fterschool Advocate

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FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

I am honored to join the Afterschool Alliance and the powerful, energetic community of afterschool providers and supporters. I look forward to working closely with all of you, and with the growing movement of providers, professionals, parents and community leaders that is bringing us closer to the day when every child in America has access to a high-quality afterschool program.

You have accomplished so much already, but there is even more to do. We will all be busy in the months and years ahead.

Most immediately, we will be spreading the word about the importance of afterschool in back-to-school season. Reminding lawmakers that too many children are unsupervised after the school bell rings. Planning the biggest and best *Lights On Afterschool* event ever on October 20th. And building more support for afterschool in Congress, the White House and state houses around the country.

We are making a place for everyone who wants to join our work – the working dad who needs to know his daughter is safe and supervised after the school day ends, the grandmother who wants to give her grandson every opportunity to grow and learn, the business leader who wants our school system to graduate more workers who are well-educated and engaged, the police officer who knows that afterschool programs make our streets and communities safer, and youth themselves, whose powerful personal experiences speak to the value of afterschool programs.

New allies are joining the afterschool movement every day – allies who come from every corner of the country, from school houses to state houses, and from neighborhood playgrounds to our nation's capitol. Together, we will make afterschool for all a reality!

Jodi Grant, Executive Director

FEDERAL FUNDING UPDATE

On July 14th, the Senate Appropriations Committee passed the Fiscal Year 2006 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill. It provides \$56.7 billion for education – essentially a freeze in education spending from Fiscal Year 2005.

The Senate joined the House of Representatives in adopting the President's proposed \$991.10 million budget for the 21st Century Community Learning Centers afterschool initiative – level funding from last year. GEAR UP, the TRIO Programs, the Child Care Development Block Grants and the Community Development Block grants are also level funded under the Senate's budget.

Next the full Senate will vote, most likely in September.

"We understand that money is tight, but afterschool programs are an important investment in our future," said Afterschool Alliance Executive Director Jodi Grant. "We need lawmakers to increase the federal afterschool appropriation so we can realize the promise made in the *No Child Left Behind Act*. We are especially grateful to the leaders and members of the House and Senate Afterschool Caucuses for their continued support."

LIGHTS ON AFTERSCHOOL 2005

Lights on Afterschool is Thursday, October 20th this year! Join the only national rally for afterschool, organized by the Afterschool Alliance with National Presenting Sponsor the JCPenney Afterschool Fund. Help grow this event and send the message that afterschool programs keep kids safe, help working families and inspire children to learn. For tools and info: www.afterschoolalliance.org

OUTREACH

This is the time of year when the Administration begins developing its budget proposal for next year – Fiscal Year 2007. It is important that afterschool supporters speak out and encourage a funding increase for the 21st Century Community Learning Centers initiative. Following is a sample letter, which can be put on your letterhead and mailed to: President Bush, The White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, D.C. 20500. Or go to www.afterschoolalliance.org and click on the blue Contact Congress box on the left to email your message to the President.

Dear President Bush:

Thank you for your efforts to help our young people succeed and for recognizing that working families face serious challenges in making sure that their children are safe and supervised in the hours after school. By including \$991 million for 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) in your Fiscal Year 2006 budget request, you sent a message that you are concerned about the future of our children, America's families, and communities all across our nation. Yet, I feel it is important for you to know that funding for the 21st CCLC program has been frozen for four years, and many states are now unable to fund new afterschool programs – programs that are desperately needed. So, as you begin to write your budget proposal for Fiscal Year 2007, I urge you to increase funding for the 21st CCLC program to the authorized level in the *No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB)*, so that more students will have the option of high-quality, safe, afterschool learning activities.

In our country today, nearly 15 million children take care of themselves when the school day ends. Not every parent is able to be home to greet their children at the end of the school day, and they rely on help from schools, faith-based organizations and community programs to keep their kids safe and engaged in meaningful activities after the school bell rings. Afterschool programs are an effective way to help improve academic achievement and also keep kids off the streets, which results in better-prepared students and safer communities for everyone. Furthermore, afterschool programs offer youth of all ages the chance to participate in a wide variety of activities including community service, mentoring, physical fitness, arts and music, and college and career exploration.

