



# fterschool Advocate

A media outreach newsletter published by the Afterschool Alliance

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## **FUND AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS, SUPPORTERS URGE CONGRESS**

More than 500 parents, children, educators and advocates from around the country, including more than 100 city officials, mayors and school board members, came to Washington, D.C. on May 13 and 14 to ask Congress to increase funding for afterschool programs and reject a White House proposal that would slash funds and transform the federal afterschool initiative into a risky voucher program.

Organized by the Afterschool Alliance and the National League of Cities, the seventh annual *Afterschool for All Challenge* included a "Breakfast of Champions" on Capitol Hill to honor afterschool champions in Congress, San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom and other city and state leaders, and innovators from across the nation. Advocates also celebrated the 10<sup>th</sup> birthday of 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers (21<sup>st</sup> CCLCs).

"If you want to have a great America in the future, we have to care about our kids and afterschool programs give kids the opportunity that they may not have to find some mentors and to stay out of trouble... As long as I am a U.S. Senator, I will be a champion of afterschool programs," Senator John Ensign (R-NV), Senate Afterschool Caucus Co-Chair told afterschool supporters at the "Breakfast."

"Especially in bad economic times, where parents are working one, two, three jobs, this [21<sup>st</sup> CCLC] program is essential to them. They love their children, they care about their children, but in order to survive they have to work all these jobs... I really don't

understand why the President has recommended a cut of \$300 million when we should be funding it at the \$2.5 [billion] authorized level," added House Afterschool Caucus Co-Chair Rep. Nita Lowey (D-NY). "Together we will send a strong message that afterschool is essential."

Senators Thad Cochran (R-MS), Ben Nelson (D-NE) and Jack Reed (D-RI), as well as Representatives Patrick Kennedy (D-RI) and Ralph Regula (R-OH), also spoke at the "Breakfast," as did Food Network star Tyler Florence and Providence Mayor David Cicilline.

This year also marks the 10<sup>th</sup> birthday of 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers. In honor of the event, An-Me Chung of the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation and Afterschool Alliance Board Chair Terry Peterson paid tribute to former U.S. Secretary of Education Richard W. Riley, a principal architect of the initiative, who attended the event. "Ten years ago, there were only ten schools in America out of 80,000 that had community learning centers," Peterson said. "Today, there are 10,000. Probably more than two million parents are worrying a bit less between 3 and 5:30 pm."

At the event, a giant mural of a birthday cake decorated with birthday cards from youth in afterschool programs across the country was displayed.

After the "Breakfast of Champions," students, parents and afterschool leaders met with hundreds of members of Congress and aides to discuss the benefits afterschool programs provide. They urged Congress to increase support for quality afterschool programs and to reject the President's proposal to cut \$281 million from the federal  
*Continued on page eleven...*

## OUTREACH

Like many programs that provide social and educational services, afterschool programs from coast to coast are coping with tight budgets and proposed or actual cuts. At the *Afterschool for All Challenge*, a group of Afterschool Ambassadors gathered to discuss innovative ways to cope and to maintain services during tough economic times. Some of their strategies they are using with lawmakers, supporters and the media:

- Lander, Wyoming providers are examining the lost workforce revenue when families cannot afford to work, or even move to the community, because there are not enough afterschool programs. They will share the data widely.
- Columbia, South Carolina afterschool community members are creating toolkits to help providers educate the community about the role afterschool plays in preventing drop-outs.
- Eureka Springs, Arkansas afterschool leaders are educating the community about their work in making parents more successful through asset management and family budgets.
- Colorado Springs, Colorado providers are highlighting for policy makers the support they provide to military families – especially mental health services during transition periods and deployments.
- Toledo, Ohio providers are addressing high gas prices and transportation costs by exploring ways to provide services closer to home, which would allow youth to walk to programs. They are looking into creating a “fun bus,” loaded with art supplies, sporting equipment and more, that can travel to hard-to-reach communities.
- Minneapolis, Minnesota advocates are leveraging funding by seeking in-kind donations to match each dollar received through traditional sources.
- Iola, Kansas providers are sharing the news about their successes. With support from county commissioners, they are providing mental health and dental services to students who otherwise would go without.

