

# Afterschool Advocate

*A media outreach newsletter published by the Afterschool Alliance*

Volume 6, Issue 12, December 7, 2005

## **CONGRESS EXPECTED TO COMPLETE AFTERSCHOOL BUDGET**

Congress is expected to complete action on afterschool funding for Fiscal Year 2006 in the next two weeks, before adjourning for the year. Although the 2006 Fiscal Year began on October 1, the Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Departments are currently operating on Continuing Resolutions, at last year's funding levels. The current Continuing Resolution will expire on December 17.

On November 16, House and Senate conferees came to an agreement on the appropriation, which would have left the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers (21<sup>st</sup> CCLC) afterschool initiative operating at the same funding level – \$991 million – as last year. Although this is much less than the authorization levels agreed to in the No Child Left Behind Act, the 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC initiative would have been spared the cuts that many education programs faced.

But, to the surprise of most observers, the House failed to pass the conference report, leaving funding for education programs in jeopardy. Leaders are now working on a strategy to pass the appropriations bill. Failing that, they may instead pass a Continuing Resolution that would maintain Fiscal Year 2005 funding levels for all of Fiscal Year 2006. Regardless, the 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC initiative is likely to be unaffected since its '05 and '06 funding levels are the same.

“The greatest threat to the 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC program may come from another across-the-board cut to all discretionary programs in order to pay for a Katrina Emergency Supplemental bill,” said Afterschool Alliance

Executive Director Jodi Grant. “We strongly support aid for victims of the hurricanes, but do not think the money should come from critically important programs such as the 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC initiative. The Afterschool Alliance is vigilant, and reminding lawmakers every day that children and families across the country rely on these programs to keep children safe, inspire them to learn and help working families.”

In October, Senator Barbara Boxer (D-CA) offered an amendment that would have added \$51 million to the 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC initiative next year. Because of Senate procedures regulating amendments that increase spending, 60 votes were needed to pass the measure. It was defeated by a vote of 41 to 56 in this time of tight budgets.

In November, the House did pass the Federal Youth Coordination Act by a vote of 353 to 62. The bill's sponsor, Representative Tom Osborne (R-NE), thanked the National Collaboration for Youth for supporting the bill, which would establish a Federal Youth *Congress continues on page two...*

### **SAVE THE DATES!**

The Afterschool Alliance has announced that the Afterschool for All Challenge, once again featuring a Breakfast of Champions, will be held on May 23 and May 24, 2006 on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. *Lights On Afterschool* will be October 12 next year. Visit [www.afterschoolalliance.org](http://www.afterschoolalliance.org) for more information on both events.

***Congress continued from page one...***

Development Council to improve communication among federal agencies serving youth, assess the needs of the nation's youth, set goals for helping them, and expand effective programs. Action on the measure is pending in the Senate.

To stay on top of developments in Congress, check [www.afterschoolalliance.org](http://www.afterschoolalliance.org). To send a message to your Senators and Representative about the importance of afterschool funding, enter your zip code in the blue Contact Congress box on the left side of the homepage.

**INSPIRED BY AFTERSCHOOL**

The Afterschool Alliance recently honored six students for writing essays about how afterschool programs have improved their lives. The contest attracted entries from students in afterschool programs around the nation. The Alliance named two winners, along with four honorable mentions.

The Grade Five to Eight winner was Isaiah Charles Buckanaga of Cass Lake, Minnesota, an eighth-grader in the Boys & Girls Club of the Leech Lake Area's afterschool program. The Grade Nine to Twelve winner was Jermaine Laron Wilson, a graduating senior in the Good Samaritan Foundation's Washington, D.C. afterschool program.

"At one point I was thinking about dropping out of school, but the Good Samaritan Foundation would not let me drop out," Wilson wrote in his essay. "I have learned a lot with the Good Samaritan Foundation. We worked at retirement homes. We walked for the homeless. We helped clean up the community. I learned how to care for people in my community."

"When I walk through the door at the [Boys & Girls] Club," Isaiah Buckanaga wrote in his essay. "I feel like I am hugged.

The Club has taught me different realities in life, like how to say no to drugs, step up for what's right, never be afraid to express yourself to others, and that there is good in life."

The two winners received \$1,500 savings bonds, as well as leather-bound writing journals and pen sets, to encourage them to continue writing throughout their lives. Their afterschool programs each received a soda party kit from R. Torre & Company, the makers of Torani syrup, so that they can celebrate their classmates' achievements.

