

Afterschool Advocate

A media outreach newsletter published by the Afterschool Alliance

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AFTERSCHOOL FOR ALL CHALLENGE

More than 500 parents, children, educators and advocates from around the country visited Capitol Hill on Wednesday, May 24, to encourage Members of Congress to increase funding for afterschool programs as part of the fifth annual "Afterschool for All Challenge." The events were organized by the Afterschool Alliance and held in conjunction with the National League of Cities' City Afterschool Summit.

Sponsors of the "Challenge" event included: the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, The Atlantic Philanthropies, the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, the Open Society Institute, Microsoft, NAMM, the Wallace Foundation, FowlerHoffman LLC, T-Mobile USA, Washington Partners LLC, Winning Connections, and Time for Kids.

Breakfast of Champions

The day began with a *Breakfast of Champions* at which Providence Mayor David N. Cicilline, Columbus Mayor Michael B. Coleman, and former Florida Secretary of State and Orlando Mayor Glenda E. Hood spoke on behalf of a group of mayors being honored for working to make afterschool programs available to all families in their cities.

"We are thrilled to be partnering with the National League of Cities in honoring the mayors and city council members who have provided such tremendous leadership and quality afterschool programs in our cities," said Afterschool Alliance Executive Director Jodi Grant.

The mayors who were honored at the event included: Rick Baker of St. Petersburg, Florida; Walter James of Bladensburg, Maryland; William Mattiace of Las Cruces, New Mexico; Garret Nancolas of Caldwell, Idaho; John Purcell of Lawton, Oklahoma; and Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick of Detroit, who was represented by Deputy Mayor Anthony Adams.

The mayors and city council members received a standing ovation in recognition of their support for afterschool, and were presented with *Breakfast of Champions* Wheaties cereal boxes for being afterschool champions.

Afterschool Advocates in Washington

After the *Breakfast of Champions*, students, educators, parents and afterschool leaders fanned out across Capitol Hill for more than 200 meetings with Members of Congress and staff. In the meetings, they discussed the benefits afterschool programs provide, and urged Congress to fully fund 21st Century Community Learning Centers, the chief federal funding stream for afterschool.

Tony Piña, 16, of Houston, Texas, was thrilled to have the chance to advocate for afterschool. Prior to joining an afterschool program, he had come close to being incarcerated, was not engaged in school, and had a poor relationship with his family. Tony credits the program with turning his life around. He is now proud to serve as a role model for his little brothers and classmates, and is exploring his options in higher education.

Tony said he came to Washington to tell lawmakers how much afterschool has meant to him. "I'm going to tell them exactly what I'm feeling. I'm just going to speak from my

heart. I think that they should keep helping with the afterschool program or else I wouldn't be able to keep doing the things I'm doing. I just feel that that's the best thing for anybody," he said before heading to Capitol Hill.

Tony's mother, Estela, says she is indebted to the program for "transforming" her son from a despondent, aggressive youth into a confident, positive leader. "I give thanks to God for this program. The way it's changed my son's life, it could change anyone's. It's even changed mine," she said, adding that she and her husband are taking adult courses at the afterschool program, and she is close to earning her GED. Estela and Tony now compete to see who can earn better grades.

"Afterschool Rocks the Hill" Rally

At a lunchtime reception co-sponsored by T-Mobile USA, Senators Barbara Boxer (D-CA), Ted Stevens (R-AK) and Craig Thomas (R-WY) joined the call to increase afterschool funding. Local, state and national office-holders were on hand to pledge their commitment to making afterschool available to all children and youth.

Throughout the day, advocates sounded the alarm that funding for the bi-partisan *No Child Left Behind Act* has fallen far behind authorized levels; \$2.5 billion is authorized for the 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) next year. If the initiative were funded at *No Child Left Behind* levels, 1.5 million more children would have access to quality afterschool programs, leaders said.

The Culver Thump Squad, comprised of students from four Evansville, Indiana-area schools, performed for the afterschool community at an evening reception, and in Taft Memorial Park at an event attended by Senator Richard Lugar (R-IN).

Advocates also attended workshops and panels with legislators, funders and community leaders from across the country

who provided insight and advice on afterschool advocacy.



IN THEIR OWN WORDS... AT THE AFTERSCHOOL FOR ALL CHALLENGE

"If there ever was one thing that could make a huge dent in juvenile delinquency, in teen pregnancy, in making sure that our kids get on the straight and narrow, improving graduation rates – it's afterschool. You know it and I know it."