## AFTERSCHOOL FOR ALL

The *Afterschool for All Challenge* brought hundreds of advocates to the nation's capital in support of the goal of afterschool for all children and youth. Thanks to so many *Afterschool for All* partners for supporting the event!

In honor of the *Challenge*, the National League of Cities made a call to action for more city leaders to join the *Afterschool for All* effort. As a result, the Afterschool Alliance is pleased to report that several mayors, council members and other city leaders have signed on to become *Afterschool for All* partners.

You too can share this call to action with your community. Encourage your friends, family and colleagues to become *Afterschool for All* partners. Use the sample invitation emails available at [www.afterschool2010.org](http://www.afterschool2010.org). If you have questions or comments, please contact Marie Coichy, Project Manager, Afterschool Alliance at 646/943-8662 or [mcoichy@afterschoolalliance.org](mailto:mcoichy@afterschoolalliance.org).



## FUNDING NEWS

The Afterschool Alliance's website has resources for afterschool providers, including tips for initiating relationships with funders and businesses, and for identifying funding opportunities. *To learn more, visit [www.afterschoolalliance.org/funding\\_main.cfm](http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/funding_main.cfm).*

### GRANTS/AWARDS AVAILABLE

#### Grants for Youth Environmental Projects

Youth Venture, the Earth Island Institute and Dr. Seuss Enterprises are sponsoring Lorax Challenge grants to support environmental projects that are created and led by youth ages 12 to 20. Projects should have an adult member, and not be one-time events. Grants are up to \$1,000 each. The application deadline is May 31. *For more information, visit <http://genv.net/en-us/lorax>.*

#### Grants Promoting Access to Art

The U.S. National Endowment for the Arts is sponsoring Challenge America: Reaching Every Community Fast-Track Review Grants. The grants are intended for small and medium-sized organizations to extend the reach of the arts to underserved populations, including youth whose opportunities to experience the arts are limited by geography, ethnicity, economics or disability. Each grant is for \$10,000. The application deadline is June 2. *For more information, visit <http://www.arts.gov/grants/apply/GAP09/Challenge.html>.*

#### Grants for Learning, Health and Girls' Empowerment

Mattel and the Mattel Children's Foundation are sponsoring grants that support projects related to literacy, healthy, active lifestyles, and girls' empowerment and self-esteem building. Grants range from \$5,000 to \$25,000. The application deadline is July 15. *For more information, visit [www.mattel.com/About\\_Us/Philanthropy/ci\\_mcf\\_philanthropy\\_grantmaking.asp](http://www.mattel.com/About_Us/Philanthropy/ci_mcf_philanthropy_grantmaking.asp).*

#### Grants for Native American Financial Education

The First Nations Development Institute is sponsoring Little Staff Eagle Fund grants to support the growth of nonprofit organizations based on Native American reservations that educate future users of financial services and products. Approximately four to six grants of \$45,000 each will be awarded. The application deadline is August 15. *For more information, visit <http://www.firstnations.org/gLittleEagle.asp>.*

#### Grants for Recycling Projects

Best Buy is sponsoring the Best Buy Recycling Grant Program to help increase recycling opportunities for communities across the country. Grants ranging from \$500 to \$1,500 are intended to augment funding for events already planned, with priority given to electronics recycling events. There is no application deadline. *For more information, visit [http://www.e4partners.com/grant\\_info.htm](http://www.e4partners.com/grant_info.htm).*



## MAYORS SUPPORT AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS

Why do mayors across the country support afterschool programs so strongly? At the *Afterschool for All Challenge*, several mayors answered that question and shared their strategies for supporting afterschool programs in their cities.

