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ACTORS KEVIN SORBO, RHEA PERLMAN TO HEADLINE *LIGHTS ON AFTERSCHOOL!*

From a Youth Resource Fair in Boston to the Arizona Science Center in Phoenix to an Army base in Hawaii, lawmakers, community and business leaders, athletes, creative artists and religious leaders will be voicing their support for afterschool programs this week. Award-winning actress Rhea Perlman is reprising her role as national spokesperson for *Lights On Afterschool*, and actor Kevin Sorbo is joining events in Los Angeles and Washington, DC.

Best known for her role as Carla on the long-running television show "Cheers," Perlman volunteers with LA's BEST, an afterschool program in Los Angeles. She will participate in a national media tour, spreading the word about *Lights On Afterschool* and the importance of afterschool programs.

A spokesperson for the Afterschool Alliance, Sorbo played the title role in the hit television series, "Hercules: The Legendary Journeys." He participated in the national kick-off event, featuring the *Lights On Afterschool* Traveling Light Bulb, on Sunday, October 2 in Los Angeles. Some 4,000 children, parents and community members joined him at the L.A. event, which was sponsored by the Beyond the Bell Branch of the Los Angeles Unified School District. He will also moderate congressional events on Thursday, October 20 – *Lights On Afterschool* Day.

The Afterschool Alliance organizes *Lights On Afterschool*, with National Presenting Sponsor the JCPenney Afterschool Fund. "We are proud to play a leading role in our nation's largest rally for afterschool," said Wynn Watkins, Chairman of the Board of the JCPenney Afterschool Fund. "Each year, more and more of America's families turn to quality afterschool programming to keep their children safe and constructively engaged during out-of-school hours. Consequently, the *Lights On Afterschool* annual events continue to build in terms of participation and impact. Our organization is honored to support *Lights On* and pleased to see the growing attention it brings to this very important issue."

"We are delighted that Rhea and Kevin are joining us this year to help get out the word that afterschool programs are vitally important to children, families and communities," said Afterschool Alliance Executive Director Jodi Grant. "Afterschool programs keep kids safe, help working families and inspire children to learn. We all have a role to play in keeping the lights on afterschool."

Lights On Afterschool began 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. California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger is National Chair of *Lights On Afterschool*, a position he has held since 2001.

To register your Lights On Afterschool event or find an event near you, visit www.afterschoolalliance.org.

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TORANI SERVES IT UP FOR AFTERSCHOOL

Artwork created by two talented students is on display in coffeehouses and kitchens throughout the country, promoting flavorful beverages while spreading the word about afterschool.

Torani Peppermint and Raspberry syrups sport new, limited-edition labels designed by 13-year-old Daniel Saldana of Fort Worth, Texas and 10-year-old Aaron Martinez of Tucson, Arizona. Their artwork was selected from hundreds of entries submitted by afterschool students around the country in a contest to design the new labels. Torani, the number one specialty syrup in North America, is donating five percent of the products' sales from August through December to the Afterschool Alliance.

"For 80 years Torani has been adding color and creativity to life," said Lisa Lucheta, Torani principal and family-owner. "The Afterschool Alliance is committed to bringing colorful experiences to children, which is why they are a perfect partner for Torani. We are proud to support afterschool programs."

Torani hosted soda and pizza parties for both boys at their afterschool programs, the Fort Worth Independent School District's 21st Century Afterschool Program at Glencrest School and the Y.E.S. Afterschool Program at Walter Douglas Elementary School in Tucson. School boards in both cities joined Torani representatives in special presentations to honor the winning students. The company also presented them with framed limited edition prints of their labels, and gave each a check for art supplies for their afterschool programs.

"Torani is doing a tremendous amount to raise awareness about the wonderful, creative opportunities that afterschool programs offer children," said Afterschool Alliance Director Jodi Grant. "The company is helping to spread the word that afterschool programs provide a safe place for students while their parents are at work, and present kids with creative, educational opportunities that many don't have access to during school day."

"I still can't believe I won! I threw away my first picture, because I didn't think I could make anything nice," Aaron Martinez said of the creative process. "And I was about to throw away the second one, but my friends at Y.E.S. told me to send it in, that it was nice, and that's the one they liked."

Torani beverages are available in coffee houses and supermarkets nationwide. The labels can be viewed online at *www.torani.com/create/limited_edition_label s.shtml*. Visitors to the site can also find recipe ideas.

IN THE NEWS...

National – An online survey conducted by Boys & Girls Clubs of America and the JCPenney Afterschool Fund finds that students need access to quality afterschool programs that provide homework assistance and academic goal setting. The survey asked Boys & Girls Club members ages 6 to 18 their opinions on homework and graduating high school. While most received homework help from their parents, one in five reported receiving no help at all and more than half said that television was the top homework distraction. Nine in ten respondents (89 percent) said graduating high school was very important and 98 percent expect to graduate.

