



NEWS RELEASE
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Have You Seen This Poster?

Dozens of children flash enthusiastic smiles on a colorful new poster promoting the fifth annual *Lights On Afterschool* national rally. The construction paper light bulbs featured on the poster, crafted by students at previous years' *Lights On Afterschool* events, bear messages from children and parents urging lawmakers to "keep the lights on after school." Forty thousand of these light bulbs were delivered to Congress in May to underscore the importance of federal funding for afterschool programs. Organized by the Afterschool Alliance, *Lights On Afterschool* will be October 14 this year.

On that day, afterschool supporters will celebrate *Lights On Afterschool* in every corner of the country. Events run the gamut from state capitol rallies to family game nights to community carnivals to potluck suppers to academic displays. Local organizers are hanging the posters in schools, supermarkets, libraries, community centers, afterschool programs and elsewhere to invite community members to participate. Again this year, more than 5,000 sites are expected to hold *Lights On Afterschool* events.

California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger is the National Chair of *Lights On Afterschool* – a position he has held since 2001. The Charles Stewart Mott Foundation is the 2004 rally's National Presenting Sponsor, and the JCPenney Afterschool Fund is a National Sponsor of the event. The David and Lucile Packard Foundation and the Open Society Institute are providing additional support. A preliminary list of *Lights On Afterschool* events around the country is available at www.afterschoolalliance.org.

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 the year 2010. More information is available at www.afterschoolalliance.org.

The Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, established in 1926 in Flint, Michigan, by an automotive pioneer, is a private philanthropy committed to supporting projects that promote a just, equitable and sustainable society. More information is available at www.mott.org.

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Add One

JCPenney Afterschool is committed to helping provide children with high-quality, affordable after-school programs to help them reach the “power of their potential.” The JCPenney Afterschool Fund is a nonprofit, 501(c)(3) organization. JCPenney Afterschool has contributed more than \$34 million during the past five years to five of America’s leading after-school advocates. JCPenney Afterschool’s support helps provide safe, fun and educational after-school programs and raise awareness of the need for more such programs across the country.

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NOTE: A 2004 *Lights On Afterschool* poster is enclosed.