

Afterschool Advocate

A media outreach newsletter published by the Afterschool Alliance

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OCTOBER 20, 2005: LIGHTS ON AFTERSCHOOL!

Afterschool program directors, parents, students and community leaders across the nation are gearing up for the sixth annual *Lights On Afterschool*, to be held on October 20. Organized by the Afterschool Alliance, with National Presenting Sponsor the JCPenney Afterschool Fund, this year's *Lights On Afterschool* is expected to include thousands of events around the country and at military bases around the world. A giant traveling light bulb and art display are crisscrossing the country in the weeks leading up to October 20, with children in 13 cities contributing artwork, essays, poetry and other materials.

The traveling light bulb tour will culminate with a *Lights On Afterschool* event in Washington, D.C. on October 20, with children testifying about the importance of afterschool programs before Members of Congress. On the same day, thousands of rallies will be held all over the country. The tour and rallies will call attention to afterschool programs and the resources needed to keep their lights on and their doors open.

"This year we expect to see lights on for afterschool from coast to coast," said Afterschool Alliance Executive Director Jodi Grant. "The tremendous strength of this event highlights both the support for existing afterschool programs and the need for more programs to keep kids safe, help working families and inspire students to learn."

Several hundred thousand children, parents, educators, and business, community and religious leaders are expected to
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AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS RESPOND TO HURRICANES

In Sitka, Alaska, at an afterschool walk-a-thon, students are collecting books for displaced children in Mississippi.

In Eureka Springs, Arkansas, teens are organizing a spring trip to help rebuild a youth program damaged by Hurricane Katrina.

In Vallejo, California, the Recreation District completed a penny drive and donated the proceeds to the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals to help pets rescued from the hurricane.

In Austin, Texas, Heart House took afterschool children to a housing project that is now home to 75 children of evacuated families. Together, Heart House students and evacuees conducted experiments to learn more about oceans and hurricanes, met with counselors, and shared toys and books. McDonald's and Bluebell ice cream donated snacks for the sessions.

In East Los Angeles, students working on a mural at a softball field dedicated a portion of it to those affected by Hurricane Katrina, creating a powerful image.

And in Houston and elsewhere, schools and afterschool programs are taking in tens of thousands of new students.

"The afterschool community is responding to the hurricanes with generosity and a much-needed helping hand," said Afterschool Alliance Executive Director Jodi Grant. "That is in keeping with the afterschool mission to keep kids safe, support families and strengthen communities."

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LOA continued from page one...

participate in this year's events. Organizers who register their events on the Afterschool Alliance website receive special Event Planner Email Alerts and *Lights On Afterschool* posters. Events will include:

- A "Kids Day" on October 20 in **Los Angeles, California** at the Boys and Girls Club of East Los Angeles. Activities will include making special *Lights On* piñatas.
- A *Lights On Afterschool On the Square* festival at the courthouse in **Moultrie, Georgia** on October 20. Afterschool providers from across the city will participate and staff booths that showcase the types of afterschool activities available to kids.
- An open house and pizza dinner at Madison Middle School in **Rexburg, Idaho** on October 20. The program will display light bulb artwork created by students and participants will receive *Lights On* necklaces.
- Student performances at the state capitol in **Albany, New York** on October 20. Two local malls will also hold events, hosted by JCPenney.
- Youth church choir performances in the town square in **Supply, North Carolina**, where County Commissioners have already issued a proclamation declaring October 20 "Afterschool Day."
- A two-day celebration in **Modesto, California**, beginning with a rally at Boomers Amusement Park on October 19 and ending with a street fair in downtown Modesto on October 20. The street fair will also highlight Domestic Violence Awareness Month.
- Art activities and a Youth Puppet Troupe performance at the Children's Museum of **Pittsburgh** on October 20, with door prizes, a raffle and refreshments.
- A "Wild About Afterschool" rally at the **Houston** zoo on October 20, featuring Mayor Bill White. After the rally, children will be invited to participate in a variety of fun, hands-on activities.

Lights On Afterschool was launched in October 2000 with 1,200 events across the country. Last year, more than half a million people rallied at 7,000 events to show their support for afterschool programs. Organizers expect this year's event to be even larger. California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger is National Chair of *Lights On Afterschool*, a position he has held since 2001.

