

A media outreach newsletter published by the Afterschool Alliance

A MILLION PEOPLE TURN THE LIGHTS ON FOR AFTERSCHOOL AS SURVEY SHOWS PROGRAMS STRUGGLING

Americans young and old, from all walks of life, from rural farm communities to urban centers to overseas military bases, joined the seventh annual *Lights On Afterschool* on October 12. The only nationwide rally for afterschool programs, *Lights On Afterschool* is organized by the Afterschool Alliance.

Actors Rhea Perlman and Kevin Sorbo joined educators, students, parents and community leaders in calling for more afterschool resources. California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger joined a *Lights On Afterschool* event in Bakersfield and Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton joined one in Syracuse. They were among the hundreds of federal, state and local lawmakers to participate. Forty-nine governors issued proclamations declaring October 12 *Lights On Afterschool* Day. In all, more than 7,500 events took place across the country and around the world.

"Throughout the nation, Americans are standing up for children and families," said Afterschool Alliance Executive Director Jodi Grant. "With one voice we are sending the message that we support afterschool programs and we want more of them, so that all kids are safe and have opportunities to learn and explore new interests after the school day ends."

Local Activities

In San Jose, California, the After-School All-Stars held a *Lights On Afterschool* carnival for more than 500 families. A video Volume 7, Issue 12, October 19, 2006

slide show of children was the highlight of the event, along with a *Lights On Afterschool* light bulb coloring contest with 1,000 light bulbs. Advocates also held a "Breakfast of Champions" that drew 200 afterschool supporters at the City Hall Rotunda. Mayor Ron Gonzales delivered a powerful keynote address on the need to continue the "power of collaboration" in serving children in afterschool.

In Pinellas Park, Florida, 8,000 people celebrated Lights On Afterschool. Congressman C.W. Bill Young (R-FL) visited the R'Club afterschool program and discussed meeting California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger many years ago when he testified before Congress about afterschool programs. On stage was a life-size cut-out of Schwarzenegger as the Terminator, holding Lights On Afterschool light bulb art. During Young's remarks, Governor Schwarzenegger called in to discuss his passion for afterschool programs. The crowd cheered as he pledged to fight cuts to afterschool funding, and said afterschool programs educate children, keep them safe, and encourage them to be fit and healthy. Governor Schwarzenegger ended with, "I'll be back."

In Columbus, Georgia, more than 800 people participated in an outdoor community carnival sponsored by the A.J. McClung YMCA Prime Time Afterschool Program. Congressman Sanford Bishop (D-GA) delivered remarks and presented a proclamation for *Lights On Afterschool*. Mayor Robert Poydasheff also prepared a proclamation. Entertainment included an African dance performance, a karate demonstration, a drum line and a praise team performance. Community members enjoyed carnival rides, a horseshoe contest, basketball competitions and football drills.

In Chicago, Illinois, participants braved near-blizzard conditions to celebrate *Lights On Afterschool* with: representatives from TiVo Inc.; Arne Duncan, CEO of Schools; and city and school district officials. Children made presentations and sang, and TiVo KidZone donated a TiVo box and subscription to one of the students participating.

In Newport News, Virginia, more than 1,400 children and parents attend a *Lights On Afterschool* rally at a community center and included activities for children, resources for parents and games. The City Manager, School Superintendent, many school board officials and city leaders joined the celebration. The event was sponsored by Newport News Parks, Recreation & Tourism.

In Lander, Wyoming, approximately 400 people attended the celebration at North Elementary School hosted by the program "Lights On Lander." Mayor Mick Wolfe read the city's proclamation and the Chief of Police presented statistics demonstrating that, since the launch of the local afterschool program, the number of juvenile citations and arrests in Lander between the hours of 3 and 6 PM have been reduced by at least 32 percent.

More Support Needed

Yet as communities gathered to show support for afterschool programs, new data shows programs struggling. The Afterschool Alliance had released preliminary findings from its national survey of afterschool programs in September, but released the full results on October 12. They include a considerably larger sample of respondents (more than 2,100), data on more questions, and breakdowns for certain states.

According to Uncertain Times: Funding Insecurity Puts Afterschool Programs at Risk, many afterschool programs are fully subscribed but still unable to meet the demand in their communities. Respondents to the web-based survey say budget cuts and stagnation are taking a toll on afterschool programs, and the youth and families they serve. Providers report that future funding is insecure, and many have already been forced to make painful cuts to their programs.