21st CCLC funding is key to our children's future. After four years without an increase, I ask you to help this valued and effective initiative to grow and serve more children and families. Level funding again in 2007, which would be less than half of the \$2.5 billion authorized in *No Child Left Behind*, will leave at least two million children without the afterschool programs you and Congress agreed to in *NCLB*.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter. While I recognize the tight fiscal situation you face, I urge you to help fulfill the pledge of *No Child Left Behind* by supporting increased funding for the 21st Century Community Learning Centers Program in Fiscal Year 2007. Our kids, our families and our communities are counting on you to help keep kids safe, help working families and inspire kids to learn and grow.

Thank you,

[Your name, title and agency]

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YOUTH SPEAK OUT

Four in ten young people have doubts about whether they will be able to realize the American Dream because they are stressed, concerned about their personal safety and confused about what choices to make to protect their health and well being, according to a survey released in July by America's Promise.

Harris Interactive surveyed 1,278 people ages ten to 17 for the "Voices Study," which focused on the resources children feel they need in their lives. Urban, suburban and rural children were polled, and the majority said they believe in the American dream but many expressed doubt that they will be able to achieve it.

Four in ten students said kids in their community fight too much, 44 percent said they need to watch out for bullies, and one in four said they do not have enough caring adults in their lives. Nearly half (45 percent) said they wish they had more adults to turn to for help.

Half of respondents said they do things that are not healthy, and 84 percent eat junk food after school.

"We as a nation need to fulfill our obligation to the next generation and heed their call for help," said America's Promise President and CEO Marguerite W. Sallee.

Just Kids Inc. supported the "Voices Study," which is available online at www.americaspromise.org.

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IN THE NEWS

National – JCPenney is the exclusive retailer of official National Football League (NFL) wristbands this year. Each set sells for \$2.99 and includes two wristbands in the team's home and away colors. All net profits from the sale of the wristbands and NFL royalties go to the JCPenney Afterschool Fund. *For* more information on the wristbands and JCPenney's Take a Player to School Sweepstakes, go to www.jcpenneyafterschool.org.

National – Junior Achievement Worldwide has won a three-year grant from the Citigroup Foundation for \$2.7 million for the redesign and expansion of the Banks in Action program, which operates in 26 countries. The Banks in Action program exposes children to the principles and challenges of the banking industry and educates them on being better citizens and consumers. This grant is part of Citigroup's ten-year \$200 million global financial education commitment.

California - LA's BEST (Better Educated Students for Tomorrow) and KTLA Charities honored actress Doris Roberts and the global management-consulting firm, Bain & Company, at its 10th Annual Family Brunch. Roberts received the Focus on Family Award for actively supporting children affected by AIDS and for working with Kentucky Fried Chicken's Colonel's Kids charity to raise awareness about the struggle for high-quality afterschool and child care programs. Bain & Company received the BEST Friend award for its many hands-on contributions to community development. Thirty elementary school children were also recognized for winning entries in the "Who in My Family is Special to ME?" essay contest. The celebration took place at Sony Pictures Entertainment in June.

California – The Green House, an afterschool program in Sacramento, and College Track of San Mateo were among the nonprofits receiving Starbucks Coffee Company Grants for Giving awards. \$375,000 in grants went to Northern California non-profit organizations working with youth and families. The Green House will use its grant to increase the number of adult mentors in its program and to support its elementary afterschool program. College Track, which helps low-income youth go to college by providing after school tutoring workshops, will use the money to enhance its Student Life Center. Little Kids Rock also received a grant.

Colorado – Elementary school students in southwest Denver involved in Chris Myers' OpenWorld Learning program are learning "21st century skills – problem solving, analytical skills, teamwork and creativity," says Myers, who created the afterschool and summer program to give low-income students the same kinds of extra-curricular offerings that private schools offer. Now, according to the *Denver Post*, his students learn to create computer programs and online games and puzzles, incorporating various technologies including MP3s and computer animation. The program serves 300 children, but Myers hopes to expand it to 700.

Idaho – The Idaho Falls Post Register reports that Theresa Bunker Elementary School has made dramatic strides in improving test scores and keeping kids in school. Administrators sought advice from parents, and devised a three-year program that groups students by ability rather than age, provides enrichment classes, and increases extracurricular activities. The school now offers a dynamic and popular afterschool program. Because many students need transportation to and from it, Principal Roger Barlow trained for and received a commercial driver's license that qualifies him to operate a school bus. Encouraged by the students' response, bus use has now expanded to include extracurricular field trips.