Essay contest judges included Julie Berkhouse, Communications Director of the JCPenney Afterschool Fund; Melanie Dulbecco, C.E.O. of R. Torre & Company; Sahil Kapoor, Afterschool Program Graduate; Constance Marie, star of ABC's "The George Lopez Show;" and Kevin Sorbo, star of TV's "Gene Roddenberry's Andromeda" and "Hercules, The Legendary Journeys."

In the Grade Five to Eight category, the honorable mentions were: Chloe Horton, a seventh grader in Brentwood, New York's South Middle School afterschool program; and Nia Imani Williams, a seventh grader in the Sparks afterschool program at Scott Middle School in Coatesville, Pennsylvania.

In the Grade Nine to Twelve category, the honorable mentions were: Artyom Madorsky, a ninth grader in the Russian Math School of Louisville afterschool program in Kentucky; and Julius Searight, a ninth grader in the John Hope Settlement afterschool program in Providence, Rhode Island.

**LIGHTS ON AFTERSCHOOL 2005**

Afterschool students, parents, staff and supporters made 2005 the most successful year ever for *Lights On Afterschool*, with more than 8,000 events around the country and at military bases around the world.

A million people joined the diverse rallies for afterschool, with thousands of mayors,

school board officials, athletes, community and business leaders, and others expressing support for afterschool programs. Forty-eight governors declared October 20 *Lights On Afterschool Day 2005*. The JCPenney Afterschool Fund was the National Presenting Sponsor of *Lights On* again this year.

For the first time ever, this year's *Lights On Afterschool* included an afterschool briefing at the House of Representatives. Eleven youth from around the country talked to Members of Congress about the many ways that afterschool programs have improved their lives, raised their grades and helped their families. The bipartisan House Afterschool and Children's Caucuses cosponsored the Capitol Hill event. It was followed by a reception in the U.S. Capitol co sponsored by the Afterschool Alliance and Corporate Voices for working families and featuring Italian sodas donated by Torani, the number one specialty syrup in North America.

The students – from Connecticut, Florida, Maryland, Michigan, Nevada, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and Washington, DC – ranged from eight-year-old Demetria Anthony of Massillon, Ohio to 18-year-old Jermaine Wilson of Washington, DC, who recently started college. “If you want America to be successful,” 12-year-old Elizabeth Salgado of Nevada asked lawmakers, “don't you think the kids have to be successful too?”

Many of the afterschool students also met privately with their Senators and Representatives to discuss the importance of afterschool programs. “This was a wonderful chance for Members of Congress to hear directly from children about the crucial role that afterschool programs play in their lives,” said Afterschool Alliance Executive Director Jodi Grant. “Like thousands of other children who participated in *Lights On* events, the young people who came to Washington sent the message that we need more afterschool programs to keep kids safe, help working families and inspire students to learn.”

Representatives Nita Lowey (D-NY), Ileana Ros Lehtinen (R-FL), Shelley Berkley (D-NV), Danny Davis (D-IL), Jim Gerlach (R-PA), Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC), Sheila Jackson Lee (D-TX), Bobby Jindal (R-LA), Patrick Kennedy (D-RI), Dale Kildee (D-MI) and Ralph Regula (R-OH), and Senators John Ensign (R-NV), Christopher Dodd (D-CT), Hillary Rodham Clinton (D-NY) and Harry Reid (D-NV) attended the *Lights On* events or met with the students.

The afterschool briefing in the House of Representatives was emceed by actor and Afterschool Alliance spokesman Kevin Sorbo, and featured JCPenney Afterschool Fund Board Chairman Wynn Watkins, and former Washington Redskins star and Good Samaritan program founder Charles Mann.

“We want to get afterschool in everybody's hearts,” Watkins said at the event. “JCPenney wants to be the role model that takes the initiative.” Since 1999, he said, JCPenney has contributed \$40 million to afterschool programs.

Congressional support for *Lights On* didn't end with the Capitol Hill events. This year, both the House of Representatives and the Senate passed resolutions supporting the goals and ideals of *Lights On Afterschool*.

To read more about 2005 *Lights On Afterschool* events or see photos, go to [www.afterschoolalliance.org/lights\\_on/index.cfm](http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/lights_on/index.cfm)



## IN THEIR OWN WORDS AT *LIGHTS ON* EVENTS...

“There's something about having your heart filled up with the laughter of kids. We need more communities where people are involved and give kids a foundation, something to build on.”