To register a Lights On Afterschool event, visit the Afterschool Alliance's website at http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/lights_on/index.cfm. Event sponsors who register before October 4 will be eligible to win a \$275 Lights On Afterschool Support Kit including \$150 art supply kit from www.discountschoolsupply.com, 100 Lights On Afterschool blinking strobe buttons, and 100 Lights On Afterschool posters.



Hurricanes continued from page one...

A new U.S. Department of Education website, www.hurricanehelpforschools.gov, provides a clearinghouse and forum for schools, companies and organizations to find ways to help students displaced by the hurricanes. And the Food Research & Action Center, at www.frac.org, offers links to a number of government resources that can provide resources to help feed children displaced by the hurricane.

The Afterschool Alliance and other leading education groups are working with

lawmakers to ensure that funds will be made available to the afterschool programs that are serving children displaced by the hurricanes, Grant said. "We need to ensure that afterschool programs have the resources they need to do all they can to help heal children, families and communities. We are working to convince Congress to include afterschool funding in hurricane relief packages."



MESSAGE TO THE PRESIDENT: INCREASE AFTERSCHOOL FUNDING

Even while Congress is putting the finishing touches on its Fiscal Year 2006 budget, the White House is busy preparing its budget proposal for FY 2007. None of the Administration's five budgets to date has included an increase in 21st Century Community Learning Centers funding, and afterschool is falling farther and farther behind its authorized funding levels -- \$2.5 billion in FY 07. The resulting shortfall is denying afterschool programming to 1.75 million children across the country. Advocates are encouraged to contact the President to urge increases in funding for the 21st Century Community Learning Centers initiative in FY 2007. To contact the White House, visit <http://capwiz.com/afterschool/issues/>, and click on the link to "Tell the President to Increase Funding for 21st Century Programs."



AFTERSCHOOL & CHILDREN'S ISSUES ON THE VIRGINIA BALLOT

For voters in Virginia and New Jersey, it's almost time to go to the polls for state elections. In Virginia, the Afterschool Alliance is helping candidates address children's issues, particularly afterschool. On August 11, the Afterschool Alliance, Every Child Matters and Voices for Virginia's Children launched the *Kids Deserve Better in Virginia Campaign*, a non-profit, non-partisan effort to increase public awareness and engagement in children's issues in Virginia races. The goal is to encourage voters to consider children's issues when they make voting decisions.

"Afterschool programs are a wise investment, and one that should command the attention of those who ask Virginians for their vote," said Afterschool Alliance Associate Director Jen Rinehart at a news conference announcing the campaign. "We're working to make sure that candidates for state office – for governor and the general assembly – address the issue in meaningful ways. Not just with bromides and rhetoric, but with plans and commitments. Voters deserve no less."

To kick off the campaign, the organizations released a statewide poll, conducted by Mason Dixon Polling and Research. Chief among its findings: an overwhelming majority of Virginia voters, 87 percent, say issues of child well-being, such as afterschool programs, child health care, and child abuse prevention are important in their voting decisions. Sixty-five percent described children's issues as among the top two most important issues facing the next governor, which put children's issues ahead of the economy, jobs, and traffic congestion.

"Voters are clear," said Suzanne Clark Johnson, Ph.D., President of Voices for Virginia's Children. "Candidates' positions on children's issues have an important impact on their votes. I hope all the candidates will take this to heart and be sure that they raise

their own voices in speaking up for children in this fall's election."

On afterschool specifically, the poll showed that 80 percent of voters are concerned with the amount of unstructured time children have after school, and nearly three out of four voters said afterschool programs are essential for their communities. By a nearly three-to-one margin, voters are much more concerned about children in Virginia not having adequate educational opportunities, health coverage, and protection from abuse than they are about taxes.

"The poll confirms that Virginia's voters want their leaders to make improving the health, education and safety of children a high priority," said Tom LaPointe, Virginia state coordinator for Every Child Matters. "Virginians want new investments in children and they are willing to pay for it."

While Virginia voters place a high importance on children's issues, the poll finds that most voters are unsure of where the candidates stand. Barely two in five say they feel familiar with where the major party candidates stand on children's issues. In addition to sponsoring the poll, the Kids Deserve Better in Virginia Campaign is highlighting children's issues, and organizing a "Get Out the Vote" effort. The campaign will also work to educate candidates, campaign staff, and policy makers about afterschool.

For further information on the Kids Deserve Better in Virginia campaign or for the full report of the poll, go to www.kidsdeservebetter.org.