-- Senator Barbara Boxer (D-CA)

"There is nothing more important to all of us than to support education and support the schools... Thanks to all of you for being here."

-- Senator Craig Thomas (R-WY)

"For mayors, public policy is personal. We know the people who are being lifted up or let down by the actions of government. We know their names. We know their families. So when we see an opportunity to do something better, we understand the costs of delay and we act... If we do not pay for these programs today, we can expect to pay tomorrow in social, juvenile justice and economic losses... Afterschool is an opportunity to teach things like character, compassion, civic virtue, good citizenship, the love of music, good athletic skills, the art of mediation and so much more."

-- Providence, Rhode Island Mayor David N. Cicilline

“In the city of Columbus, we have the Capital Kids program where we have thousands of young people, where we teach them, we love them, we feed them and provide them self confidence. And every one of these young people does better in school and in life as a result of this afterschool effort.”

-- Columbus, Ohio Mayor Michael B. Coleman

“When it comes to finding solutions, afterschool programs are the ones each and every one of us should support. Across party lines, across different backgrounds, from neighborhood to neighborhood, we need to and we should support afterschool programs. Investing in afterschool programs means investing in our future.”

-- Former Florida Secretary of State and Orlando Mayor Glenda E. Hood

“You give us the funding and we will give you a positive, effective and successful program.”

-- Florence, South Carolina Councilman William Bradham, Jr.

“We can always agree that kids do need the opportunity that afterschool provides.”

-- An-Me Chung, Program Officer, Pathways Out of Poverty Program, Charles Stewart Mott Foundation

“[We know that] 80 percent of a kid’s waking hours – they’re not in school. This is important for us. We’re in a state of emergency right now. We know that our kids are dropping out of school and we know we need to do as much as we can... It’s very

important that, in our cities, we create genuine partnerships.”

-- Nancy Devine, Director of Arts and Communities, Wallace Foundation



MIDDLE SCHOOL PROGRAM QUALITY

The Harvard Family Research Project and the National Institute on Out-of-School Time have published materials from their December 2005 conference on afterschool program quality in middle schools. The conference brought together afterschool staff, administrators, researchers and funders to discuss how to define and assess middle school program quality and how to distinguish it from elementary school program quality. Group discussions identified distinct categories of standards for programs and how these standards should be tweaked to better assess the needs and objectives of middle school programs. *Summaries and materials from the conference are available online at www.gse.harvard.edu/hfrp/projects/afterschool/conference.*



BUSINESSES SUPPORTING AFTERSCHOOL WHERE GOVERNMENT FALLS SHORT

A new “Corporate Voices After School White Paper” reports that American businesses are making a significant contribution to afterschool. The study, sponsored by Corporate Voices for Working Families, found that the 2005 contributions of just eight American companies was more than 13 percent of the federal dollars that went directly to afterschool programs in the same year.

In 2005, while the federal government put \$981 million into the 21st Century Community Learning Centers initiative, the eight companies alone invested \$136.6 million in afterschool. The full contribution of all American companies would be much larger.

“This is just a broad look at how employers are addressing a societal need that is not being met with enough federal funding,” said Donna Klein, President and CEO of Corporate Voices for Working Families. “As the issue of afterschool continues to grow in importance, we hope this report will provide a valuable roadmap for increasing interest and effectiveness of corporate investment in this critical area.”

In addition to their financial contributions, the companies surveyed also reported in-kind donations such as mentoring and tutoring programs at corporate headquarters, transportation to afterschool sites, and donations of high tech equipment with technical assistance. The companies participating in the study include Allstate, J.C. Penney, Knowledge Learning Corporation, LifeCare, Philip Morris, Providian, Prudential and Public Service Gas and Electric. *For more information, visit www.corporatevoices.org.*



NEW STATE DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS

The America’s Promise Alliance has announced the creation of five state demonstration projects designed to showcase a variety of leadership models for children and youth. The projects are based in Georgia, Iowa, New Mexico, Pennsylvania and Washington. Each project, funded by a \$20,000 grant from America’s Promise, is designed to drive public and private collaboration, raise visibility on youth issues,

and increase the capacity of the state affiliates of partners to help young people.