-- Actor and Afterschool Alliance spokesperson Kevin Sorbo

“Dangerous times occur when the child leaves the school and before the parent comes home. Your presence here, being a part of this, really does help.”

-- Senator Christopher Dodd

“People who teach others are the salt of the earth. I commend you and congratulate you. I really appreciate all you are doing.”

-- Representative Danny Davis

“I share your goal to have afterschool programs available to all kids by 2010.”

-- Representative Jim Gerlach

“Afterschool programs are family. The children who are here are great spokespersons.”

-- Representative Sheila Jackson Lee

“You’ve got to go around and tell people ‘give us what you told us in *No Child Left Behind*.’ We want to invest in you. You are our future.”

-- Representative Dale Kildee

“It is so exciting to see the Alliance making it clear how important afterschool programs really are. [I am] going to keep fighting for afterschool programs because they really make a difference.”

-- Representative Nita Lowey



## SIX NEW STATE NETWORKS FUNDED

The Charles Stewart Mott Foundation and the Afterschool Technical Assistance Collaborative announced in November that networks from Arkansas, Florida, Maine, Oklahoma, Oregon and Wisconsin have been funded, bringing the total number of funded state networks to 31.

State afterschool networks work to create a sustainable structure of statewide, regional and local partnerships, particularly school-community partnerships, focused on supporting policy development at all levels; support the development and growth of statewide policies that will secure the resources that are needed to sustain new and existing afterschool programs; and support statewide systems to ensure that programs are of high quality.

*More information is available at [www.statewideafterschoolnetworks.net](http://www.statewideafterschoolnetworks.net).*



## IN THE NEWS...

**California** – Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger recently signed Senate Bill 854 into law. It allows before- and afterschool programs to utilize a more dependable flow of federal funding without being penalized for delays in the distribution of federal funds. “I think the key point is that every afterschool program funded by 21<sup>st</sup> Century money can rely on getting the money on a timely basis and not be at risk of those funds being returned to the feds,” Lou Fernandez, Director of HEART afterschool programs told the *Visalia Times-Delta*. The bill also increases the per pupil allocation from \$5 per student to \$7.50 per student per afterschool program.

**Florida** – The 4-H has joined with the YMCA’s afterschool programs in Charlotte County to provide students in grades three to five with environmental education. Each month, the students learn about different environmental issues; the focus during a recent month was on bats. The hands-on experience included students examining jars of preserved bats, coloring bat printouts, and designing their own bat masks. “We go in as extra education and we try to keep it fun so it doesn’t seem like they are back in school,” Program Assistant Sara Weber told the *Sarasota Herald-Tribune*.

**Georgia** – Children in the First Tee of East Lake afterschool program have been learning to play golf at the Charlie Yates Golf Course in Atlanta. Most of the students are from the Charles R. Drew Charter School, located across the street from the golf course. The *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* reports that the students learn not only the physical challenges of golf, but also about sportsmanship and honesty. They also play golf with business executives from all over Atlanta while networking about job possibilities. Some have met and played with professional golfers. Last year, the students participated in the Ladies Professional Golf Association Tour and this year they will serve as caddies and standard-bearers for the Professional Golfers Association tour.

**Michigan** – The *Detroit News* reports that middle school students in the Wayne-Westland school district’s Adventures in Technology afterschool program participated in an experiment in nontraditional career education. Female students explored jobs in typically male fields such as auto technology and construction, while male students explored careers in cosmetology, child care and health care. One group of girls learned to weld heart shaped metal candleholders while a group of boys wore casts they had made for each other. Through this program, “they can feel comfortable knowing there’s not going to

be one girl and ten boys in auto class,” said Pat DeVoy, Career Technical Education Coordinator for the district.

**New York** – The Madison Square Boys and Girls Club, which provides afterschool care to 6,500 children in New York City, benefited recently from a new public service partnership. According to the *Christian Science Monitor*, the You’ve Got 2 Give 2 Get program helped the Club with gardening and playground renovations. It was but one project of the new program, which rewards volunteering with free concert tickets. You’ve Got 2 Give 2 Get is supported by RockCorps, which introduces volunteerism to teens and young adults, and its sponsor, Boost Mobile, a cell phone service provider that targets teens. This summer, more than 5,000 youth volunteered for 20,000 hours at 78 projects, and were treated to a concert at Radio City Music Hall with major recording artists. “It’s a win-win,” said Ronald Skeete, director of the Madison Square Clubhouse. “The tickets were the draw to get them in, but I don’t think that’s what kept them here.” *For more information visit [www.rockcorps.org](http://www.rockcorps.org).*

**Ohio** – Program directors at the Bremen Branch Library in Bremen have cleverly disguised afterschool science lessons in “Grossology,” a program designed to appeal to children ages eight to twelve. The program teaches children science facts about the human body by incorporating hands-on experiments such as making fake mucous. Students are attracted by the promise of “gross” topics, and then retain the scientific facts they learn. “It’s an afterschool program that helps you in real school,” ten-year-old Cody Block told the *Lancaster Eagle Gazette*.