TASK FORCE UNVEILS NATIONAL PLAN FOR EDUCATION REFORM, HIGHLIGHTS THE IMPORTANCE OF AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS

A special task force established by two influential think tanks, the Center for American Progress and the Institute for America's Future, released the findings from a yearlong study of ways to improve America's schools in August. The task force's report, *Getting Smarter, Becoming Fairer: A Progressive Education Agenda For a Stronger Nation*, calls for fundamental education reform – including expanding afterschool opportunities – to revitalize public education and improve the nation's future economic and civic well-being. Among the panel's recommendations: more learning time for students. Co-chairing the task force were Arizona Governor Janet Napolitano; Philip Murphy, Senior Director for the Goldman Sachs Groups Inc.; and Professor Roger Wilkins of George Mason University.

Getting Smarter, Becoming Fairer addresses a number of education challenges, including student and school performance, federal funding for education, community involvement, and afterschool issues. It calls for a \$325 billion investment in education over the next ten years with \$3.6 billion allocated annually to expand afterschool programs.

In its report, the task force concluded, "high quality afterschool programs can bring substantial benefits to every student and should be available to all of them." The report finds that afterschool programs play a critical role in keeping children safe during afterschool hours and cites evidence that "innovative, high quality programs in non-school hours enhance the academic, social, emotional, cultural, and physical growth of students."

The report also found that community schools provide a wealth of benefits for children and families and recommends an increase in state and federal support for community schools that connect children and families to social support networks.

Drawing on *America After 3 PM*, the Afterschool Alliance's household survey on afterschool issues, as well as other sources, the task force concurrently released state-by-state data on afterschool participation, early childhood education, the achievement gap, accessibility to higher education, and student performance. *For further information, or to view the full report go to www.americanprogress.org/site/pp.asp?c=biJRJ8OVF&b=172204.*



NEW STUDY: AFTERSCHOOL BOOSTS STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT, EXPECTATION OF SUCCESS

A newly released afterschool evaluation from researchers at Yale and New York University (NYU) concludes that students in afterschool programs, particularly those who were "highly engaged" in their programs, had significantly higher reading achievement and expectations of academic success than other students.

The longitudinal study, conducted by Joseph Mahoney and Heather Lord of Yale and Erica Carryl of NYU, will track afterschool students for four years, comparing students with four different types of afterschool arrangements – those in afterschool programs, those cared for by parents, those cared for by a combination of siblings or in self care, and those cared for by a combination of other adults and in sibling or self care.

This first installment of the study, published in the July/August 2005 issue of *Child Development*, found that, "The reading

achievement of children in ASP [afterschool program] care was significantly higher than of those in each of the three alternative care arrangements. Expectancy of success was also significantly higher for children in ASP care compared with children in other adult/non-adult care."

Students in the study were enrolled in a large urban school district, and most lived in poverty. The ongoing study is supported by a grant from the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development.

The Child Development article and other material about the study is available at Professor Mahoney's website, at <http://pantheon.yale.edu/~jlm79/>.



IN THE NEWS...

National - Read Around the Campfire, a joint initiative of the children's literacy group First Book and the Walt Disney Company, donated new books to summer camp programs serving disadvantaged children this year. The pilot program donated 20,000 books to 6,700 children in an effort to prevent summer learning loss. "During summer vacation, children from low-income families experience disproportionate decreases in reading achievement," said Kyle Zimmer, president of First Book. "By offering hands-on reading practice outside of the classroom in a fun and creative setting, we are hoping to help children improve their reading skills."

National – The National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP) recently released "Making the Most of After-School Time: Ten Case Studies of School-Based After-School Programs." The publication takes a detailed look at ten urban, rural and suburban afterschool programs, with particular focus on the importance of involving school principals. Funded by the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, the

document includes a comprehensive analysis of each program and offers suggestions on how principals can become more involved in afterschool care without becoming overburdened. *The document can be downloaded free at www.naesp.org/afterschool. Training manuals, evaluation documents and additional information are available at the same URL.*

National - NASA and the American Museum of Natural History in New York recently released a new and expanded edition of *NASA and Afterschool Programs: Connecting to the Future*. The report argues that the afterschool arena is uniquely suited to science learning experiences that engage young people, build their capacity to succeed and prepare them for science, technology, engineering and math careers. The report includes essays from leading experts in the field. A NASA afterschool curriculum consistent with the report will soon be available. The report is available free at http://education.nasa.gov/divisions/informal/overview/R_NASA_and_Afterschool_Programs.html.