With one in five Grand Rapids, Michigan children living in poverty and 81 percent of public school students enrolled in the free and reduced lunch program, Mayor George Heartwell said the need for afterschool programs in his city is great. Working parents need afterschool, he said. To provide funds, Mayor Heartwell created a City Fund for Children that taxpayers can support by checking a box on their income tax form. This initiative began with a city resolution to support a children's agenda in 2007, and is not the only source of afterschool funding in the city.

Like Grand Rapids, Omaha is a mid-sized city with a great need for afterschool. Mayor Mike Fahey became an advocate after attending a women's conference, at which he learned that 75 percent of women in Omaha work outside of the home. He then brought together service providers to assess the need and determine how the city could help. It began by asking the University of Nebraska to conduct a study, which found that transportation and middle school initiatives were lacking.

Out of the study came the Building Bright Futures Initiative, a comprehensive public-private partnership that seeks to improve the quality of life for Omaha's youth and has a strong focus on afterschool. The initiative is funded in part by a \$2 million juvenile justice grant, and generous support from the Sherwood Foundation. The Mayor has a staff person dedicated to working on afterschool issues.

Omaha had acquired sufficient federal and private funding, Mayor Fahey said, to support the programs, noting that media reports on the

impact of poverty and isolation on children had a tremendous impact on local lawmakers, convincing many to support afterschool. Mayor Fahey credits a "strong will on behalf of policy makers and the voices of the advocates" as crucial to raising awareness and generating broad-based support.

Both mayors say it is essential to diversify funding sources to ensure sustainability, especially in a tough economic climate. Mayor Heartwell said that, for several years before the hard times affected the entire nation, Michigan was experiencing a recession. "If during that time afterschool programs had depended on municipal or school funding, they would have collapsed," he noted. "The diverse funding base we've been able to attract has been critical to sustaining programs."

Mayor Heartwell recommends that mayors: use their State of the City addresses to set new goals and establish agendas for children; set city goals for children and youth; provide leadership for afterschool initiatives; prioritize city funds to support afterschool; and prioritize advocacy for afterschool at the state and federal levels.

For more information, visit [www.grcity.us/ourchildren](http://www.grcity.us/ourchildren) and [www.buildingbrightfutures.net/](http://www.buildingbrightfutures.net/).



## YOUTH LEADERS SPEAK OUT AT CHALLENGE

Three extraordinary young people were chosen to travel to Washington, D.C., as part of the *Afterschool for All Challenge* to tell lawmakers what afterschool programs mean to them and their families. Lakeland, Florida high school junior Jamia Gary; Milwaukie, Oregon eighth grader Brandon Brown; and Lake Washington, Washington seventh grader Jaida Morgan spent May 13 and 14 in the nation's capital learning about advocacy and urging Congress to increase funding for

afterschool programs. Bright House Networks sponsored the trip for Gary, and T-Mobile USA sponsored the trips for Brown and Morgan.

Gary, 16, of the John Sanders Boys & Girls Clubs said that her participation in afterschool has improved her attitude and engaged her in community service. Gary was experiencing problems at home and first went to the Boys & Girls Club at age 11. She was encouraged by her mentor, who accompanied her to the “Breakfast.” At first she was apprehensive, but she quickly became engaged. She now hopes to build a career in the nursing field. “Thank you to everyone in this room for believing in me,” she said.

Brown, 13, credited the Juvenile Assistance Corporation EXCEL Club with reversing his downward spiral. Prior to joining the program, Brown said he was getting failing grades. Because of the program, he is now passing. Brown encouraged a friend who also was failing in school to join the program, and now both have improved academically. “My afterschool program has really helped me raise my grades and actually enjoy school, and now my mom and I don’t argue about school work,” he said.

“Afterschool programs mean a lot to me,” said Morgan, 12. She is frustrated, however, because when she turned 12 and moved on to middle school, she “aged out” of her former program and is still too young to join the “teen” program, which is open to 14-year-olds. “We need to have a program that takes care of children, teens and in-betweens,” she told the room filled with parents, legislators and advocates, receiving a hearty round of applause.