**South Dakota** – Native American youth will benefit from a \$25,000 grant from the National 4-H Council to the state Cooperative Extension Services’ Department of Family and Youth/4-H. The grant is designed to give students in rural communities, with

populations of less than 10,000, more afterschool learning opportunities, writes the *Aberdeen-American News*. The grant will be used to support art- and science-based programs for K- 8<sup>th</sup> grade students, collaborations to establish 4-H clubs on four reservations, and exchanges of ideas between extension educators and faculty members at tribal colleges.



## STUDY IDENTIFIES KEY FACTORS IN STUDENT GAINS

A major new study explores the relationship between student outcomes and afterschool programs' characteristics. The Massachusetts Afterschool Research Study (MARS) was conducted by the National Institute on Out-of-School Time (NIOS) at the Wellesley Centers for Women and the Intercultural Center for Research in Education, with sponsorship from the United Way. The three-year study's findings reinforce a number of common program design choices. Findings include:

- Smaller staff-to-child ratios and small group sizes for program activities promoted stronger youth engagement. This was true in programs with large and small overall enrollments alike.
- Programs perceived to be “relaxed” and “flexible” are most likely to engage staff and youth alike.
- Having at least some staff with strong educational backgrounds and appropriate training is key to program quality. Highly qualified program directors are particularly important.
- Partnerships between schools and families support good outcomes for students.

*The Executive Summary of the MARS study is available for download at the Wellesley Center for Women's website, <http://www.wcwoonline.org/mars/index.html>.*



## RESOURCES

### Evaluation Tools from the Harvard Family Research Project

The Harvard Family Research Project has published the latest in its series of “Out-of-School Time Evaluation Snapshots.” “Measurement Tools for Evaluating Out-of-School Time Programs: An Evaluation Resource” describes in chart form more than 50 instruments and tools that have been used in OST evaluations. The tools cover a number of evaluation areas, including academics; psychological and social development; alcohol, tobacco, and drug-use prevention; and program quality and environment. Many of the tools are downloadable. *Read the Snapshot at <http://www.gse.harvard.edu/hfrp/projects/afterschool/resources/snapshot6/>.*

### Tools to Strengthen Afterschool Programs

The National League of Cities recently released “The Afterschool Hours: A New Focus for America's Cities.” Funded by the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, the report chronicles a 30-month period of technical assistance offered to eight municipalities across the country as part of the Municipal Leadership for Expanded Learning opportunities (MLELO). The report identifies best practices in municipal leadership and provides tools and resources for mayors and council members to strengthen afterschool programs in their cities. According to authors, “in the face of budget deficits, leadership changes, shifting policy priorities brought about by the September 11 attacks, and other challenges, each of the cities was able to expand its afterschool infrastructure,

providing valuable lessons for other communities seeking to do the same.” *The report is available at*

<http://www.nlc.org/content/Files/IYEF-Lessons%20Learned%20Afterschool.pdf>.

### **Under One Roof: A Guide to Starting and Strengthening Intergenerational Shared Site Programs**

Generations United, which works to improve the lives of children, youth and older people through intergenerational strategies, programs and public policies, has created a how-to guide for individuals and groups interested in developing intergenerational shared sites.

*Under One Roof: A Guide to Starting and Strengthening Intergenerational Shared Site Programs* provides detailed information on program and curriculum development, facility design, staff development, fundraising and program evaluation. The guide also includes success stories from existing sites and listings of relevant resources. *Under One Roof is available online at*

<http://ipath.gu.org/documents/A0/OneRoofComplete.pdf>.

### **Parents Advocating for Afterschool**

Parents’ Action for Children, formerly the I Am Your Child Foundation, is featuring afterschool news on its web site. A new article chronicles the experiences of two parents, from Maryland and Florida, who became crusaders for afterschool programs. Actor, producer and activist Rob Reiner founded the organization. *To read The Push for Quality Afterschool Programs, Two Moms Take Action, go to*

<http://www.parentsaction.org/learn/features/push-for-afterschool-programs/?search=afterschool%20program>.