California – The *Contra Costa Times* reports that a local franchisee of Computer Explorers, a national company offering technology-based activities to students from preschool to sixth grade, is providing afterschool programs in 16 sites in California's Alameda and Contra Costa Counties. The activities are intended to strengthen students' problem-solving, logic, math, science, technology and engineering concepts. To do so, it uses programs such as: "Spybots," where children are "secret agents" on a "mission;" "Robotics-Intelligent House Camp," where children build and operate robots; and "Claymation Camp" where aspiring filmmakers create Claymation films. *For more information and to find a local representative, visit <http://www.computertots.com>.*

Georgia – The Metro Atlanta YMCA's "Youth Fit for Life" program works to counteract childhood obesity, providing cardiovascular, strength, health and nutrition education to children ages five to 12 in afterschool programs. A preliminary study of the program's effectiveness found favorable physiological, behavioral and psychological changes. The study was supported by a Carol M. White Physical Education Program grant from the U.S. Department of Education.

Iowa – The Community Y and the Marshalltown Community School District are teaming up to provide a unique afterschool wellness program this school year. "Fit Kids" will engage more than 400 kindergarten through 5th-grade students in cardiovascular exercise (through games that develop fitness), strength-training, and behavioral skills training. The effort is modeled on the Metro Atlanta YMCA's "Youth Fit for Life" program described above. The Marshalltown program is supported by a grant from the Martha-Ellen Tye Foundation. Other components of the grant include programs to teach overweight and clinically obese children and their families about healthy eating habits.

New York – Students at Sloatsburg Elementary School in Westchester County are benefiting from their afterschool program's affiliation with Start Something, a joint project of Target and the Tiger Woods Foundation. Start Something encourages young children to set and accomplish goals one step at a time while also involving themselves with public service. Students research possible careers of interest, meet with professionals in the field, and set up projects using the skills necessary for their careers of choice that involve service to the community. By focusing on his love of drama, ten-year-old Alex Murray won a scholarship from Start Something to attend an acting workshop in Orlando, Florida, and Melissa Asaro will attend a summer dance camp. Program leader Dianne Pinto praised

the program in an interview with the *Journal News* of Westchester County. “I’ve seen kids go from shy and insecure to confident kids, knowing what they want,” she said.

Ohio – A Kent State University study of the afterschool program at Akron’s Perkins Middle School’s found that frequent afterschool participants had fewer absences from school, fewer in-school suspensions, and reduced tardiness. Three-fourths of the students in the program felt they were doing better in school since starting the program, according to the *Akron Beacon Journal*.

Tennessee – Girls Inc. of Chattanooga taught girls participating in this year’s summer program to deconstruct the negative messages found in hip-hop music and create their own art instead. “We teach them it doesn’t have to be like that,” said Cora Lanier, director of centers for Girls Inc. “It gives them power over their own life. [They can say] ‘I don’t have to have it this way, I can change that.’” The program encouraged girls to combine dance with their poetry, using lyric-free hip-hop beats to help them learn to think critically about popular stereotypes and gain confidence from their own art, according to the *Chattanooga Times Free Press*.

Texas – Students from the Aldine and Heights areas of Houston are starring in a series of educational, Internet-based videos produced by NASA for its Kids Science News Network, thanks to their afterschool programs. The students, ages ten to 15, were part of the Harris County Department of Education’s Cooperative After-School Enrichment program, which held auditions for the video roles last winter. Yesenia Nava, 13, told the *Houston Chronicle*, “I really like this stuff about technology. If I’m teaching somebody something about technology, if I’m getting little kids excited about science, I want to do it.” *The bilingual videos will be available in November at*

ksnn.larc.nasa.gov/home.html in English and at ksnnsp.larc.nasa.gov/intro.html in Spanish.

Washington – Children’s University, a year-round afterschool program sponsored by the Seattle Urban League, is offering age-appropriate college courses to children ages six to 14. Students take “core subjects” and “electives,” skimmed from local college syllabi, such as “What causes poverty” and “Journey of a banana.” Courses are then tailored to students’ ages, with second graders using coloring books for history lessons and middle schoolers performing plays based on classic novels. Seattle Urban League President James Kelly told the *Seattle Times*, “it is so important to expose what the possibilities are at an early age. That way, when it comes time to think about college, it’s automatic.”



IN THEIR OWN WORDS...