After the “Breakfast of Champions,” each student attended a series of meetings with the congressional delegations from their states. They shared their experiences and explained the urgent need to increase funding for afterschool programs.

## REACHING OLDER YOUTH

With funding tight and few afterschool programs in a position to do more than meet the needs of the elementary and middle school children they already serve, many older youth have no programs available to them after the school day ends. Still, increased emphasis on the dropout crisis has led to an increased focus on finding ways to serve older students. At the *Afterschool for All Challenge*, experts presented a workshop on how best to do that.

“Meeting the Needs of Older Youth: Leveraging the Hours After School to Boost Success in School and Life,” began with a mock debate between two graduates of the Baltimore Urban Debate League (BUDL). Trinya Smith is a graduate of Towson University and executive director and founder of Hip Hop Congress Baltimore. Shawntia Diggs is a graduating senior at Towson. Both are involved in BUDL and coach their own teams.

“The flexibility of the debate program is its power,” said Pam Spiliadis, founding executive director of BUDL, said, adding that the debate program has generated tremendous enthusiasm among students and is successful because it does not force them to adhere to a regimented schedule at a time in their lives when they are trying to balance work, other extra curricular activities, and social opportunities. “It creates different pathways for them to stay involved while they develop other interests.”

Smith and Diggs added that the debate program helped them hone their research and analytical skills, and gave them self confidence. Students in their programs look to the debate team for support and camaraderie, which is critical as youth age.

Shannon Bishop, Afterschool Ambassador and founding Director of the Cooperative for Afterschool Enrichment in Houston, said that her organization’s recent Out-of-School-Time Conference for High School Providers allowed providers to share experiences and discuss promising practices. We need a



“change in paradigm” about educating older youth that takes into account their unique needs, she said.

Roslind Blasingame-Buford, Afterschool Ambassador and Associate Executive Director of Chicago’s BUILD, Inc. said that, in order to reach older youth, programs must have a fluid structure and allow space for youth to “just hang out.” She said respect, trust and relationship building are key components of a successful program. Students should be allowed to focus on their personal needs and interests, because if they are bored they will not stay. “Motivate students to be your program ambassadors,” she said. “Word of mouth is key.”

Other workshops at the *Afterschool for All Challenge* highlighted city and state afterschool partnerships, new research on costs and financing of afterschool, and the importance of summer programs. A workshop on the role afterschool plays in supporting health and wellness of youth was moderated by a representative of the United States Tennis Association, a sponsor of the *Afterschool for All Challenge*, and featured Mayor Otis Johnson of Savannah, Georgia and representatives from the Alliance for a Healthier Generation, A World Fit for Kids, and the Washington Tennis and Education Foundation.

*For more information on older youth and afterschool, see the Alliance’s Issue Brief #25 “Afterschool Programs: Helping Kids Compete in Tomorrow’s Workforce,” available at [http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/issue\\_br.cfm](http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/issue_br.cfm).*



## IN THEIR OWN WORDS AT THE “BREAKFAST OF CHAMPIONS”...

“Our children deserve better. We, as a country, cannot rest until quality afterschool is available to all.”

-- Providence, Rhode Island Mayor David Cicilline

“I am delighted to be associated with all of you and to help develop a bigger and better [21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Center] program... Hopefully we can continue to support your efforts with general appropriations.”

-- Senator Thad Cochran (R-MS)

“I am really impressed with what’s happening in afterschool programs in San Francisco and around the country.”

-- Celebrity Chef and Food Network Star Tyler Florence

“Parents, children and communities rely on afterschool programs to keep kids safe, inspire them to learn and help working families. But federal funding isn’t keeping up with demand, and President Bush proposes to cut federal afterschool funding even further. All kids need the opportunities that afterschool programs provide. Bipartisan support in Congress defeated the last proposed cut to afterschool programs, and we are seeking bipartisan support again this year so we can counter the President’s proposal and bring quality afterschool programs to all children who need them.”

