



ADVOCATES RISING TO THE CHALLENGE

Afterschool advocates from across the country are making plans to join the Afterschool Alliance for the *6th Annual Afterschool for All Challenge* in Washington, DC on April 23rd and 24th. The two-day program will include special topic forums, networking sessions, a “Breakfast of Champions,” and visits to Capitol Hill to meet with elected officials. Last year’s *Challenge* was a tremendous success with more than 500 educators, advocates and youth networking with colleagues and leaders in the afterschool field, sharing advocacy ideas and meeting with Congressional leaders and mayors from around the country.

“Each year, the *Afterschool for All Challenge* brings together diverse, outstanding individuals who come to Washington, DC to tell their elected officials that afterschool matters to children, to families, to communities and to our country’s future,” said Afterschool Alliance Executive Director Jodi Grant. “From Alaska to Arkansas and all points in between, advocates are coming to speak out and put afterschool front and center on the nation’s agenda.”

On Monday, April 23, advocates will participate in trainings and workshops designed to give them the chance to share ideas and strategies with colleagues from across the country. Workshop topics include “State and Local Opportunities for Afterschool Funding,” “Afterschool in *No Child Left Behind* Reauthorization,” “The Numbers Don’t Lie: Using the Latest

Research to Promote Your Program,” “Rural Afterschool: Successes and Challenges,” and “2008 and Beyond: Afterschool and Elections.” Advocates will also be briefed to help them prepare for meetings with Members of Congress. Youth *Challenge* participants will join special advocacy training sessions and workshops designed specifically for them.

The “Breakfast of Champions” will take place on Tuesday, April 24 on Capitol Hill, and will honor afterschool champions including National Football League star Michael Vick, quarterback for the Atlanta Falcons and a strong supporter of afterschool whose new foundation is supporting afterschool programs in Georgia and Virginia. After the “Breakfast,” advocates will spend the day meeting with their Members of Congress to discuss the ways federal funding increases can make a difference in their communities.

“This is a critical time for advocates to come to Washington and make their voices heard,” Grant added. “The power of hundreds of advocates, communicating their experiences, is enormous.”

Registration for the *Challenge* is filling up quickly so advocates should register soon. For discounted early registration, register before April 6. *For further information, visit www.afterschoolalliance.org/challenge_2007.cfm. Please contact the Alliance at 202/347-2030 or challenge@afterschoolalliance.org with questions.*



FUNDING NEWS

The Afterschool Alliance has numerous resources on its website to help afterschool providers, including tips on initiating new relationships with funders and businesses, and on identifying funding opportunities. *For more information, visit www.afterschoolalliance.org/funding_main.cfm.*

GRANTS/AWARDS AVAILABLE

Grants for Afterschool Fitness

Stride Rite and Saucony are sponsoring grants for programs that initiate and support running and fitness programs for children 18 and under, with a particular focus on programs working with children who are not traditionally exposed to running programs. The deadline is March 30. *For more information, visit <http://www.sauconyrunforgood.com/Application.pdf>.*

Award for Reducing High School Dropouts

The Pew Partnership for Civic Change is currently accepting applications for the 2007 Civic Change Award. The award will honor an individual or organization that has successfully employed community resources in an effort to address the dropout crisis. The deadline is March 31. *For more information, go to <http://www.pew-partnership.org/whatsnew.html>.*

Grants for Promoting Job Skills and Education

The Staples Foundation for Learning is sponsoring grants for projects that support or provide job skills and/or education for all people, with a special emphasis on disadvantaged youth. Project proposals are reviewed quarterly, with the next application deadline on April 6, and the one after that August 3. *For more information, visit <http://www.staplesfoundation.org/foundapplication.html>.*

Awards for Youth Engaged in Community Service

Sponsored by author T.A. Barron, the Gloria Barron Prize for Young Heroes honors ten young leaders who have led, developed and implemented significant service projects in the previous year while demonstrating a positive spirit and high moral purpose. Each winner will receive \$2,000 to be applied to their service projects or higher education. Youth ages eight to 18 may be nominated by unrelated adults. The deadline is April 30. *For more information, visit <http://www.barronprize.org/>.*