Illinois - Students from After School Matters learned to cultivate and harvest organic vegetables, flowers and herbs in Chicago's Grant Park, creating the park's first organic garden. The students will sell the produce at community farmers' markets, using the proceeds to support agricultural projects and donate some to homeless shelters, food pantries and food kitchens. Officials told the *Chicago Tribune* that farming gave the students mental and physical challenges, in addition to teaching them the value of hard work. Sponsored by the city of Chicago, After School Matters collaborated on the project with the Chicago Park District and Growing Power, a national non-profit that provides training and technical support for community projects.

Maine – The *Bangor Daily News* reports that the Penquis CAP afterschool program has made it possible for young entrepreneurs to get hands-on business experience. Students age 12 to 15 are operating "Printing Pals," a graphic design and printing business that creates brochures, ads, business cards and other products. In addition to meeting with clients and keeping track of supply orders and accounts, students in the "Young Entrepreneurs Society" participate in community service and YMCA activities, make arts and crafts and join field trips.

New York – "Kids X-Press," a magazine comprised entirely of children's submissions, is an outgrowth of a nonprofit literacy program designed to "keep kids writing," reports the New York Times. The program, run by Nivia Viera, provides writing workshops at afterschool programs in New York State and uses the children's writing and artwork for the quarterly magazine's content. About 80,000 copies of the magazine are distributed each year and submissions are increasing. "Our outreach is to children who don't think of themselves as writers and authors," Viera said. "We want kids to know they can be published." More information on the magazine can be found at www.kxpforkids.org/.

Tennessee - Fourth and fifth grade students at E.L. Ross Elementary and George R. Stuart Elementary are being exposed to new experiences at Cleveland City's afterschool enrichment program. Students choose from diverse course offerings ranging from moviemaking, stock market strategies, chess and chemistry. Program director Melissa Freeman told the *Chattanooga Times Free Press*, "There's a lot of creativity, which today can be hard to fit in the regular school day." Students in the moviemaking course will produce a documentary about the enrichment classes – handling music, filming and editing. Each will receive a DVD of their work.

ASK THE PRESIDENT TO INCREASE AFTERSCHOOL FUNDING

Right now the White House is 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 behind its authorized funding levels -- \$2.5 billion for FY 07. The resulting shortfall is denying afterschool programming to 1.75 million children. Contact the President to urge an increase 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."

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IN THEIR OWN WORDS...

"Access to high-quality afterschool programs is critical to our ability to improve the health, safety, academic achievement and overall development of the next generation of leaders in government and industry."

- St. Louis Mayor Francis Slay on creating a coordinated system of afterschool programs for young people in St. Louis by 2010, *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, September 30, 2005

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"Afterschool enrichment programs fill a very important need for working parents, especially between the hours of 3 PM and 6 PM when, according to authorities, juvenile crime tends to peak. These programs provide a safe, secure and enriching environment for children and extend learning activities that focus on improving student achievement."

- Los Angeles Unified School District Associate Superintendent John Liechty, *Lights On Afterschool* Kick-Off Event, October 2, 2005

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RESOURCES

Virtual Network for Afterschool Providers

The Academy for Educational Development's Center for Youth Development and Policy Research has created a virtual clearinghouse for afterschool providers to post activities, share curriculum ideas and promising practices, and join an online listserv of more than 1,600 others in the field. Providers can also search for online resources and funding information through the site. Each month features a different "best practice" for afterschool. *The site is located at www.afterschool.org*.

New Offerings from Harvard Family Research Project

The Harvard Family Research Project (HFRP) recently published initial results from its "Study of Predictors of Participation in Outof-School Time Activities." Among the findings: Disadvantaged youth from families with lower incomes and less education are less likely to participate in a wide variety of out-of-school time activities, including afterschool. Separately, HFRP has added a number of new summaries of formal afterschool evaluations to its already extensive web database. *Read the "Study of Predictors" at* http://www.gse.harvard.edu/hfrp/projects/ost_ findings.html, and explore the database at http://www.gse.harvard.edu/hfrp/projects/afte rschool/about.html.

National Governors Association Best Practices Guide

To help state policy makers recognize the important contributions that Extra Learning Opportunities (ELOs) can make toward the education, development and workforce participation of at-risk children, the National Governors Association has produced "Supporting Student Success: A Governors Guide to Extra Learning Opportunities." The new report highlights successful state ELOs and makes recommendations for governors and other policy makers to consider. The Wallace Foundation provided support for the new guide. *To see it, visit www.nga.org.*

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 U.S. and at military bases around the world last year. Attend a *Lights On* event and help bring even more attention to the need for more afterschool programs to keep kids safe, help working families and inspire students to learn. *For information and 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 Afterschool and Back Conference: Equity – Opportunity – Success. This year's event features 26 national

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speakers and brings together policy makers, administrators, educators, advocates and coordinators to discuss the role of afterschool in student success. *For information, visit www.schoolsoutwashington.org.*

Movember 14 and 15, 2005

The Children's Discovery Museum of San Jose, National Education Association, Afterschool Alliance, Association of Children's Museums, Child Welfare League of America and The Respect for All Project will host a training and presentation of "That's A Family," a film for school-age children about diversity. The free training, from 4 to 7:30 PM on November 14 in San Jose, is for elementary school teachers, administrators, counselors and youth-service providers. The November 15 session, from 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM in San Jose, will focus on a different film, "Let's Get Real," which addresses differences, bullying and positive change for middle school children. To RSVP for either event, email vneal@respectforall.org. To order a copy of either film, visit www.womedia.org.