-- Jodi Grant, Executive Director, Afterschool Alliance

“Mayors understand the importance of afterschool. They understand that our young people cannot get the skills that they need to be productive members of city workforces and compete in the global economy from eight to three alone... The challenge for all of

us this morning is to make sure our federal leaders get it.”

-- Clifford Johnson, Executive Director, Institute for Youth, Education and Families, National League of Cities

“We talk a great game about young people, we always say ‘they’re our future.’ But in this town when it comes to fighting for the dollars, there’s a lot of talk but there’s not a lot of action. That’s why the squeaky wheel gets the grease. And you all are here today because you want to squeak and shout and yell that young people... need to get the investment... to be strong adults... If our country’s going to remain strong, these kids are going to have to be strong.”

-- Representative Patrick Kennedy (D-RI)

“This is a wonderful occasion for us to be here today to recognize and celebrate the importance of afterschool programs. I am happy as a member of the Afterschool Caucus and the Senate Appropriations Committee to be able to support the funding of afterschool programs through the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers as well as through direct funding by the appropriations process.”

-- Senator Ben Nelson (D-NE)

“Thank you for believing in your community. Thank you for believing that we can step up and step in where others have walked away.”

-- San Francisco, California Mayor Gavin Newsom

“We have lots of children in this country who are without supervision in the afternoons; their parents both work or they are the son or daughter of a single parent... [Afterschool] is not just custodial care, this is an investment in their education. Last year the Senate Appropriations Committee, which I have the privilege of serving on, appropriated over a billion dollars to funding for FY08. Unfortunately, the President’s budget reduces that by \$281 million. That’s what I call the

wrong priority... We’re going to work hard to reverse that.”

-- Senator Jack Reed (D-RI)

“My thanks to all of you who are vitally important to afterschool programs. You have no idea how many lives you touch with these inspirational opportunities... I want to say thank you on behalf of the young people whose lives are improved, whose ability to be contributing, good citizens is greatly enhanced by what each of you do in your communities. These young people as a result of your afterschool leadership will be better citizens, more likely to contribute to the quality of life in their communities, will be better parents, will be better all the way around.”

-- Representative Ralph Regula (R-OH)



## TOP CHEF SERVES IT UP FOR AFTERSCHOOL

On May 1, celebrity chef Joey Altman, star of the long-running San Francisco cooking show “Bay Café,” shared his recipes and talents with students at the Brainfood afterschool program in Washington, D.C. He was in town on a tour to promote his new cookbook, “Without Reservations.”

“Chef Joey” worked with 17 high school students who attend the program and two alumni to cook five recipes from “Without Reservations.” The young people chopped, sliced, diced, marinated, stirred, grilled, steamed and sautéed dishes that they later enjoyed. They also prepped food for a cooking demonstration that “Chef Joey” conducted for Washington, D.C. area Afterschool Alliance supporters later that evening.

Brainfood students prepared: Salt and Pepper Shrimp; Grilled Steak Texarkana Hand Rolls; Cauliflower and Roasted Garlic Soup with Parmesan Croutons; Perfect

Carbona (a spaghetti dish) served with truffle oil; and Bananas Foster – without the rum.

The students were delighted to work with “Chef Joey” and declared the afternoon a great – and tasty – success. Altman’s wife, Jaemie Ballesteros Altman, serves on the Afterschool Alliance’s Board of Directors.



## NOMINATIONS OPEN FOR WILLIAM S. WHITE AWARDS!

In recognition of the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary year of 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers (21<sup>st</sup> CCLCs), the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation will honor exemplary 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC programs at the 2008 Summer Institute in Dallas, Texas. The William S. White Achievement Award honors individuals working to serve children, schools and communities. The award was established in 2005 and first given to the person for whom it is named, William S. White. It will be given to exemplary 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC programs this year in honor of the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC.