Grants for Minority Community Projects

The United Methodist Church is sponsoring the Minority Group Self Determination Fund which provides grants to projects that are initiated and administered by minorities and that support the empowerment of racial and ethnic minorities within or outside the church. Community and ecumenical groups, including afterschool programs, with predominantly minority memberships, may apply. The deadline is May 1. *For more information, visit <http://www.gcorr.org/mgsdf/>.*



34,000 NY CHILDREN COULD LOSE AFTERSCHOOL

Over the last few weeks, New York State Department of Education officials have been informing afterschool programs that expected funding will not be forthcoming. This may result in 207 afterschool programs across the state being closed or facing a severe reduction in services at the end of the school year. The programs currently enroll more than 34,000 children and teens in kindergarten through 12th grade – 20,000 of them in New York City.

The state Education Department was expected to release federal 21st Century Community Learning Center monies to support programs with funding that ends this year, but later decided against holding a competitive round of funding for the 2007-2008 school year.

“New York state legislators can prevent this by spending \$30 million to keep programs open for one more year, while a more permanent funding solution can be found,” said The After-School Corporation President Lucy Friedman. “There’s money in the state budget – a surplus of \$575 million, according to the state’s own budget office. Now there needs to be a political will... To end an afterschool program is to knock out a support beam in the family scaffolding, threatening the ability of many parents to keep their jobs... What’s important is finding a solution that will prevent kids and families from losing the vital supports, services and exciting opportunities that 207 afterschool programs deliver.”

“Unless the Governor and the Legislature act, 34,000 kids – from Buffalo to Long Island and all points in between – are going to lose their after school programs,” added Karen Scharff, Executive Director of Citizen Action of New York and the Chairperson of the Coalition for After-School Funding (CASF). “At a time when the State is committing itself to improving student achievement, and planning to provide more

extended day and after school opportunities, it makes no sense to shut down effective programs.”

State Education Department spokesperson Jonathan Burman told the *Poughkeepsie Journal* that the Department cannot afford to extend funding for the programs that are running out this year. “These are worthwhile programs and we would like to see funding continued, but unless more federal money comes, our hands are tied,” he said.

Some 800 students rallied on March 14 in Albany to save endangered programs. The students traveled from across the state to meet with their lawmakers at the state Capitol to make the case for more afterschool funding. The Afterschool Advocacy Day featured 12 students from around the state who were named Afterschool Youth Ambassadors for the event.



CONGRESSIONAL NEWS ROUND-UP

**** On March 23, the United States Senate passed its Fiscal Year 2008 Budget Resolution**, which adds \$9.2 billion to President Bush’s requested appropriation for education and training programs. The money must still be allocated, and agreed to by the House of Representatives, but Afterschool Alliance Executive Director Jodi Grant called it “an extremely positive development.”

**** Senator Edward M. Kennedy (D-MA) introduced the T-FELAS Act** on March 15 to authorize the U.S. Secretary of Education to award competitive grants to recruit, select, train and support Teaching Fellows for Expanded Learning and Afterschool (T-FELAS) to strengthen expanded learning initiatives and afterschool programs. Co-sponsors include Senators Richard Burr (R-NC), John Kerry (D-MA) and Bernie Sanders (I-VT). In a letter of support, Afterschool

Alliance Executive Director Jodi Grant wrote that this would give “afterschool programs the chance to expand the quality and capacity of services offered in targeted communities. It will give individuals the financial support they need to pursue careers in the afterschool field and to put their training and talents to use serving children and families that need help most.” The Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee will consider next steps for the legislation.

**** The U.S. House of Representatives Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services and Education** held a hearing on appropriations for the U.S. Department of Education on March 12, featuring Education Secretary Margaret Spellings. Both Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro (D-CT) and Nita Lowey (D-NY), who co-chair the House Afterschool Caucus, discussed the need for more federal funding for afterschool programs. Congresswoman Lowey noted that the 21st Century Community Learning Centers initiative is \$20 million smaller now than it was in Fiscal Year 2002.