The demonstration states were selected based on an assessment of local capacity, geographic diversity, and willingness to successfully coordinate and execute state-level collaborative projects. A survey of America’s Promise Alliance partners was also used to identify emerging state initiatives.

“This project will provide us with critical seed money to address the lack of systemic connections [between] the afterschool and youth development fields to meet tomorrow’s workforce needs,” said Jill J. Riemer, Executive Director of the Georgia Afterschool Investment Council.

National partners involved in the initiative include the Afterschool Alliance, Forum for Youth Investment, Communities In Schools, Junior Achievement, and Points of Light Foundation & Volunteer Center National Network. *For more information on the state collaboration, contact Richard Wells via e-mail RichardW@americaspromise.org.*



T-MOBILE “HUDDLES UP” FOR AFTERSCHOOL

T-Mobile USA, Inc. has partnered with the Afterschool Alliance and City Year to expand and improve afterschool opportunities for youth across America. The partnership is part of *T-Mobile Huddle Up*, a community outreach program that connects local mentors and support resources with kids from single parent families in high-need, urban communities.

“At T-Mobile, we’re all about connecting people,” said Robert Dotson, President and Chief Executive Officer, T-Mobile USA. “Our first ever community outreach program enables our employees to help improve afterschool facilities and programs by providing powerful connections for young people to positive people and places.”

T-Mobile's three-year commitment to the Afterschool Alliance supports national and grassroots work to make sure that every child has a positive, safe place to go after school. T-Mobile was a sponsor of the congressional rally at the Alliance's "Afterschool for All Challenge" in Washington, D.C. this week. Senators Barbara Boxer (D-CA), Ted Stevens (R-AK) and Craig Thomas (R-WY) and a team of T-Mobile representatives attended the "Challenge" to help draw attention to afterschool programs. Thomas J. Sugrue, Vice President, Government Affairs, T-Mobile USA spoke and Tony Russo, Sr., Director Federal Legislative Affairs presented an award to Senator Boxer.

T-Mobile is the "Official Wireless Telecommunications Partner" of City Year, in a three-year relationship. The new multi-faceted partnership strengthens City Year's ability to help children, families and schools succeed and increase the leadership skills and opportunities of the young adults who are City Year corps members.

For more information on T-Mobile Huddle Up, visit www.t-mobile.com



AFTERSCHOOL PROFILE: KANSAS CITY'S CHILDREN'S CONNECTION

"If we work with these kids, we have a chance to prevent history from repeating itself in them. If not, we might as well expand the penal system." Emanuel Cleaver, Jr., first-term Member of Congress, former Mayor of Kansas City, Missouri and long-time pastor of St. James United Methodist Church, told the *Kansas City Star*, referring to students in the church-affiliated "Children's Connection" afterschool program.

Four days a week, the program provides afterschool care for kindergarten

through 5th grade students who have a parent in prison. With incarceration rates high and rising, particularly for women, the program is meeting the needs of a growing population of children. But the need is more than just common; it is also urgent, because the children of prisoners are more likely to become incarcerated themselves.

Heading off that outcome is a key objective for the Children's Connection, so in addition to individual tutoring services, athletics, arts education, and a variety of academic enrichment activities, the program provides drug-resistance education, small-group therapy, and mentoring by college students and adults. In addition, because of the unusual challenges facing students in the program, staff members make it a point to connect with teachers at the schools they attend, to catch and address problems before they fester. A former schoolteacher works part-time with the program, and checks in with students' regular day teachers to make sure they're keeping up, and to fine-tune the tutoring services the program provides its 18 students.

Enrollment in the program is free. Its main financial support comes from a local sales tax adopted by voters to support anti-drug activities, as well as by Variety, The Children's Charity of Greater Kansas City, which pays for transportation. Local churches donate funds as well, with founder Cleaver's St. James United Methodist Church providing its "40 Acres and a Mule Activity Campus" to house the program.

Staff members are beginning an outreach effort to Kansas City-area foundations, building on past successes with the foundation community. In addition, a number of institutions and organizations in the community provide volunteer services, including the University of Missouri – Kansas City,

which arranges for pharmacy students to provide academic tutoring.

The program's student base poses unique challenges. With their parents away in prison, the children don't often have a chance to put down roots as their guardianship and addresses change. "Last year we had a family that moved five times in a two-month period. That meant five schools for the child. So keeping the kids up to date in school can be very difficult," says Jaimie Peterson, program director. "The caregiver at home might be a grandparent, and it's very stressful for them. So we arrange for grandparent support groups for them. Drugs in the home are often an issue, and the children see hard things very young. So we provide group therapy, and alcohol awareness programs."