“I’m more calm and relaxed now. When drama starts happening I don’t get into it anymore. I just kind of stick to myself and my friends. The environment and the feeling of this place helped out with that. Nobody’s disrespectful here.”

- Ausby Moore, 14, YWCA’s Youth Achievers Program, *Minneapolis Star Tribune*, August 1, 2005

“The City of Fairfield’s after school programs have made a tremendous contribution in the lives of Solano County kids. I’m always pleased to support important projects like these that keep our children safe, off the streets, and learning.”

- Rep. Ellen Tauscher, D-CA, on the City of Fairfield’s “Life Before/After School” and “The Place 2 B After 3 Program,” announcing

a \$595,200 earmarked grant for the program from the Department of Education, August 23, 2005



“The Open Society Institute has expanded high-quality afterschool programs so that 14,000 more youngsters now have access to academic, enrichment and recreational activities after school. Summer programs are also expanding. These are vital to helping Baltimore’s students catch up academically because, too often, students lose months of reading and math skills over the summer.”

- Open Society Institute Chairman and Philanthropist George Soros, *Daily Record of Baltimore*, August 15, 2005



PROJECT 2010 CONTINUES TO GAIN SUPPORT

The Afterschool Alliance’s *Afterschool for All: Project 2010*, a sign-on campaign designed to demonstrate the diversity of support for afterschool for all, continues to gain support. New partners include a number of professional sports leagues and teams including Major League Baseball, the National Hockey League, National Basketball Association, National Football League, the Boston Red Sox, New York Mets and St. Louis Cardinals, among others.

A newly developed online sign-on tool (www.afterschool2010.org/join.cfm) allows supporters of afterschool to register their support via the Internet, and lets current *Project 2010* partners invite others to participate. *For a complete partner list and other partner news, click on Afterschool for All: Project 2010 at* www.afterschoolalliance.org.

NEED FUNDS? SEND US YOUR QUESTIONS

The Afterschool Alliance is conducting another online forum on funding and sustainability for afterschool programs. Please send your questions on funding and sustainability to info@afterschoolalliance.org. Experts will post responses at www.afterschoolalliance.org on October 15. The Alliance looks forward to answering your questions!



RESOURCES

Interactive Website Promoting Fitness and Physical Activities

The Child Care Bureau of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has launched Fit Source, an interactive website for child care and afterschool providers looking for resources to help address childhood obesity. The site allows providers to easily search for a variety of physical activity and nutrition resources by age, topic and keywords. Providers will find games and activities, lesson plans, healthy recipes, information for parents, fitness campaigns, funding strategies, informational resources, and Spanish language websites. The site links to existing federal resources, and was developed with input from more than 100 child care providers. *Fit Source is on the National Child Care Information Center’s website at* <http://nccic.org/fitsource>.

Government Clearinghouse for Information on Available Federal Government Grants

Grants.gov provides a simple, unified electronic storefront for interactions between

grant applicants and the federal agencies that manage grant funds. There are 26 federal grant-making agencies and more than 900 individual grant programs awarding more than \$350 billion in grants each year. Visit www.grants.gov for information about grants available across the federal government.

Handbooks and Guides from The After School Corporation (TASC)

The After School Corporation has published several new guides for providers covering a variety of afterschool needs. A guide for including special needs children in afterschool activities is available at

www.tascorp.org/publications/catalog/special_needs. TASC has also prepared handbooks for program coordinators to help them increase involvement of parents, family and guardians in afterschool programs.

“Increasing Family and Parent Engagement in After-School” and *“Parent and Family Handbook”* are at

www.tascorp.org/programs/special/ParentEngagement.

Fostering Academic Skills in Afterschool

The latest addition to the Robert Bowne Foundation’s Afterschool Matters series of peer-reviewed articles on key issues in afterschool programming includes “In Between Work and School: Youth Perspectives of an Urban Afterschool Multimedia Literacy Program,” by Katherine Schultz, Edward Brockenbrough and Jaskiran Dhillon; and “The Connection between Afterschool Programs and In-School Success: The Science Mentoring Project,” by Cheri Fancsali and Nancy Nevárez. The first article offers “youth perspectives on their experience in an afterschool program, addressing in particular the ways in which [an] arts-based program functioned as a hybrid space between work and school.” The latter explores how the New York City-based Science Mentoring Project “helped fifth-grade participants develop key competencies in five areas: personal, social, cognitive, creative and

civic competencies. Development of these competencies, in turn, positively affected participants’ school experiences.” Visit http://www.robertbownefoundation.org/pdf_files/occasional_paper_04.pdf to read the articles.