**** The U.S. House of Representatives Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security** held a hearing on February 15, “Making Communities Safer: Youth Violence and Gang Interventions that Work.” Experts from across the country discussed measures to prevent gangs and crime, recommending more afterschool programs. Ranking Member Randy Forbes (R-VA) said, “There is an enormous need for crime prevention and intervention programs, as well as funding for these programs.” Kansas City, Missouri Chief of Police James Corwin testified, “Afterschool programs are able to connect children to adults and provide constructive activities during the hours of 3 PM to 6 PM – prime time for juvenile crime.” *For more information, go to*

<http://judiciary.house.gov/oversight.aspx?ID=272>.



IN THEIR OWN WORDS...

“Afterschool programs help to keep our kids out of trouble and it was a pleasure to secure this funding and invest in the successful futures of our kids. This program will provide opportunities for kids and allow them to resist the temptation of delinquency.”

-- New York State Senator Michael Nozzolio (R-Fayette), on securing \$50,000 for the development of a teen afterschool program, *US States News*, February 12, 2007

“At 21st Century Academy, students have access to two different afterschool programs where you can receive help with homework and participate in enriching programs about music and art. We need to give parents of students at restructuring schools increased options to get extra help like this.”

-- U.S. Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings, Education Department Documents and Publications, February 15, 2007

“Finally, we must also ensure that our struggling students have more opportunities for in-depth learning and personal attention. This means more quality learning time in schools, access to high-quality learning materials, after school enrichment programs, and tutors.”

-- Bill Gates, co-founder and chairman of Microsoft, testimony before Senate HELP committee, March 7, 2007



IN THE NEWS...

Arizona – Superheroes crowd Tolson Elementary on Tuesdays for the special afterschool program dedicated to comic book

design. Students must bring their reading up to grade level in order to join the popular program, and many advance beyond their grade level with help from this literacy-focused program, reports the *Tucson Citizen*. While at the beginning of the year the program focused on reading fluency, students now are creating their own comics, including one about a superhero “Quesadilla,” by fifth-grader Tempus Horton. It is based on her friend, who brings quesadillas to school for lunch.

California – Students in the Pasadena Unified School District are benefiting from a unique collaboration of community groups, Mustangs on the Move, united with the goal of sharing their expertise with local schoolchildren and together providing afterschool programs for approximately 400 students. Mustangs on the Move serves as an umbrella organization for community nonprofits that offer enrichment opportunities to schools at 12 afterschool sites during lunch and on weekends. According to the *Pasadena Star-News*, activities include video game design, robotics, cooking classes and college visits.

Colorado – The Denver Broncos are increasing their support for the Open Door Youth Gang Alternatives afterschool program through the newly established Darrent Williams Memorial Grant. The \$50,000 grant, matched by \$50,000 from the Morton Publishing Co., is named after the 24-year-old cornerback who was shot and killed on January 1st. According to the *Rocky Mountain News*, the Broncos President and CEO Pat Bowlen said, “We have come to believe in the commitment and devotion of Reverend Leon Kelly to prevent gang violence through the work of Open Door, and it is a wonderful first step in formally memorializing Darrent.”

Minnesota – Preteen girls attending the Minneapolis YWCA’s annual Power Girl

event at Dunwoody College of Technology got hands-on experience working with women carpenters, pipe-fitters, excavators and others in nontraditional jobs. The 2007 gathering marks the seventh year that Minnesota Women in Trades (WIT) collaborates with the YWCA’s Girl Power program, an afterschool program that promotes STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) disciplines among girls. “We think it’s important that, while these girls may not necessarily end up in the trades, they build up a sense of independence for whatever they do as adults,” WIT Co-President Wendy Stuhr told the *Minneapolis Star Tribune*.

Nevada – T-Mobile, NBA Cares, the Boys & Girls Clubs of Las Vegas, the Clark County School District and the After-School All-Stars teamed up to reward industrious students with VIP treatment at the first major competition of the NBA All-Star 2007 game. More than 6,000 of the 11- to 15 year-olds who attended the event had to meet certain criteria including school attendance, community service and reading a specific number of books. The students and their chaperones filled the highly prized seats in the lower bowl of the Thomas & Mack Center and the game was nationally televised.