"The results of this survey are sobering, and underscore the consequences of failing to fund the afterschool programs our children so urgently need," said Afterschool Alliance Executive Director Jodi Grant. "87 percent of respondents say there are children in their communities who need afterschool programs and don't have access to them. Too many of those kids engage in risky behaviors such as using drugs, joining gangs, or engaging in inappropriate sexual activity. Afterschool programs keep kids safe, inspire them to learn and help working families - but we don't have nearly enough quality afterschool programs in the U.S. today. Changing that should be a high priority for lawmakers, corporations, foundations and the public."

State specific data is available for Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Iowa, Illinois, Maryland, Missouri, Ohio, Oklahoma, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, and Texas. *To view the national survey and to read state-specific reports, go* to

www.afterschoolalliance.org/Uncertain_Time s.cfm.

USE A4A FOR DISCOUNT ON SCHOOL SUPPLIES

The Afterschool Alliance partnership with Discount School Supply gives friends of afterschool a ten-percent discount on all school supply orders. To receive the discount, put the code A4A (it stands for Afterschool 4 All) in the pink promotional box when ordering supplies at *www.discountschoolsupply.com* or mention it when you call 1-800-627-2829 to place an order.

FUNDING NEWS

The Afterschool Alliance has numerous resources on its web site to help afterschool providers navigate the often tricky and always daunting funding universe. Visit http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/funding main.cfm.

GRANTS AVAILABLE

Grants for Knowledge in Global Affairs

High school students interested in international issues can apply for the Goldman Sachs Foundation Prizes for Excellence in International Education. Five students who demonstrate in-depth knowledge of international affairs and the global economy will receive \$5,000 scholarships, and allexpense paid trips to New York City to be recognized at Asia Society's Gala Annual Dinner. The deadline is October 23. For information, visit www.askasia.org/youth2/students/gsf prizes.htm.

Grants for Field Trips

Target Corporation is offering grants for educators to take students on field trips, from museums to civic experiences to environmental projects to cultural events. Eight hundred Target Field Trip Grants are available for up to \$1,000. The deadline for applications is November 1. For information and to apply, visit http://sites.target.com/site/en/corporate/page.jsp?contentId=PRD03-002537.

Grants for Student-Led Service-Learning Programs

The State Farm Youth Advisory Board is offering grants of \$25,000 - \$100,000 to support studentled service-learning projects that deal with disaster preparedness, driver safety, financial responsibility, and/or access to higher education/closing the achievement gap. Educators teaching in public K-12 schools and school-based service-learning coordinators may apply. Non-profit groups may apply if they plan to interact with students in public K-12 schools. The deadline is November 15. For information, visit

http://www.statefarm.com/about/part_spos/topics/sfyboard.asp.

Non-Cash Grants for Literacy Programs

Nonprofits that provide free literacy instruction may apply for non-cash support through ProLiteracy Worldwide's National Book Scholarship Fund. The Fund distributes books and educational materials to literacy projects for adults and families. Programs that have received an NDSF grant in the last two years are not eligible. The deadline to apply is December 7. For information, visit www.ncsf.org/index.asp.

Grants for Community Leaders

Individuals and tax-exempt organizations may apply for the Legend Leadership Award, administered by the Dale Earnhardt Foundation to honor individuals or organizations that have brought positive change to a community. The foundation will award \$7,000 to seven individuals or organizations that must use the money for educational purposes. Applications will be accepted through any expressive medium, including art, writing or video. The deadline is December 31. For information, visit www.daleearnhardtinc.com/content/legacv/foundation leader.aspx.

LIGHTS ON IN MISSOURI

In conjunction with the Camdenton R-III School District and the Missouri Afterschool Network, Governor Matt Blunt hosted the sixth Governor's Afterschool Summit on October 12 to highlight the importance of afterschool programs. The summit took place at the Tri-County YMCA in Osage Beach. Governor Blunt has hosted five previous summits on "Supporting Today's Workforce; Building Tomorrow's Leaders" this one was coordinated with Light On Afterschool. Together, these events gave business and community leaders essential information about afterschool programs and best practices to develop and support partnerships in communities. The summit was part of the Governor's "This is Your School Initiative," which encourages communities to work together to take responsibility for the success of Missouri students.

"Afterschool programs fill a need for our children, for our working families, and for Missouri businesses and provide an excellent opportunity for collaboration among many partners," Blunt said. "They open doors to challenge young minds, support working families, and prepare our students to be tomorrow's leaders."

Sgt. Rick Buttram of the Missouri State Highway Patrol served as moderator, discussing key issues and dangers involving unsupervised youth in the after school hours. State Representative Wayne Cooper, M.D. from the 155th District introduced the Governor, who told a packed room that it is important for business and community leaders to become involved with afterschool programs.