Nominated programs must have been, or must currently be, recipients of a 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC grant. A panel of experts will evaluate the nominations based on:

- Sustainability, including diversity of funding sources and stakeholders, as well as planning for the future
- Quality, including staff development, student and staff interaction, evaluation and continuous improvement
- Partnerships and collaboration
- Degree to which the program meets the goals of the 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC initiative, including student academic and personal growth

To nominate a program, you must have directly observed the program in the last 12 months and cannot be an employee.

*Please complete the nomination and application forms, available at <http://www.sei2003.com/21stcentury/ProgramNomForm.doc> and send them together via email to Sean Grobe at [21stcentury@sei2003.com](mailto:21stcentury@sei2003.com) by 5:00 pm EST on Monday, June 2. Videos of the nominated program may be included. Winners will be notified by June 15, and will be invited to receive their award at the 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC Summer Institute on July 17.*

*Please contact Shawn Stelow at 202/205-1656 or [shawn.stelow@ed.gov](mailto:shawn.stelow@ed.gov) with questions.*



## IN THE NEWS...

**National** – Officials from the U.S. Treasury Department and bankers from across the country visited schools and afterschool programs to teach elementary and high school students the importance of saving money. The 12<sup>th</sup> annual Teach Children to Save Day took place on April 29. *For more information, visit <http://aba.com/ABAEF/teachchildrentosave.htm>.*

**Colorado** – The Colorado Symphony Orchestra played alongside a distinguished group of youngsters in a special *Cinco de Mayo* concert at Boettcher Hall, reports the *Denver Post*. The students are part of Mariachi Juvenil, an afterschool program that serves predominantly low-income Latino students, teaching them to play mariachi music six days per week. The program held numerous tryouts for the coveted nine spots on the stage. “Our kids don’t have as many outside experiences as kids in higher socioeconomic backgrounds,” said Pamela Liñon, Bryant-Webster Principal. “This is just huge.” The Mexican Consulate in Denver helped organize the event.



**Hawaii** – More and more public schools in the state are cutting back on traditional summer school offerings, according to the *Honolulu Advertiser*. Officials from the state Department of Education attribute the change to a shorter summer calendar and a wide variety of alternative options throughout the school year, including afterschool programs, evening classes, online learning and extended school days that offer enrichment opportunities.

**Illinois** – Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley announced a new city initiative during his annual City of Chicago address that will expand summer job opportunities for 1,000 young people. The initiative will work through After School Matters, the Park District and leading corporations, and will be funded through \$1.5 million in municipal funds. The initiative includes an expansion of the NeighborSports Program, which will operate on Friday and Saturday nights at 20 sites in high crime neighborhoods. It will allow After School Matters and other programs to offer arts, computer learning, sports and more to 140,000 youth, according to *US States News*.

**Kentucky** – Two Fairview High School students in Westwood recently brought the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital Rally Against Childhood Cancer to budding afterschool advocates for their support. Each of the 40 youngsters brought a list of 25 family members, friends and neighbors to the program, and prepared fundraising letters for each. They ultimately sent out 1,000 fundraising letters. The students signed their letters, stuffed envelopes and mailed each, under the direction of the high school freshmen, reports the *Daily Independent*.

**Ohio** – America SCORES Cleveland sponsored an anti-violence rally that drew more than 250 students and teachers, and resulted in more than 1,000 pledges signed by students vowing never to bring guns to school

or use them to settle disputes. Students wore their soccer uniforms as they marched down St. Clair Avenue shouting “no more guns.” “Every day we are losing thousands of people to shootings,” Dunbar seventh grader Jasmine Russell told the *Cleveland Plain Dealer*. “My two cousins got locked up this year for shooting guns. I want them to realize that guns aren't cool.”