New Jersey – New York City’s Fashion Week shared some of its most exclusive “tent” space with 28 students from Red Bank High School’s afterschool fashion club. The students – who share a common passion for the industry – had visited previous Fashion Weeks, but had never come close to The Tents at Bryant Park where much of the industry activity is focused. “I’m here today just to get a sense of what it’s like, the career that I want to get into,” Morgan Karalewich, 16, told the *Asbury Park Press*. The students also met with fashion designers and viewed a runway show.

Washington – The Ranier Beach business district will look a bit more colorful thanks to

the designs of students in the Ranier Beach Community Center's afterschool program. The high school artists have created designs that will be publicly voted on, with the top five designs prominently displayed on 25 fabric banners throughout the business district. According to the *Seattle Times*, Ranier Beach High's principal, Robert Gary Jr. was pleased that the afterschool graphic-design class was giving the youth a creative outlet because the school eliminated its technical drawing class two years ago.

Wisconsin – Fourth and fifth graders at the Boys & Girls Club afterschool program at Riverside Elementary are finding unique ways to promote literacy among even younger kids. The students have created a "Traveling Trunk" full of creative promotional ideas involving three popular Dr. Seuss books, including a play and a "Dr. Seuss ABC's" bingo game. The youngsters are presenting their books to kindergarteners. Fourth-grader Bladimir Aviles explained to the *Fond du Lac Reporter*, "the reason they need to learn to read better is to get better jobs."

South Korea – South Korea continues to expand its afterschool opportunities for children, with 98.9 percent of schools in the country operating afterschool programs and 42.6 percent of elementary and secondary students participating. According to the *Korea Herald*, afterschool programs are being promoted as the alternative to costly private education, giving students of lower income families greater exposure to high quality education in afterschool settings. The government currently provides vouchers to 100,000 low income students in urban centers and farming, mountain and fishing villages to attend afterschool programs taught by university students. It hopes to extend the vouchers to 300,000 students this year, officials say. The afterschool programs are flexibly implemented, taking the unique needs of each community into consideration, including transportation.

SAVE THE DATE

The Afterschool Alliance has announced that *Lights On Afterschool* will be Thursday, October 18th this year! It is the only nationwide event celebrating afterschool programs. Last year's event included more than 7,500 rallies. Help us grow this event and send the message that afterschool programs keep kids safe, inspire them to learn, and help working families! *Go to www.afterschoolalliance.org/lights_on/index.cfm for tools and information, and check back often for updates.*

READERGIRLZ DEBUTS

A new online book community geared toward "gutsy girls" in life and literature debuted March 1, launching a national reading campaign, "Today's Girls, Tomorrow's History," in honor of National Women's History Month. The online organization connects critically acclaimed young adult writers with young women in a virtual book club, encouraging empowerment through literature and community service.

Through readergirlz, the authors select and discuss books that portray strong women and girl characters with young women in the online community. They then help guide girls through a community service project related to each book. *Afterschool programs seeking information can visit www.readergirlz.com.*



WV ANNOUNCES STATE NETWORK FUNDING

Afterschool advocates in West Virginia celebrated at the State Capitol in Charleston on February 20th, with the formal announcement of a three-year grant to the

West Virginia University Extension Service from the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation. The goal of the grant is to improve the quantity and quality of afterschool programs throughout the state.

First Lady Gayle Manchin formally recognized the establishment of the West Virginia Afterschool Network at a special ceremony with leaders in the afterschool field in the Governor's Reception Room.

The \$408,000 grant (including matching funds) will be used to support the creation of statewide, regional, and local afterschool partnerships; support statewide efforts to secure resources for new and existing programs; and ensure the high quality of programs. Including West Virginia, there are currently 29 statewide afterschool networks that receive funding and support from the Mott Foundation.