Governor Blunt then invited attendees to visit classrooms to learn more about local programs. Participating programs included: Camdenton R-III's Project PASS (Hurricane Deck Elementary, Dogwood Elementary, Oak Ridge Elementary, and Osage Beach Elementary), Miller Co R-III-Tuscumbia, Stoutland Schools, Hermitage Schools, United Methodist Church, Tri-County YMCA, and University Extension-Camden County 4-H. Each program showcased its activities and the participation of business partners. The Governor toured each program and then gave media interviews.

"The opportunity to have Governor Blunt participate in a sixth summit to promote afterschool programs for the state of Missouri was extraordinary," said Sherry Comer, Director of the Camdenton R-III Before/Afterschool program Project PASS. "The fact that he understands and supports programs will have a huge impact and make a positive difference for youth in our state."

NEW RESEARCH: FUNDING SHORTFALLS TAKE TOLL ON CONNECTICUT AFTERSCHOOL

Newly released data from two separate surveys show that a small minority of Connecticut students benefit from afterschool programs, while many youth in the state are unable to enroll because funding shortages are limiting the availability of these programs.

"Connecticut has a lot of quality afterschool programs, but not enough to go around," said Connecticut After School Network Executive Director Michelle Doucette Cunningham. "Many of our political leaders understand the problem, and are addressing it. We have strong political support for afterschool in the state, but we need that support to translate into more afterschool programs for our kids."

At a luncheon at the State Capitol to release a new report, the Network presented House Speaker James Amann with its 2006 "Children's Champion Award" in recognition of his leadership on the issue. "All of us know that afterschool programs work," Speaker Amann said. "Indeed, they are an integral part of the learning day for students. The challenge is to find the money and the will to fund them."

The data were compiled into a single report, *New England After 3PM: Spotlight on Connecticut*, made possible by support from the Nellie Mae Education Foundation. Key findings include:

- 81 percent of Connecticut's afterschool programs are functioning at or above maximum capacity, serving as many or more children as they were budgeted for.
- 84 percent of afterschool providers surveyed say there are children in the community who need afterschool care but cannot access it.
- Nearly half of afterschool programs in Connecticut have lost funding over the past two years (47 percent) or have seen their funding stagnate (25 percent). Just 28 percent have had an increase.
- Just ten percent of children in Connecticut are enrolled in a structured afterschool program.
- 88 percent of parents of children in the state's afterschool programs say knowing their child is in a supervised afterschool program helps them better focus on their jobs in the afternoons. 78 percent say it helps them miss work less often.
- 79 percent of parents agree that afterschool helps their child do better in school, and 93 percent say their child enjoys the program he or she attends.
- 60 percent of parents with children not participating in an afterschool program say their children would likely attend a program if one were convenient and affordable.

The Connecticut report is available at http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/Spotlight_ CT.pdf.

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UPDATED SUMMARY OF AFTERSCHOOL EVALUATIONS

The Afterschool Alliance has updated its much-downloaded backgrounder of formal evaluations of afterschool programs' impact on student academic performance. The update includes new data from ongoing evaluations of LA's BEST (Los Angeles, California) and Citizen Schools (Boston, Worcester and Framingham, Massachusetts; and San Jose, California and Houston, Texas), as well as recently released evaluations of the YMCA of Greater New York's Virtual Y Program (New York City), the Young Scholars Program (throughout North Carolina), Generacion Diez (Adams County, Pennsylvania), 21st Century Community Learning Centers throughout Texas, and findings from a Yale University study and the Massachusetts After-School Research Study.

Previous studies of a number of other national, state and local programs are covered as well, including evaluations of the Mid-Continent Research for Education and Learning's (McREL) Meta-Analysis of 53 separate evaluations, Boys & Girls Clubs' Project Learn, The After-School Corporation (TASC) in New York, the Ohio Urban School Initiative School Age Child Care Project (SACC), and San Diego's "6 to 6" Extended School Day Program.

The summary is designed with advocates in mind, highlighting specific examples from the research that demonstrate afterschool programs' effectiveness in promoting academic achievement. A new four-page chart at the end of the document summarizes key findings from the 19 studies included. "A Summary of Formal Evaluations of the Academic Impact of Afterschool Programs" is available for download at http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/document s/Evaluations Academic 0906.pdf.

A companion document, focusing on afterschool programs' impact on behavior, safety and family life, last updated in August 2005, is available at *http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/document s/Evaluations_Behavior_0705.pdf.* Watch for an update in the next few months.