"And because the kids don't always have a structured life at home, we keep the program fairly structured," she says. The afternoon starts with a snack or a supplemental meal, after which students have 30 minutes of tutoring or homework time. That's followed by about an hour-long activity period, during which children work with a licensed counselor or a board-certified art therapist, or take part in units on drug-prevention, careers, golf, scouting, nutritional education, art and more.

An artist by training, Peterson teaches the program's art units and looks for ways to use the time to help children feel better about the parts of their lives that are sometimes a source of pain. "They're now creating boxes to put their things in. And the project has really taken off, I think because it's a way for them to create their own space. A lot of their homes are very overcrowded, and they feel like they don't have space of their own. So they're decorating the boxes with fabric, and various art supplies, and just making them their own – totally transforming them." Such transformations – small and large – are at the heart of Children's Connection's work.

USE A4A FOR DISCOUNT ON SCHOOL SUPPLIES

The Afterschool Alliance is happy to announce a partnership with Discount School Supply to give 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.discountchoolsupply.com. Or mention it when you call 1-800-627-2829 to place an order.

AFTERSCHOOL IS KEY IN LOCAL WELLNESS POLICY DEVELOPMENT

Two new Afterschool Alliance resources can help afterschool leaders and advocates promote health and prevent obesity. The *Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Act of 2004* requires all local education agencies participating in a federal child nutrition program to establish a local wellness policy by the start of the 2006-2007 school year. Created at the district level, the policy must establish goals for nutrition education, physical activity, nutrition standards and other school-based activities designed to promote wellness.

Many school districts have not yet started the process, which means that there is a window of opportunity for afterschool leaders to become actively involved in developing policies – and to demonstrate that afterschool programs should be key partners in their districts' health-promotion efforts. *Active Hours Afterschool: Local Wellness Policy Toolkit for Afterschool Programs* offers steps afterschool leaders and advocates can take to get involved in the policy development process.

A new report, *Active Hours Afterschool: Childhood Obesity and the Role of Afterschool Programs as a Solution*, provides a detailed overview of the rise of childhood obesity and highlights how afterschool can help combat the epidemic. And a new issue brief, “Active Hours Afterschool: Childhood Obesity Prevention & Afterschool Programs,” summarizes facts and statistics about childhood obesity and gives examples of what afterschool programs are doing to promote physical fitness and healthy nutrition habits.

To access the toolkit, report and issue brief, visit the *Active Hours Afterschool* resource page at: www.afterschoolalliance.org/active_hours.cfm.



IN THE NEWS...

New Jersey – The *Bergen Record* reports that students in kindergarten through 8th grade in School 27’s afterschool program are benefiting from a new partnership with William Patterson University. Unlike other programs in the NJ After 3 program, School 27 is the first to work directly with a university, exposing children at the earliest ages to the benefits and possibilities of higher education, with an emphasis on career development.

North Carolina – Mayor Bill Bell and Ellen Reckhow, Chairwoman of the Durham County Board of Commissioners, recently announced a new partnership with the city, county and Durham Public Schools’ Encore! afterschool program. Under the agreement, in the fall, city and county employees will be allowed up to four hours a month of paid time off to mentor middle school students. Reckhow told the *News & Observer* “it is the responsibility of all of us to help [children] succeed.”

Rhode Island – Immersion Presents, an afterschool program for children in grades five through eight, is offering a special program through June that chronicles the experiences of Bob Ballard and his University of Rhode Island expedition team as they uncover underwater artifacts and track ancient trade routes. The team will offer webcasts including images of their discoveries in the northern Black Sea, Aegean Sea and the Sea of Crete via satellite to afterschool programs, museums, aquariums and Boys & Girls Clubs. Ballard, the program’s founder, told the *Providence Journal*, “No one has been to where we’re going.” For further information and to view the expedition, visit www.immersionpresents.org/.

South Carolina – Fifth grade students at York One Academy, a school for at-risk youth, recently conducted a study on the need for afterschool programs in York, including a survey of 1,000 students and parents. They found that only a small percent of youth had anything to do after school. The study won the top prize in the state Project Citizen competition, sponsored by the South Carolina Bar Association, and will be evaluated at the National Conference of State Legislatures meeting in August. Students have already met with the mayor and have a meeting scheduled with the city council. They hope to establish a Boys & Girls Club in York, according to the *Yorkville Enquirer*.