New York – Students from the Glen Mitchell Archaeology Club participated in a three-day dig, which brought up remains of the historic Glen Mitchell Hotel, constructed in 1870, according to the *Albany Times Union*. The end-of-the-year dig was part of a 25-session afterschool program for fifth, sixth and seventh graders. Students had demonstrated a keen interest in history and were thrilled to have turned their knowledge to action in unearthing remains from the former hotel, located behind their school.

New York – Three years ago, 16-year-old twins David and Alex Steinhardt began "Homework Helpers," a non profit organization dedicated to procuring new computers and donating them to community centers in the New York area that offer curriculum-based afterschool programs. Last year the organization raised more than \$55,000 and provided 15 computers and two printers to the Harlem Educational Activities Fund. Homework Helpers is now working with the city Parks Department to develop computer laboratories in several recreation centers, reports the *New York Post*.

New York – Some 250 students from TASC (The After-School Corporation) afterschool programs in New York City are participating in a new fitness initiative called, "Work it Out." The pilot program gives students free access to Bally Total Fitness clubs in four boroughs during the after school hours and offers lessons about developing fitness goals, knowing family health history and healthy eating tips. The program is just one component of TASC's efforts to ensure that physical fitness and wellness opportunities are included in afterschool programs.

Texas – The *Dallas Morning News* reported in July that the Trinity River Mission in West Dallas is launching a new fundraising campaign, "Pennies for Promise," to collect \$50,000 by the end of the year. The Mission hopes not only to secure sufficient funding for its afterschool programs, but also to be able to expand services to children. The Mission had to turn away 220 children last year. Canisters for donations have been placed at area businesses and organizations. "A handful of pennies can make a difference," said Lisa Sanchez, chairwoman of the fundraising committee. The Mission serves one of the poorest communities in the state, providing 180 children with homework help each day.

England – A new government proposal offers cash to primary and secondary schools to encourage them to provide out-of-hours services – breakfast and afterschool clubs – for students. The Department of Education reports that some 10,000 schools have afterschool clubs and half of primary schools offer breakfast clubs. Ministers want all parents of primary-age children to have affordable childcare "at or through their school" by the year 2010, according to the *Times of London*.

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AFTERSCHOOL PROFILE: 'FATTY KOO' GIVES BACK

What's a "Fatty Koo"? Why exactly is it "Blowin' Up"? And what does it all have to do with afterschool programs?

To loyal Thursday night viewers of Black Entertainment Television (BET), those questions are probably easy to answer. But for non-regulars, here's a quick primer.

Fatty Koo is a band that plays music blending rhythm and blues, hip-hop, Latin, jazz, and pop. Five of the band's members met in Columbus, Ohio through an artsoriented afterschool program called "CAPACITY," run by the Columbus Association for the Performing Arts (CAPA). The young musicians were participating in CAPA's "Songwriters Summit for Oneness," an annual event linking budding young musicians to professional music producers and songwriters for the purpose of creating songs of social justice and racial unity. A sixth member joined the band in 2004, and the resulting "musical collective," as they describe themselves, now has its own record deal and a BET reality show called "Blowin' Up: Fatty Koo."

"Our program's not about creating famous people – that was a fluke," says Jackie Calderone, CAPA's director of education programs. "But the amazing thing is that a lot of our kids are getting recognition. There's something about nurturing young people's dreams and believing they can do what they want to do that makes that possible."

Fatty Koo's television show, which ran from late April through July 14, documents the group members' daily lives, and their efforts to break into the upper echelon of the music business. Members are shown writing, rehearsing and recording their first album -"House of Fatty Koo" - in an at-home studio, and working their way through the more ordinary struggles of a group of 15- to 21year-olds. The album was released two days before the end of the program's 13-week run. And what's a Fatty Koo? Says a band member who goes simply by the name Gabrielle, "Fatty Koo is the 'mojo' or the Zen...the special element that makes us, and anybody, unique."

The CAPACITY program has a number of special elements of its own, operating four days a week, and bringing together children from across the Columbus area for a range of artistic opportunities, from break-dancing to graphic design. The program's parent organization, CAPA, has a long and distinguished track record of presenting and promoting the arts in Columbus, and has restored aging downtown theaters to return them to use as performance spaces.

Calderone says the band recently helped keep the CAPACITY program's budget on sound footing in the wake of funding cutbacks. The band organized a benefit concert, and the resulting contributions and attendant publicity made an important difference. "I'm so proud of this group of kids, first for being so multi-talented," she says, "and also because they're great people, working toward achieving their dreams. And I'm really proud that they want to give back.... I really believe they saved our program, and the fact that this group really cared about the other kids here, and their roots here, that's just indescribable."