✓ November 20 – 22, 2005

The Partnership for After School Education is hosting "Shaping Our Future In Out of School Time" in New York City. The conference will address ways to galvanize support and resources for out of school time programs, offer new perspectives on research and evaluation, and provide resources and tools. *More information and registration materials are available at www.pasesetter.org. Or call 1-212-571-2664.*

December 7 – 10, 2005

The National Community Education Association will host, "Community Education: Gateway to Strong, Diverse Communities" in St. Louis. The conference is designed for those who work to improve education, health and other services, and to provide cultural and recreational opportunities for community members, from infants to seniors. This national gathering of community educators is designed to help participants create comprehensive community programs, including community schools. *For information about the conference and preconference sessions, and to register, visit www.ncea.com/conferences/index.cfm.*

December 8 – 10, 2005

Registration is open for the National Conference on Disability Inclusion and National Service, "A Meaningful Place for All," in Alexandria, Virginia. The conference will provide a forum for national service and disability organizations to identify, develop and strategize about ways to incorporate inclusive national service in their communities. The Corporation for National and Community Service, National Service Inclusion Project, Institute for Community Inclusion at the University of Massachusetts Boston, and Association of University Centers on Disability are sponsors. For information and to register, go to www.regonline.com/27105.

A January 21, 2006

School Age Notes kicked off its Authors' Tour at the Hyatt Rosemont in Chicago on October 1. The tour includes presentations by School Age Notes CEO and acclaimed trainer Tracey C. Ballas, as well as "Fun Literacy Activities for After-School Programs: Books and Beyond" authors Sue Edwards and Kathleen Martinez. Karen Haas-Foletta and Lori Ottolini-Geno, authors of "School Age Ideas and Activities for After School Programs," also participated. The Tour will next visit Atlanta, on January 21. *For information and to register, visit www.SchoolAgeNotes.com.*

February 19 – 22, 2006

In conjunction with the 21st Century Community Learning Centers Program at the U.S. Department of Education, Foundations, Inc. is sponsoring "Beyond School Hours® IX: A New Twist on Afterschool." The national conference for afterschool educators in Dallas will cover curriculum and program development, funding strategies, research and evaluation, and more. Consistent with the theme of the conference, the celebrity guest will be Chubby Checker, inventor of the Twist and a longtime supporter of youth programs. *For information and to register*, *go to*

http://www.foundationsinc.org/EventsFolder/ beyond9/, or call 1-888-977-KIDS (5437).

✓ February 23 – 25, 2006

The National AfterSchool Association will host the National AfterSchool Conference in Louisville, Kentucky. The conference will include workshops and open sessions on advocacy and public policy, best practices, program site visits, and problem-solving. The keynote speaker is Steadman Graham, and author Linda Perlstein will give a special presentation. *For information, visit www.naaconference.org or call (802) 438-9859.*

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

PROJECT 2010 GAINS SUPPORT

Project 2010 is meeting a need as a reference resource, an engagement tool, and a way to recognize partners for their leadership. Individuals and organizations look to this initiative to identify allies and partners, to win national recognition for afterschool support, and to find new and more expansive dialogues.

At the end of Project 2010's first year, it had 800 partners. Nine months into its second year, membership had more than doubled. Today, Project 2010 has more than 1,700 partners from every state. An average of five new partners sign on each day. Partners include 6 governors, 170 mayors, 120 police chiefs and 65 prosecutors. National organizations such as AARP; Children's Defense Fund; Citigroup Inc.; IBM; the Mellon Financial Corporation; the NAACP; the National Council of La Raza; National PTA; AFL-CIO; Time Warner; the US Conference of Mayors; and YMCA of the USA have signed on. Four major sports leagues, Major League Baseball, National Hockey League, National Football League and National Basketball Association (NBA), have joined, and the NBA is exploring ways to broaden its involvement. Hundreds of city, state and regional organizations have also joined, as have more than 300 local afterschool providers and 30 colleges and universities.

Sign on to *Project 2010*, and urge colleagues to join. Send an email to your contacts with a link to our online sign-up form at *www.afterschool2010.org/join.cfm*. As the Project grows, voices for afterschool grow stronger.

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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