A COVENANT FOR CHILDREN

Released on February 9 and 10 during the State of the Black Union, *I Dream for You a World: A Covenant for Our Children* is a new book that delves into the themes presented in Tavis Smiley's 2006 bestseller, *Covenant With Black America*, developing the ideas for a younger audience. Written by Charisse Carney-Nunes, the book explains the covenant concepts to children through poetry and illustration. It is designed to empower readers and help youth envision a "better tomorrow." The Afterschool Alliance is cited in the book's resource section. *For more information, visit http://www.jamestownproject.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=56&Itemid=45.*



PROJECT 2010: AFTERSCHOOL FOR ALL


This month, *Afterschool for All: Project 2010* totals 9,369 partners. The Afterschool Alliance is interested in hearing how *Project 2010* partners are using *Afterschool for All: Project 2010* to rally support for afterschool.

This month's feature story comes from *Project 2010* partner, Prime Time Palm Beach County Inc., which has been building awareness for afterschool. *Afterschool for All: Project 2010* is one of the many ways it is empowering community members to become afterschool champions. Leaving no stone unturned, Prime Time is using town council meetings, afterschool training sessions, community fairs and other venues to encourage more Floridians to pledge their support through *Afterschool for All: Project 2010*.


Larry Woods, Resource Advocate for Prime Time Palm Beach County, says, "This is going to be an easy task to promote because everyone recognizes that our youth need to be in an environment where they are able to learn, develop and become productive citizens and give back to their community. *Project 2010* is that program which gives opportunity to all citizens to say, 'I support our youth now.'" Prime Time Palm Beach County's goal is to get 5,000 new partners to register support on *Afterschool for All: Project 2010*.

Contact Marie Coichy if you have stories to share via email at mcoichy@afterschoolalliance.org or by phone at 212/548-0309.


Have you visited the *Afterschool for All: Project 2010* website lately? Don't forget to go to the website for a tally of new partners and to see who in your region has pledged their support for afterschool for all youth. Visit us at: www.afterschool2010.org.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS... **April 23 - 24, 2007**


The Afterschool Alliance will host the 2007 *Afterschool for All Challenge*, including the "Breakfast of Champions," in Washington, D.C. Events will be held at the Hilton Washington Hotel. *For more information, visit www.afterschoolalliance.org.*

 **April 30 – May 1, 2007**

The National Institutes of Health will host two regional trainings on the *We Can!* afterschool obesity prevention program with ready-made materials. The first training will take place April 30 and May 1 in South Bend/Gary, Indiana, and the second May 3 and 4 in Roswell, Georgia. *For more information, visit <http://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/health/public/heart/obesity/wecan/>.*


 **May 3 – 4, 2007**

McRel and the National Partnership for Quality Afterschool Learning will host the 3rd annual PEAK (Practices that Engage and Attract Kids) Afterschool Event. The two-day workshop will take place in St. Paul, Minnesota and will feature sessions on homework and technology. *For more information, visit <http://www.mcrel.org/peak/>.*

 **May 8 - 9, 2007**

The After-School Institute of the Safe and Sound Campaign in Baltimore will host the Third Annual Eastern Regional Conference on After-School in Baltimore, Maryland. Topics will include sustainability, rural

programming, school/afterschool partnerships, programming for older youth, and staff recruitment. *For more information, visit www.afterschoolinstitute.org/TASI/aboutn/calendar.aspx.*

 **July 9 - 13, 2007**

The National Institute on Out-of-School Time will sponsor its annual Summer Seminars at the John Hancock Conference Center in Boston, Massachusetts. Seminars include Links to Learning for Middle School; Organizational Development Tools for Strategic Thinking and Planning; Intensive Seminar for System Builders; and Learning How to Use SAYO: The Survey of Afterschool Youth Outcomes. *For more information, go to <http://www.niost.org/training/sumsem07.html>.*

 **October 18, 2007**

The 2007 *Lights On Afterschool* will take place with rallies at afterschool programs across the country. Sponsored by the Afterschool Alliance, *Lights On Afterschool* is the only nationwide event celebrating afterschool programs. *For more information visit http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/lights_on/index.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 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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