For more information on CAPACITY, visit www.ecapacity.org. For more on Fatty Koo, visit www.fattykoo.com/site.html.

IN THEIR OWN WORDS...

"I'm real concerned about the need to expand afterschool programs in our city, and I thought it was a great opportunity for us to invest in an organization that people know well. My hope and expectation is we're going to do a great job of raising new monies to expand afterschool programs in Los Angeles."

-Antonio Villaraigosa, Mayor of Los Angeles, speaking at his inaugural eve gala benefiting LA's BEST (Better Educated Students for Tomorrow), June 15, 2005

"I am writing because I am concerned about the proposed budget cuts for 2005-2006... the middle school afterschool programs might be eliminated. Where are some of these kids to go? They depend on the afterschool programs, yet if these programs are taken away, they might not have anywhere else to go."

- Marleigh Cannon, fifth grader, McDougal Elementary, letter to the editor, *Durham Herald*, June 15, 2005

"An ounce of prevention is indeed worth a pound of cure. Investing in children's prevention programs is not only the right thing to do, it is the fiscally prudent thing to do... Philadelphia's commitment to children is preparing them for future success and making their communities safer. There are one third fewer child abuse cases in *Continued on Page Seven...*

IT'S EASIER THAN EVER TO JOIN PROJECT 2010

The growth of *Afterschool for All: Project* 2010 is due in no small part to its many motivated partners – now numbering more than 1500 – who are using the campaign to build enthusiasm and broaden support for afterschool.

No one has been more enthusiastic than Angie Garling, the Child Care Coordinator for Alameda County, California. Last September, when Angie signed the Alameda County Child Care Planning Council onto Project 2010, she wrote a letter that the Alameda County School Age/Afterschool Workgroup sent to 15 Alameda County mayors and other leaders, including the County Board of Supervisors and Superintendent of Schools. Over the next year, Garling and her committee gathered the support of each of these leaders including Oakland Mayor Jerry Brown, the 15th and final mayor on her list.

By using *Project 2010* to reach out to community leaders, Garling and her allies were able to generate discussion about the need for afterschool programming while demonstrating strong support for afterschool.

Like the Alameda County group, advocates can use *Afterschool for All: Project 2010* to bring people together around this issue. *Project 2010* has a new web based sign-on form, making it easier than ever to extend the invitation to join (simply direct them to www.afterschool2010.org/join.cfm).

The Alliance hopes that this list will convey the broad and diverse support that exists for access to afterschool for all children. By reaching out to our friends and colleagues, we can ensure that all the organizations and individuals who care about their communities are recognized as partners in this important effort, and that the list continues to grow.

In Their Own Words, Continued from Page Six...

Philadelphia than there were a decade ago. Student academic performance also is improving. However, in order for our prevention strategy to continue to produce results, our work must be sustained to achieve the long-term impact that our current success demonstrates is possible."

- Naomi Post-Street, First Lady of Philadelphia, letter to the editor, *Philadelphia Inquirer*, June 15, 2005



RESOURCES

A Roadmap for Successful Afterschool Programs

Moving Towards Success: Framework for After-School Programs is now available from Collaborative Communications Group. The Framework is a working document developed by a committee of pre-eminent researchers, evaluators and program experts with funding from the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation. It describes a theory of change approach to help guide the thinking and implementation of program goals and elements, outlines a broad range of desired participant outcomes to consider, and discusses conditions most suitable for achieving positive results that meet the needs of the afterschool participants. A PDF of the *Framework* is available online at www.publicengagement.com/Framework. Hard copies are also available free of charge.

Harvard Family Research Project

The Spring 2005 issue of the Harvard Family Research Project's *Evaluation Exchange* newsletter focuses on "complementary learning" – the idea that narrowing the achievement gap requires solid and sustained investments in such non-school learning supports as afterschool programs, early care and education, libraries, museums and other community-based efforts. The issue explores mechanisms to link and align such supports. *The issue is available on the web at http://www.gse.harvard.edu/hfrp/eval/issue29.*

Toolkit for Mentoring

MENTOR/National Mentoring Partnership has released *How to Build a Successful Mentoring Program Using the Elements of Effective Practice*, a comprehensive toolkit that offers step-by-step instructions for successful program design, management and evaluation. The toolkit contains a CD that helps individual programs customize the information to suit their needs, a checklist for monitoring progress, and citations for almost 100 other available resources. The Charles Stewart Mott Foundation provided funding for the toolkit. *It can be downloaded free of charge at www.mentoring.org/eeptoolkit.*