**Texas** – Houston Mayor Bill White and Houston Astros All Star Jeff Bagwell were among those supporting Prepared 4 Life's (P4L) city-wide Lemonade Day on May 4, where youth organized and operated lemonade stands. “Lemonade Day is all about teaching young people the fundamentals of business and financial management. They learn how to create budgets, secure investors, select a site, purchase supplies, set prices, serve customers, set profit-making goals, repay their investors, and give back to the community or charity of their choice. For many young people, Lemonade Day offers them their first experience in earning their own money and opening a bank account,” said P4L Co-Founder Michael Holthouse. More than 10,000 stands were set up across the metropolitan area and earnings went to fund field trips, purchase uniforms, and a portion was donated to purchase a generator for a school in the West African Republic of Liberia. *For more information, visit [www.lemonadeday.org](http://www.lemonadeday.org).*



## FOOTBALL STAR “HUDDLES UP” FOR KIDS IN DC

Washington Redskins legend Charles Mann joined 150 Washington, D.C. based T-Mobile employee volunteers on May 12 to transform Orr Elementary School and the Boys & Girls Club into places that kids would look forward to going afterschool. The

resulting *T-Mobile Huddle Up Zone* is a unique space for kids to study and socialize.

Volunteers refreshed the facility, painting colorful murals, landscaping and revitalizing the exterior. Volunteers also created a running track in the playfield and created a kickball field.

The event was part of *T-Mobile Huddle Up*, T-Mobile's national community outreach program, connecting kids from high-need, urban communities, to positive people, places and programs



## STEP UP FOR KIDS

Every Child Matters is sponsoring a nationwide rally to draw attention to issues affecting the nation's children, including poverty, health care, juvenile incarceration, early care and learning, child abuse and afterschool. The "Step Up for Kids Day" will take place on September 16. The event aims to bring children's issues to the forefront of the 2008 election.

Organizers are coordinating rallies with parents, students and community advocates on the steps of the capitol buildings in all 50 states to draw attention to issues that matter to children, families and communities. Famed pediatrician Dr. T. Berry Brazelton will kick off the events at the National Press Club on September 16. *To sign up for the event and find out more about the state rallies, visit <http://www.everychildmatters.org/>.*



## YOUTH PSA COMPETITION

By Kids for Kids and DoSomething.org are encouraging youth to discover the social issue or cause that matters most to them and then "Do Something" to raise awareness about it. Youth are invited to create Public Service Announcements (PSAs) for the "Advertise Your Cause" Media Challenge.

Organizers will award the most clever and powerful PSA that has the broadest impact.

Contest winners will receive \$10,000 and national media exposure for the winning PSA. The deadline is August 31. The competition is open to students ages five through 19 who have not yet graduated from high school. *For more information, visit <http://www.bkfk.com/Modules/Competition/Competition.aspx?section=sayit>.*

## CALIFORNIA UPDATE

### Trainings Available to All California Programs

The California School Age Consortium has added four new trainings to its list of more than 25 training modules that are available free to all California afterschool providers. The new modules include Integrating Academics and Enrichment, Focus on Language Arts/Literacy, Focus on Mathematics and Focus on Science. *For more information on these and all trainings and to sign up, visit <http://www.calsac.org/training/agency>.*

## INTERNATIONAL STUDY ON YOUTH SPIRITUALITY

Minneapolis-based Search Institute is leading an international research effort to investigate how young people ages 12 to 25 think about and use spirituality in their daily lives. The Search Institute treats spirituality as a broad concept that includes both religious and non-religious beliefs, and the survey is designed to capture many different cultural concepts, beliefs and attitudes. All youth, religious or not, are encouraged to take it. The survey will be administered in the United States, Australia, Canada, Ghana, Thailand, Ukraine and other countries, making it the largest effort of this sort ever undertaken.

The New England Network, a research partner in the study, is sponsoring some pizza parties for groups of five or more young people who take the survey. To explore the availability of "pizza money" and/or to receive paper surveys, contact Melanie Wilson at [mwilson@nenetwork.org](mailto:mwilson@nenetwork.org) or 603/778-6010. To take the survey online, visit [http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=9sDS\\_2feDeifGFX2BHP6Fq2w\\_3d\\_3d](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=9sDS_2feDeifGFX2BHP6Fq2w_3d_3d).



