other urban environments passed all four sections of the standard physical fitness test... Some legislators want to mandate that Connecticut public schools offer 20 minutes a day of recess for students in elementary grades, and 20-minute lunches consisting of state-prescribed healthy foods. Although their intent is admirable, this is a problem that can't be corrected by laws. Lack of fitness is a serious national problem, with childhood obesity at an all-time high and cases of diabetes increasing... Afterschool programs would be a better investment than passing a state law that requires 20 minutes of recess. It won't help students who are unsupervised once they get home and engage in sedentary activities while snacking on junk food."

Editorial, *Hartford Courant*, May 10, 2004

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JOIN THE SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM

Low-income children who rely on federally funded school meal programs during the

academic year are at risk of going hungry in the summertime. The federal Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) is designed to bridge the gap by providing meals to children during the summer months. SFSP provides reimbursement to feed up to two meals a day to children age 18 or younger. To participate, the site where the children are fed must either be located in a low-income area, where 50 percent or more of the children are eligible for free or reduced-price school meals, or must provide summer programming to a majority of low-income children. For the summer of 2004, the funding can add up to \$3.79 per child per day. A program feeding 30 children, five days a week for eight weeks during the summer can receive more than \$4,500. To become a site or for more information, contact your state agency that handles SFSP by visiting the U.S. Department of Agriculture web site: www.summerfood.usda.gov, then select Contacts.

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR

July 15 - 16

The After-School Corporation (TASC) is hosting its third Promising Practices Conference, "Partners in Quality: Effective Practices in After-School," on July 15 and 16 in New York City. The conference, which is generously sponsored by The Citigroup Success Fund for Promising Practices and held in partnership with New York University, will allow afterschool advocates and professionals from across the country to share ideas and learn about best practices. TASC will share the lessons learned at the conference with a broader audience in the afterschool field, through its new web site and through other ongoing dialogue. Those interested in attending the conference should contact Fred McIntosh, TASC Senior Policy Analyst, via email at fmcintosh@tascorp.org or by phone at 212/547-6955.

July 12 - 16

The National Institute on Out-of-School Time is hosting its Summer Seminars 2004 for afterschool program professionals from July 12 – 14 at the John Hancock Conference Center in Boston. The training will include seminars on: Effective Management, which will focus on the administrative components of a quality afterschool program; and Leadership and Technical Assistance for a Changing Afterschool Landscape, which will help guide programs through successful improvement. Program supervisors, directors, consultants, technical assistance providers, school coordinators and 21st Century Community Learning Centers personnel are encouraged to attend. For more information, visit www.niost.org/training/sumsem04.html.

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 - 23, and one in Washington, DC on August 5 - 6. There will be a pre-conference session for 21st 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 21st 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.ht m.

November 4 – 6

The California School-Age Consortium is hosting its National Middle School Conference, "Take Your Job and Love It!" at the Cathedral Hill Hotel in San Francisco from November 4 to 6. The conference will provide information, activities and ideas on engaging youth in afterschool programs and empowering staff to plan programs that middle school youth will love. For more information, visit www.calsacconference.org.

The Afterschool Alliance is a nonprofit public awareness and advocacy organization supported by a group of public, private, and nonprofit entities working to ensure 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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