VERB Crossover Activity Kit

Students cross basketball with other sports and activities and get a new form of active play using the ideas in the VERBTM Crossover activity kit. Youth ages nine to 13 in summer programs will love creating and playing their own basketball-fueled games, especially with the help of the Crossover game wheel to get them started. And users can apply for one of 25 \$500 grants for programs. Community-based organizations can order free Crossover activity kits online at www.cdc.gov/youthcampaign/materials/twee ns/crossover_cbo/order/index.htm. Use promotional code CR05CR in that field when prompted. Each kit serves 100 tweens, and orders will be fulfilled while supplies last.

Youth Participation in Program Evaluation

The Innovation Center for Community and Youth Development has guidebooks and other publications available on its web site. *Reflect and Improve: A Tool Kit for Engaging Youth and Adults as Partners in Program*

Afterschool Advocate

Evaluation and Learning and Leading: A Tool Kit for Youth Development and Civic Activism are available at www.theinnovationcenter.org.

21st Century Community Learning Center Grant Information

The U.S. Department of Education has made its database of 21st CCLC grants and grantees public. The searchable database provides information on currently available grants and past grants broken down by state. *To view this information, visit www2.learningpt.org/ppics/public.asp.*

Math Help Online

The Region 9 Technical Assistance Center – After School Programs has launched www.afterschoolmath.org, a free resource created by afterschool staff and middle school math teachers in collaboration with the San Diego County Office of Education's Learning Resources and Educational Technology department. The user-friendly web site provides creative and fun mathematics games to get children to practice their math skills. The site also includes videos of children playing the games.

Resources for Financing Afterschool Programs

The Finance Project's Out of School Time Project has new resources available. To view funding opportunities from the U.S. Department of Justice and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration and information on programs using these funds, visit www.financeproject.org/irc/ost/funding.asp. To see new profiles of innovative afterschool programs at the Ella J. Baker House in Boston and Heads Up in Washington DC, including their strategies for sustainability, visit www.financeproject.org/irc/ost/profiles.asp. These are the latest in a series of 18 profiles by the Finance Project highlighting effective strategies for financing afterschool programs.

NEED FUNDS? SEND US YOUR QUESTIONS

The Afterschool Alliance is working to address issues relating to funding and sustainability for afterschool programs. On August 24, the Alliance will debut a series of online "chats" with funding experts where we answer questions you've submitted to info@afterschoolalliance.org.

The first session will be a general topic format, so any question related to funding is welcome. The Alliance would also like your suggestions for future funding topics, or types of experts, to include in the series. Potential topics include how to find and write a government grant, how to approach a foundation for funding, and how to build a corporate partnership.

Please send your questions on funding and sustainability to info@afterschoolalliance.org by August 10. Experts will post responses to the Afterschool Alliance Web site at 9 a.m. on Wednesday, August 24. The Alliance looks forward to answering your questions!

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FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Grants for "Baby Boomer" Community Service Providers

The Corporation for National and Community Service has \$4 million in funds for eligible non-profit organizations for Challenge Grants. The Corporation anticipates making up to eight one-year Challenge Grants, with the minimum grant level of \$500,000 and maximum grant level of \$2 million. The 2005 Challenge Grant competition is designed to leverage "Baby Boomer" volunteers to do community service. Information is available at www.nationalservice.gov under "Funding and Initiatives." The deadline for submissions is August 23.

Grants for Computer Literacy & Technology

The Verizon Foundation offers year round grants on a rolling basis to nonprofit organizations that work with economically and socially disadvantaged communities. In 2004, the Foundation awarded 26,500 grants worth \$71.4 million to nonprofits promoting technological advancement and creating a skilled work force. Nonprofit organizations can also sign up to receive support from volunteers. *For information, visit http://foundation.verizon.com/04012.shtml.*

Grants for Geography Teachers

The National Geographic Society's Education Foundation prepares children to embrace a diverse world, succeed in a global economy, and steward the planet's resources. Educators can receive grants to support innovative geography projects. Proposals should involve students in the research and study of a particular geographic issue/problem and create a public awareness campaign to share their knowledge. Teachers or administrators in the U.S. and Canada can apply; outreach to urban areas is encouraged. The deadline for applications is September 2. *Visit www.nationalgeographic.com/foundation/gra nts_teacher.html for information.*

Grants for Libraries

The Institute of Museum and Library Service, division of Native American Library Services is offering grants to projects that enhance existing library services or implement new library services. Information is available at http://www.imls.gov/grants/library/lib_nat2.as p . The deadline for submissions is March 1, 2006.