## **STATE HEARINGS ON *NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND***

Throughout this fall and winter, Public Education Network (PEN) is sponsoring public hearings across the country to discuss the merits of the *No Child Left Behind Act*. Citizens are encouraged to attend the hearings and voice their opinions about how the landmark education law is playing out in their schools and communities. Hearings have been scheduled for:

- Orlando, FL - December 14, 2005
- Boston, MA - January 11, 2006
- Austin, TX - January 12, 2006
- San Francisco, CA - January 18, 2006
- Detroit, MI - January 28, 2006

PEN has included an online survey on its web site for individuals unable to attend the hearings. PEN will compile the opinions and information from the hearings and survey and present them to the White House, Congress and local policy makers. *For more information or to complete the online survey, visit*

[http://www.publiceducation.org/nclb\\_hearings.asp](http://www.publiceducation.org/nclb_hearings.asp).



## **FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES**

### **Recognition for Families that Volunteer**

The FamilyFun Volunteers Program, in partnership with DisneyHand, which does worldwide outreach for The Walt Disney Company, recognizes U.S. families that volunteer together to benefit others or improve the community or world. Families that enter this contest should consist of not less two persons, at least one of whom is less than 18 and one 18 or older. For five Grand Prize families, DisneyHand will donate \$5,000 to the nonprofit charity or public school of each family’s choice, and for 25

First Prize families, \$1,000 will be donated to the organization of each family's choice. All winning families will receive a package of FamilyFun books and kits. The entry deadline is January 15, 2006. *Submission instructions are available at*

*<http://familyfun.go.com/parenting/learn/activities/feature/volunteers-contest/>.*

### **Support for School Enrichment Projects**

The Toolbox for Education Grant Program, administered by the Lowe's Charitable and Educational Foundation, supports school and parent groups that develop school projects that encourage parent involvement and build stronger community spirit. Examples of funded projects include school nature trails, peer tutoring, disability awareness, and afterschool programs. Grants of up to \$5,000 will be provided to school or parent groups nationwide that have a group tax ID # or official 501(c)(3) status from the IRS. Lowe's expects up to 1,000 schools to receive grants during the 2005-06 school year. The next application deadline is March 15, 2006.

*Applications must be submitted online at <http://www.toolboxforeducation.com/>.*

### **Community Programs Funded**

The U.S. Cellular Connecting With Our Communities Program supports nonprofit organizations that improve the quality of life in communities where the company has a business presence in Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Maine, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, New Hampshire, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Oregon, Tennessee and Wisconsin. A list of specific eligible communities is available on the web site below. Awards focus on programs that relate to the following strategic areas of concern: civic and community; education; health and human service; environment; and arts and culture.

Applications are reviewed quarterly.

*Application guidelines and forms are at [http://www.uscc.com/uscellular/SilverStream/Pages/a\\_charitable.html#target](http://www.uscc.com/uscellular/SilverStream/Pages/a_charitable.html#target).*

## **Federal Grants**

**Corporation for National & Community Service, Learn and Serve America Higher Education** grant program seeks applicants for eligible groups to expand participation in community service and service-learning by supporting innovative community service programs carried out through institutions of higher education that act as civic institutions to meet the human, educational, environmental, or public safety needs of neighboring communities. Emphasis is placed both on institutional change to support service and service-learning within higher education and on community problem-solving and capacity-building. Eligible groups include public and state controlled institutions of higher education, Native American tribal governments and organizations, nonprofits both with and without 501(c)(3) status with the IRS, and private institutions of higher education. Approximately 40 awards will be given, ranging from \$125,000 – 500,000. The funding opportunity number is CNCS-GRANTS-102405-003 and applications are due February 28, 2006. *For information, visit [http://www.learnandserve.gov/for\\_organizations/funding/nofa.asp](http://www.learnandserve.gov/for_organizations/funding/nofa.asp).*