AFTERSCHOOL FOR ALL: PROJECT 2010

Partners are using *Afterschool for All: Project 2010* to make connections and build stronger relationships with afterschool allies in their communities. Recently, Jill Riemer, Executive Director of the Georgia Afterschool Investment Council (GAIC), a *Project 2010* partner, joined forces with the Afterschool Alliance and the Georgia PTA to launch *Afterschool for All of Georgia's Kids: Project 2010* to unite Georgians in support of afterschool for all.

Afterschool programs keep kids safe, help working families and provide important learning opportunities. Yet more than 21 percent of Georgia's 1.5 million students are alone and unsupervised after the school day ends. *Georgia: Project 2010* is helping to raise awareness about the need for more afterschool and summer learning opportunities for the state's youth.

The GAIC announced a goal of 100,000 partners for the *Georgia: Project* 2010 effort and is off to a strong start. The GAIC announced that close to 1,000 new Georgians pledged support for Afterschool for All at their *Lights On Afterschool* celebration.

If you are interested in doing similar outreach in your state, the Afterschool Alliance wants to help. Contact Marie Coichy at *mcoichy@afterschoolalliance.org* or 212/548-0309. If you have not signed onto *Project 2010*, now is the time. *Simply go to www.afterschool2010.org/join.cfm*.

IN THEIR OWN WORDS...

"Providing quality after school programs has been an ongoing priority of my administration...[Bridgeport's] afterschool programs are successful. They're working. They provide safe and productive places for children to go after school and they provide academic support that complements the curriculum being taught in our schools." -- Bridgeport, Connecticut Mayor John Fabrizi during his State of the City address, US States News, September 18, 2006

"Programs like these at the YMCA are improving and strengthening some of Missouri's most vulnerable communities and families. These dollars will enable the YMCA to make a real difference in the lives of young people in St. Louis." -- Senator Kit Bond (R-MO) on securing \$250,000 in federal funds to expand the Monsanto YMCA's afterschool programs, *States News Service*, September 25, 2006

"Nine times out of ten, the kids who hang around after school with nothing to do at all are the ones who get into trouble. It's because they have nothing to do." -- Officer Todd Smith explaining why afterschool programs prevent crime, *San Bernandino County Sun*, October 2, 2006



IN THE NEWS...

Alabama – The *Birmingham News* reports that afterschool programs at Calera Elementary and Calera Middle schools will use part of a new \$600,000 21st Century Community Learning Centers grant to establish a partnership with the Fire Department. The partnership will create a memorial garden for Christopher Roy, a firefighter killed in duty, and teach students about public service careers. Calera firefighters will visit the programs to give lessons about fire safety, science, physical fitness and nutrition. Students will work in collaboration with a senior citizen's group to make a memory quilt for Roy.

Alaska – MEDIAK, or the Media Education and Development Institute of Alaska, is a new free afterschool program for Alaska Native and American Indian high school students interested in media-related careers. It was established to increase the number of Native journalists in the state. According to the *Anchorage Daily News*, participants report on issues ranging from suicide and drug abuse to culture and heritage. MEDIAK students produce a magazine called *Alaska Aloud* and the *MEDIAK Radio Hour*, along with numerous individual projects such as documentaries. *For more information, visit http://www.citci.com/index.aspx?pageID=34*.

California – Afterschool program manager Lisa Skaarup and veterinary technician Lu-Anne Spencer-Hartle, together with a local Rancho Cordova Girl Scout troop, have established the Hagan Community Park Petting Barn Literacy Program. The program saved the petting zoo from being shut down because of inadequate funds, according to the *Sacramento Bee.* It offers activities to the community, including a free book exchange for children and a "Reading Haystack," where children choose an animal "reading buddy" to read aloud to.

South Carolina – Charleston area SunTrust Banks and the Charleston County School District's Kaleidoscope After School Program recently announced a partnership through which bank employees tutor students from the James Simons Elementary School program in reading and provide homework help each Monday. SunTrust Bank has donated \$65,000 to the school district to improve the school library system. Student participants will also receive an extra incentive to participate in the literacy program – the bank will award each student who participates for the full 12-week program a \$50 Savings Bond, reports the *Post and Courier*.

Texas – On September 26^t Tony Award winning actor James Earl Jones spoke to students at Dallas SCORES, an afterschool program that combines soccer with health and literacy projects. Jones read a poem and discussed how reading helped him get over a stuttering problem in his youth. The students shared their poems with him. Jones, a spokesman for Verizon, also presented Dallas SCORES with a \$350,000 grant from Verizon Yellow Pages, according to *PR Newswire*.