Grants for Literacy

The Dollar General Charitable Contributions Program supports nonprofit organizations in the communities in the 27 states where Dollar stores are located. The Community Grants Program provides grants of up to \$2,500 for nonprofit organizations committed to the advancement of youth literacy initiatives. Remaining deadlines for 2005 are September 5 and December 5. The Back-to-School Grant Program awards \$5,000 grants to help schools meet financial challenges in implementing new programs or purchasing new equipment, materials or software. The deadline for applications is August 12. For information, visit http://www.dollargeneral.com/community/co mmunityinvestments.aspx.

More Grants for Literacy

The Barbara Bush Foundation for Family Literacy's National Grant Program develops and expands family literacy efforts and supports the development of literacy programs that build families of readers. The Foundation will award up to \$65,000 to multiple family literacy programs across the U.S. Eligible organizations must operate an instructional literacy program that has been in existence for at least two years and includes: literacy for adults; parent education; literacy or pre-literacy instruction for children pre-K to grade 3; or intergenerational literacy activities. The deadline for applications is September 9. Please visit www.barbarabushfoundation.com/nga.html for more information or contact churd@cfncr.org or call 202/955-6183.

Grants for Low-Income Youth in Select States

The Andrew Family Foundation is soliciting applications for Opportunity Knocks, a grant program seeking partnerships with organizations and individuals to improve the lives of low-income and disadvantaged youth in Arizona, Florida, Illinois, Nevada, and Texas. *To see if you your program is eligible, visit*

https://online.foundationsource.com/public/ho me/andrewfamily.

Grants to Strengthen Museums

Museums for America provides \$16 million in grants to support the role of museums in American society. In Fiscal Year 2006, Museums for America will support projects and activities, designed by the institution, that strengthen museums as active resources for lifelong learning and key players in the establishment of livable communities. Grants can be used for museum activities, research and behind-the-scenes activities, planning, new programs, equipment or services, or to upgrade and integrate new technologies. A 1:1 match is required. The deadline for applications is November 15. For information, visit http://www.imls.gov/grants/museum/mus_mfa. htm

Grants for Young Musicians

Through its Melody Program, Special Projects Program and Solo Program, Mr. Holland's Opus Foundation provides musical instruments and instrument repair for afterschool programs, youth orchestras, and music programs for children in grades K –12. Individuals, organizations and schools that demonstrate significant need and long-term interest in music are encouraged to apply. *For further information contact MHOF*, 1525 *Ventura Boulevard, Suite 204, Sherman Oaks CA*, 91403; 818/784-6787; *info@mhopus.org; http://www.mhopus.org/apply.htm*

Grants for Technology Programs

Best Buy and the Best Buy Children's Foundation support programs that enhance children's educational learning experiences through innovative technology. Schools and educators using technology to make learning fun are supported through the te@ch program. To receive a te@ch award, the program must have been in use for at least one full school year at the school applying for the award. Accredited public, private, parochial and nonprofit charter schools that are within 50 miles of a U.S. Best Buy store can apply. Up to 1,200 K-12 schools will receive \$2,500 Best Buy te@ch gift cards and 36 of them will receive an additional Best Buy te@ch award valued at \$15,000. One public school district will receive a National te@ch Award worth \$250,000. The deadline for submissions is September 30. *Submit applications at http://communications.bestbuy.com/communit yrelations/teach.asp.*

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR

▶ September 25 – 28, 2005

The Institute for Youth, Education and Families of the National League of Cities will sponsor its 2005 National Summit on Your City's Families – the nation's largest gathering of municipal leaders who are working to improve the lives of children, youth and families. The San Antonio event will offer training opportunities, and participants will help shape a national platform and call to action to influence municipal leaders on behalf of children. Discounted early registration ends on August 15. *More information is available at www.nlc.org/iyef*.

October 1, 2005

School Age Notes will kick off its unprecedented Authors' Tour at the Hyatt Rosemont in Chicago on October 1. The tour will include 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" will also participate. The Tour will visit other cities after Chicago. There is a fee to attend. *For* information and to register, visit www.SchoolAgeNotes.com.

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 7,500 *Lights On Afterschool* rallies in the U.S. 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.*

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 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*.

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

WE WANT TO HEAR

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



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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