Survey Assesses Grant Support for Student Programs

A new report by Grantmakers for Education, a national association of foundations supporting education, reviews key findings from a survey of foundations supporting out-of-school-time programs. The report, “Mapping the Field: Scope and Goals of Grantmaking to Improve the Effectiveness of Out-of-School Time,” sheds light on the strategies and objectives of the funders, and perhaps of greatest interest to afterschool providers, includes a list of 70 foundations making grants in the afterschool field.

“Mapping the Field” is available at http://www.edfunders.org/downloads/Mapping_the_field.pdf.

Nominate an Afterschool Science Program

The Coalition for Science After School is looking for quality afterschool science programs to include in its “Consumers’ Guide for Science After School.” Anyone can nominate a program – students, parents, providers, science teachers – by visiting <http://tepd.ucop.edu/scienceguide> (registration is required). Contact afterschool@berkeley.edu for further information.

Funding Resource

The current edition of the newsletter of the Coalition for Community Schools examines funding issues ranging from community resources to schools, including tips and tools for securing funds. To read the newsletter, visit <http://www.communityschools.org/newsletter/newsletter4.9.html>.



FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

The following information is from John S. and James L. Knight Foundation - GrantStation Insider.

Allen Foundation Grants Improve Children's Health and Development

The Allen Foundation, a nutritional research grant organization, encourages schools and non-profit organizations to create nutritional education programs for children and their parents. The Allen Foundation is especially interested in programs that provide training for children and young adults to improve their health and development. The Foundation supports efforts to provide youth with the information they need to make healthy choices. Applications are accepted on a continuous basis. In the past, grants have ranged from \$2,000 to \$1 million. *For further information, please visit www.allenfoundation.org.*

Catholic Campaign for Human Development Grants Address Poverty

The Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) is the domestic anti-poverty, social justice program of the U.S. Catholic Bishops. CCHD's mission is to address the root causes of poverty in the U.S. through promotion and support of community-controlled, self-help organizations and through transformative education. CCHD provides two grant opportunities to community- and faith-based organizations. Community Organizing Grants focus on projects in which people work together to address the needs of their community and improve their lives and neighborhoods. Economic Development Grants support Economic Development Institutions that develop assets for low-income people that are owned by families and communities. Applications are due February 1. *Visit <http://www.usccb.org/cchd/grant.shtml> for more information.*

Do Something 2006 BRICK Awards for Youth and Community Development

The Do Something BRICK Award honors six outstanding leaders age 18 and under, and three outstanding leaders age 19 to 25 who use their talents to take action that measurably strengthens their local communities in the areas of community building, health, or the environment. Each 18 and under winner is awarded a \$5,000 higher education scholarship and a \$5,000 community grant to be directed by the award winner to the not-for-profit organization of his or her choice. Winners in the 19 to 25 category each receive a \$10,000 community grant. All winners receive *pro bono* services, and all winners attend the annual BRICK Awards Gala event in New York City, which celebrates their accomplishments. Do Something works closely with BRICK winners to spotlight what young people can achieve. Applications are due by November 1, 2005. *For further information, please visit www.dosomething.org.*

Hope Venture Grants Support Hurricane Katrina Survivors

Youth Venture and MTV are offering Hope Venture Grants of up to \$1,000 to support young people who want to launch a venture - an organization, club, or business - that will aid those affected by Hurricane Katrina. First priority will be given to proposals that support the creation of sustainable ventures that aid citizens and communities affected by the disaster. Second priority will be given to proposals that start organizations for the purpose of raising and distributing funds to those in need. Hope Venture Grants will be offered every week for the next six months to groups of two or more young people (age 13 to 20). Applications for one-time projects will not be considered. *Visit http://www.mtv.com/thinkmtv/features/take_action/disaster_relief/help4.jhtml for information.*

Humana Foundation Grants Support Education

The Humana Foundation supports nonprofit organizations in communities where the company has a meaningful presence in Arizona, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Kansas, Michigan, Missouri, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Texas and Wisconsin. The Foundation identifies, funds and nurtures projects and organizations in the fields of domestic and international health, education, and civic and cultural development. Religious organizations with nonprofit status are eligible for project-specific support (e.g. social services outreach) or funds for an accredited, church-affiliated educational institution. Proposals are reviewed until October 15 in Louisville, Kentucky and until November 15 in other areas. *More information is available at <http://www.humanafoundation.org/>*