NEW CAMPAIGN TO GIVE KIDS GOOD SCHOOLS

The Afterschool Alliance has joined *Give Kids Good Schools*, a national campaign giving Americans the knowledge and information they need to improve public schools. It takes a good deal of effort to create a quality public school, including parent and community support; safe, healthy and supportive learning environments; and high expectations for every student. Afterschool programs help create all of these conditions, and afterschool advocates can help improve public schools.

Give Kids Good Schools will give the public resources and opportunities to take action and play a meaningful role in improving public education. Through a new web site, *www.givekidsgoodschools.org*, Americans can learn the facts about quality public education, stay informed about issues that affect public schools, and take action in their communities. *For more information on how individuals or afterschool programs can participate, visit GiveKidsGoodSchools.org or call 202/350-5816*.



WEEK WITHOUT VIOLENCE

In response to recent incidents of school violence, the YWCA is holding a national art contest aimed at encouraging children and youth to express their feelings through art. Sponsored by TiVo KidZone, "When I Get Mad, I Draw" is open to children ages three to 16. It coincides with the YWCA's Week Without Violence campaign, which runs from October 15 to 21. The YWCA will select 12 winning submissions and TiVo Inc. will provide awards, including TiVo boxes and free service. Parents and educators can get information about how to talk to youth about violence, as well as the Week Without Violence and the contest. at http://www.ywca.org/site/pp.asp?c=djISI6PI *KpG&b=284783*.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS...

✓ October 23 – 24, 2006

The Bridge from School to Afterschool and Back: Responsive Rich Relevant conference will be held in Vancouver, Washington. The conference, the only one of its kind for administrators, educators and policy makers in the afterschool field, will include sessions on childhood obesity, family literacy and English language learners. *For more information and to register, visit http://schoolsoutwashington.org/index.cfm?fu seaction=page§ionid=60.*

✓ October 23 – 25, 2006

The Southwest Educational Development Laboratory's National Partnership for Quality Afterschool Learning will host a regional training "Mid-South Region Fall Afterschool Training Roundup: Building High-Quality Afterschool Programs" in Oklahoma City. The event will offer opportunities for afterschool leaders to network and learn through professional development opportunities. For further information and to register, visit www.sedl.org/afterschool/registration/2006_r oundup.html.

The Search Institute will host the 10th annual "2006 Healthy Communities Healthy Youth Conference" in Minneapolis, Minnesota. In keeping with this year's theme, "Asset Building Comes of Age: Transforming Society with Youth," the conference will honor young people who have taken action and made a difference in their communities. *For more information, visit http://www.search-institute.org/hchy/.*

Movember 19 – 25, 2006

The Alliance for Children and Families and the Annie E. Casey Foundation will sponsor the National Family Week celebration. Afterschool programs are invited to participate along with hundreds of groups and thousands of individuals across the country to promote the premise that children live better lives when families are strong, and families are strong when they live in communities that connect them to economic opportunities, social networks and services. *For more information, visit www.nationalfamilyweek.org.*

November 29 – December 2, 2006

The National Community Education Association will hold its Annual Conference at the Nugget Hotel in Reno, Nevada. The conference will provide a showcase for community education as a way for people to enhance their lives as well as their communities and schools through learning and collaboration. Afterschool programs are one of five programs areas that will be addressed. *Please visit www.ncea.com/meetingsandconferences.aspx for information and to register.*

✓ December 4 – 7, 2006

The National Association of Workforce Development Professionals, the Great Lakes Employment Training Association and the National Youth Employment Coalition will sponsor the 7th Annual National Youth Development Symposium in Chicago, Illinois. Last year's symposium drew more than 600 workforce development, youth development, and education professionals from across the country. *For further information, visit www.nawdp.org/youthsymposium.htm.*

December 5 - 7, 2006

Youth Service America is sponsoring the 2006 Youth Service Institute in New Orleans, Louisiana. The Youth Service Institute is an ideal environment for individuals and organizations to further develop their programs while learning inventive ways to engage children and youth as assets and resources on National & Global Youth Service Day and throughout the year. *Visit www.YSA.org/institute to learn more about the conference and to take advantage of the Early Bird Registration special (available until October 31).*

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

The Afterschool Alliance is a nonprofit public awareness and advocacy organization working to ensure that all children and youth have access to quality afterschool programs by 2010. More information is available at *www.afterschoolalliance.org*. 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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