Tennessee – The *Jackson Sun* reports that afterschool advocates may get lucky with the state lottery. Lawmakers are considering a bill that would direct up to \$18 million of unclaimed lottery winnings to afterschool programs. If approved, the bill, sponsored by State Senator Steve Cohen, would provide much needed funding to programs throughout the state. “It is a worthwhile investment,” the *Sun* editorialized.



AFTERSCHOOL FOR ALL: PROJECT 2010

If you haven't visited recently, check out www.afterschool2010.org to see whether your agency and its allies have joined *Afterschool for All: Project 2010*. More than 3,000 partners are now on board, making a powerful statement about the broad support for afterschool. The site now includes new tools and up-to-the-minute information on partner activities. Help make afterschool a priority for the nation!

RESOURCES

Afterschool Alliance Answers Funding Questions Online

The Afterschool Alliance continually updates its web feature aimed at helping afterschool programs identify and tap into all available funding sources. The "Funding Forum" answers funding questions submitted by readers, and carries guest columns on sustainability issues from experts in the field. *Readers can visit the Funding Forum at www.afterschoolalliance.org/funding_forum.cfm, and submit questions to info@afterschoolalliance.org, with the words "Funding Question" in the subject line.*

Web Site to Help Develop High Quality Afterschool Programs

Communities In Schools has launched a new web site, developed in collaboration with the National Dropout Prevention Center and funded by MetLife Foundation. It provides resources for professionals in the education sector who wish to run sustainable, high quality afterschool programs. The web site, located at www.cisnet.org/working_together/afterschool.asp, features key research findings about afterschool programs. Users can access the information they need to build an

afterschool program designed to produce measurable outcomes in student achievement. Users also can identify the core components recommended for success in specialized math and reading enrichment programs, and learn about model programs.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

June 8 – 9 and July 27 – 28, 2006

The America's Promise Alliance will host regional forums to share best practices and encourage greater collaboration within communities to see that all young people have the fundamental resources they need to succeed. The first regional forum will take place on June 8 and 9 in Long Beach, California. On July 27 and 28 there will be a regional forum in Providence, Rhode Island. Forums will be held in Charlotte, North Carolina, Indianapolis, Indiana and Denver, Colorado this fall. *For information and to register, visit www.americaspromise.org/100Best/regionalforums.cfm.*

June 14 – 16, 2006

McREL and the National Partnership for Quality Afterschool Learning will host the PEAK Afterschool Conference in Copper Mountain, Colorado. The conference is geared toward practitioners, program directors, community partners and leaders in the afterschool field. Workshops will provide information on sustainability, youth development, professional development, and more. *For information and to register, visit www.ascentmeetings.com/mcrel.htm.*

July 10 – 12, 2006

The U.S. Department of Education and the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, in conjunction with the National Partnership for Quality Afterschool Learning at the Southwest Educational Development Laboratory, will hold the 21st Century Community Learning Centers 2006 Summer

Institute July 10-12 in San Diego, CA. *For information and to register online, go to www.synergyentinc.com/21stcentury/.*

 **July 17 - 20, 2006**

The National Institute on Out-of-School Time (NIOST) will hold its annual Summer Seminars for afterschool program professionals at the John Hancock Conference Center in Boston. Seminars will offer technical assistance and training and will address issues including professional and organizational development, leadership, funding, curriculum design and quality improvements. *For information, visit www.niost.org/training/sumsem06.html or call 781/283-2546.*

 **July 27 – 29, 2006**

The Community Technology Centers' Network (CTCNet) will host the 15th Annual Community Technology Conference in Washington, DC. The conference includes training workshops, sessions and panels, plus the chance to network with more than 500 individuals in the field of community technology. Afterschool providers and youth development workers are encouraged to attend. *For information, visit www.ctcnet.org/what/conference.*

 **September 20 – 22, 2006**

The North Carolina Center for Afterschool Programs (NC CAP) will host its annual statewide summit, "SYNERGY: Windows of Opportunity," at the Joseph S. Koury Convention Center in Greensboro. *For information, visit www.nccap.net/about/conference.cfm.*

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 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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