Seva Foundation Grants for Native American Communities

The Seva Foundation strives to build partnerships to respond to locally defined problems with culturally sustainable solutions throughout the world. Seva's Native American Funding Programs support local grassroots partnerships with Native American peoples who have devised their own solutions in the areas of: spiritual and cultural renewal; health and wellness; environmental restoration; sustainable agriculture and community economic development; education; and treaty rights protection. Grants ranging from \$500 to \$5,000 are provided to urban and rural Indian communities for programs that may otherwise be overlooked by larger foundations. Requests are reviewed quarterly. *Visit <http://www.seva.org/communitygrants.php> for more information.*

ShopKo Foundation Grants for Education, Health & Wellness

The ShopKo Foundation supports nonprofits in ShopKo communities that focus on education, health and wellness. Support is provided for programs focusing on: at-risk students; people with learning disabilities; literacy programs and activities recognizing educational achievement; and activities promoting healthy lifestyles and raising awareness of health-related concerns. Applications are due the first week of February, May, August and November each year. *For application information, visit <http://www.shopko.com/corporate/community/foundation/index.jsp>. To find ShopKo locations, use the drop-down box, "Find a ShopKo Store Near You."* Stores are located in 14 states.

State Farm Good Neighbor Grants Support Service Learning

One hundred \$1,000 grants, funded by the State Farm Companies Foundation, are available from Youth Service America for teachers, youth (age five to 25), and school-based service-learning coordinators to implement service-learning projects for National & Global Youth Service Day, April 21 to 23, 2006. It is the largest service event in the world. Service learning is a teaching method that combines meaningful service with curriculum or program-based learning. Schools and organizations use service learning as a tool to help youth build stronger academic skills, foster civic responsibility, and develop leadership skills. Grant applications must be received by October 17, 2005. *For more information, please visit www.YSA.org/nysd.*

Women's Sports Foundation: GoGirlsGo Grants

The GoGirlGo! Grant Program provides funding for girls' sports/physical activity programs that combine athletic instruction and programming with the delivery of educational information aimed at reducing

risk behaviors that threaten the health and social advancement of girls in third to eighth grades. Of particular interest are programs that serve economically disadvantaged girls and/or girls from populations with high incidences of health-risk behaviors. Funded organizations must deliver a minimum eight-week sports/physical activity program and commit to implementing the GoGirlGo! educational curriculum, available free by calling 800-227-3988. Deadline for applications is November 30. *For information visit* <http://www.womenssportsfoundation.org/cgi-bin/iowa/funding/featured.html?record=30>.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

October 20, 2005

Save the date for *Lights On Afterschool 2005*, the only nationwide event celebrating afterschool programs. Organized by the Afterschool Alliance, there were more than 7,000 *Lights On Afterschool* rallies in the United States and at military bases around the world last year. Help increase that number in 2005 so *Lights On* can bring even more attention to the need for more afterschool programs to keep kids safe, help working families, and inspire students to learn. *For more information, a toolkit to help organize an event, and regular updates, visit* www.afterschoolalliance.org.

October 24 – 25, 2005

School's Out Washington and leading education and afterschool agencies from Washington State and Oregon will host the 3rd

annual "Bridge from School to Afterschool and Back Conference: Equity, Opportunity, Success." This year's event features 26 national speakers and brings together policy makers, administrators, educators, advocates and coordinators to discuss the role of afterschool in student success. Registration is \$225. *For information, visit* www.schoolsoutwashington.org.

October 27 – 29, 2005

KaBOOM! is hosting the "University of Play (U Play!)" workshop in Foster City, California. The workshop event draws together community and civic leaders, child care providers and parents. It provides hands-on teaching and training on playspace design and planning, fundraising, and public relations. Registration is \$149, and the deadline is October 14, 2005. *For more information, visit* www.kaboom.org, email Uplay@kaboom.org, or contact Hahn Le at 1-202-464-6072.

November 20 – 22, 2005

The Partnership for After School Education is hosting "Shaping Our Future: A National Agenda For Afterschool" in New York City. The conference will address ways to galvanize support and resources for out-of-school-time programs, and provide resources and tools. *More information and registration materials are available at* www.pasesetter.org. Or call 1-212-571-2664.

More information on upcoming conferences and events is available at www.afterschoolalliance.org/states/calendar_main.cfm.

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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 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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