## RESOURCE

### Internet Safety and Community Values

Children's Way, which helps children achieve balanced living by using the Internet positively, building family strength and serving the community, has a new online resource. Woogie World is a free online program for youth in kindergarten through sixth grade designed to teach internet safety. It involves children in character building activities online, using a system of points and prizes to encourage them to practice what they've learned in the community as "goodwill ambassadors." For more information, visit <http://www.woogiworld.com/>.



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afterschool budget next year, which would result in 300,000 students losing access to afterschool programs. The *No Child Left Behind Act* authorized \$2.5 billion for the federal 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers initiative this year, and it is currently funded at just \$1.1 billion.

Other afterschool champions honored at the event were: Maxine Quintana, Denver, Colorado, Mayor's Office for Education and Children; Savannah, Georgia Mayor Otis Johnson; Boise, Idaho Mayor David Bieter; Linda Robinson, Kentucky Department of Education; Kacy Conley, YMCA of Central

Maryland in Baltimore; Grand Rapids, Michigan Mayor George Heartwell; St. Paul, Minnesota Mayor Christopher Coleman; Missouri State Representative Danie Moore; Omaha, Nebraska Mayor Mike Fahey; New Hampshire State Senator Kathleen Sgambati; New York City Commissioner of the Department of Youth and Community Development Jeanne Mullgray; Charlotte, North Carolina City Council Member James Mitchell; Pennsylvania State Representative Jake Wheatley; Columbia, South Carolina Mayor Bob Coble; and Morgantown, West Virginia Mayor Ron Justice.

The Afterschool Alliance and MetLife Foundation presented the first-ever MetLife Afterschool Innovator Awards. The awardees are profiled in *Afterschool Innovations in Brief*, a series of Issue Briefs developed by the Afterschool Alliance with funding from MetLife Foundation. They are: LA's BEST in California; The After-School Corporation in New York; Lincoln Community Learning Centers in Nebraska; and The Native Youth Club in South Dakota.

Advocates who could not travel to Washington participated from home by calling and emailing their members of Congress.

To view photos of the Challenge, visit [http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/challenge\\_2008.cfm](http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/challenge_2008.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.discountsschoolsupply.com](http://www.discountsschoolsupply.com). Or mention it when you call 1-800-627-2829 to place an order.

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS...

### July 14 – 17, 2008

The National Institute for Out of School Time (NIOST) will host its annual summer seminar in Boston, Massachusetts. Seminar topics include Advancing School, Afterschool and Community Partnerships; Quality Advisor Training; System Building; and Afterschool Program Assessment System. The seminars are in-depth, research-based events designed to empower providers with the tools necessary to elevate their programs. *For more information, visit*  
<http://www.niost.org/sumsem08.html>.

### July 15 – 17, 2008

The U.S. Department of Education and the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, in conjunction with the JCPenney Afterschool Fund, are sponsoring the 21st Century Community Learning Centers Summer Institute in Dallas, Texas. *For more information, visit*  
[www.sei2003.com/21stcentury/index.htm](http://www.sei2003.com/21stcentury/index.htm).

### August 15 – 17, 2008

The Center for Afterschool Education and Arcadia University are sponsoring Teaching and Learning in Out-of-School-Time on the Arcadia University Campus in Glenside, Pennsylvania. Afterschool leaders attending the Institute who complete three online courses and a practicum will receive three units in an Arcadia University Graduate Certificate in Afterschool Education. *For more information, visit*  
<http://www.caceafterschool.org/events/institute.php>.

**\*\* And mark your calendars now for the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual *Lights On Afterschool* on October 16, 2008!**

***More information on upcoming conferences and events is available at***  
***[www.afterschoolalliance.org/states/calendar\\_main.cfm](http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/states/calendar_main.cfm)***.




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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. More information is available at [www.afterschoolalliance.org](http://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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 Phone: 202/371-1999; Fax: 202/371-9142; E-mail: [advocate@afterschoolalliance.org](mailto:advocate@afterschoolalliance.org).

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