**Corporation for National & Community Service, Learn and Serve America** has announced a grant competition to promote the development and sustainability of high-quality community-based service-learning programs in youth-serving community organizations across the nation. Funds will be used by intermediary organizations to create curriculum materials; support training and technical assistance activities; make subgrants to local organizations that will implement service-learning programs for youth ages five to 17; and strengthen, expand and anchor a network of youth-serving community-based organizations that implement service-learning programs. Eligible entities include State Commissions for Community Service, and Grant Making Entities such as public and



state controlled institutions of higher education, nonprofits both with and without 501(c)(3) status with the IRS, and private institutions of higher education. Sixteen awards are expected, ranging from \$350,000 – 500,000. A match is required. The funding opportunity number is CNCS-GRANTS-102405-002 and grants are due March 7, 2006. *For information, visit [http://www.learnandserve.gov/for\\_organizations/funding/nofa\\_detail.asp?tbl\\_nofa\\_id=18](http://www.learnandserve.gov/for_organizations/funding/nofa_detail.asp?tbl_nofa_id=18)*

**Corporation for National & Community Service, Learn and Serve America School-Based Grant Program** seeks applicants to involve young people between the ages five and 17 in service-learning projects that simultaneously support student development and meet community needs in areas such as the environment, education, public safety, and other human needs. Eligible applicants include State Education Agencies or their designated legal applicants, public and state controlled institutions of higher education, Native American tribal governments and organizations, nonprofits both with and without 501(c)(3) status with the IRS, and private institutions of higher education. CNCS anticipates awarding 35 grants ranging from \$20,000 to 500,000. The funding opportunity number is CNCS-GRANTS-102405-001 and applications are due March 7, 2005. *For more information, visit [http://www.learnandserve.gov/for\\_organizations/funding/nofa.asp](http://www.learnandserve.gov/for_organizations/funding/nofa.asp).*

**The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives** has developed a new resource, “Federal Funds for Organizations that Help Those in Need.” The online grants catalog lists more than 150 federal grant opportunities suitable for faith-based and community organizations. Contact information is offered with each grant opportunity, and is listed by state. Some listings are federal agencies and others are federally funded programs administered by state or local agencies. *The*

*resource is available at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/government/fbci/grants-catalogue-index.html>*



## Need Funds? Send Us Your Questions

Be sure to check out the new online funding forum, where experts answer your questions. The current forum focuses on funding for snacks and suppers. Past issues are also available. *Just visit*

*[http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/funding\\_forum.cfm](http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/funding_forum.cfm). The forum is now accepting questions on funding and sustainability. *Send questions to [info@afterschoolalliance.org](mailto:info@afterschoolalliance.org).* The Alliance looks forward to answering your questions!*



## PROJECT 2010

More than 2,000 supporters have now joined *Project 2010: Afterschool for All*. Partners are recognizing the practical applications of the campaign and using it to: build and strengthen local partnerships; identify local allies; engage potential supporters; gain entry into more expansive dialogues about afterschool; and receive national recognition for leadership in supporting afterschool.

New partners include Houston Mayor Bill White, Rock the Vote, the International Child Art Foundation, Columbia College and the American Youth Soccer Organization.

Sign onto *Project 2010*, and urge colleagues to join. *Send an email with your contacts with a link to the online sign-up form at [www.afterschoolalliance.org](http://www.afterschoolalliance.org). As the *Project* grows, voices for afterschool grow stronger.*



## MUSIC STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

*School Band and Orchestra (SBO) Magazine* and the Music Education Coalition are sponsoring a contest that offers ten \$1,000 scholarships to students who submit the most powerful 250-word essays on “how playing a musical instrument made me a better student.” Five scholarships will be awarded to students in grades four through eight, and five scholarships will be awarded to students in grades nine through twelve. In addition, merchandise prizes will be contributed to the schools of the winners by Alfred Publishing Co., Hershey Fund Raising, Yamaha Corporation of America and Avedis Zildjian Co.

Entries will be judged by SBO Magazine's Editorial Board and a panel of music professionals. *More information on the contest and submission forms are available at <http://www.sbomagazine.com/Essay/>.* Entries may also be submitted by mail to: Student Scholarships, SCHOOL BAND AND ORCHESTRA, 21 Highland Circle, Suite #1, Needham, MA 02494. Along with the essay, please furnish name, address, city, state, zip code, phone, age, grade, instrument played, name of music teacher or director, name of school and its address, city, state and zip code.

Essays are due by December 31. Winners will be notified by May 16, 2006.



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

### **December 8 – 10, 2005**

The National Conference on Disability Inclusion and National Service, “A Meaningful Place for All,” will be held 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](http://www.regonline.com/27105).*

### **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](http://www.SchoolAgeNotes.com).*

### **February 19 – 22, 2006**

In conjunction with the 21<sup>st</sup> 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](http://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](http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/states/calendar_main.cfm).***

---

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.

\* \* \* \* \*

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).

---