



NEWS RELEASE
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Bright House Networks Launches New Cable Television Program about Afterschool Programs

30-Minute Show Focuses on Afterschool's Impact in Communities Across the Nation

Washington, DC ---- A new cable television program produced by Bright House Networks, a cable provider in Alabama, California, Florida, Indiana and Michigan, focuses on the transformative effect afterschool programs have on children.

“After the School Bell Rings 2,” a 30-minute show, began airing on Bright House cable television on October 22 in conjunction with the national celebration of *Light On Afterschool*. A follow-up to a 2008 Bright House program focused on Florida afterschool programs, this new program takes viewers to seven communities across the nation to tell the very personal stories of children whose lives have been changed by afterschool programs.

The stories feature children from seven communities in five states, Alabama, California, Florida, Indiana and Michigan. Excerpts of each program are now available on the [Bright House website](#) or on [YouTube](#).

“We’re thrilled that Bright House has produced this wonderfully moving program on afterschool and the ways it changes the lives of children and their families,” said Afterschool Alliance Executive Director Jodi Grant. “The program captures beautifully what makes afterschool so important: afterschool programs keep kids safe, inspire them to learn, and help working families. Bright House is a terrific corporate partner in the march toward afterschool for all, and this production is an outstanding contribution – real evidence of their commitment to the effort.”

The seven stories in “After the School Bell Rings 2”:

Bradenton, Florida: Miguel Ulloa, 23 years old, remembers when he was 14 years old and on the wrong path. He got involved at the Palmetto Boys & Girls Club and credits his involvement with the program for his ability to turn his life around. Instead of being in jail, where Miguel believes he would otherwise have been, he is now a certified Dental Hygiene Assistant pursuing further education on the path to becoming a dentist.

Farmington Hills, Michigan: Lauryn Johnson and Lauren Savage, both 13 years old, were nominated by their city-run afterschool program and selected by Bright House Networks as

Michigan Afterschool Youth Leaders. Together, they attended the Afterschool Alliance's *Afterschool for All Challenge* in Washington, D.C. this past April. They met there with local Members of Congress to discuss the importance of afterschool, and spoke at the Breakfast of Champions alongside U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan. Farmington Hills City Council Members made a strategic decision to continue funding afterschool programs, the recession notwithstanding, and have seen the benefits of their investment. Officials say they have lower crime during the afternoon hours and are gang-free, achievements they credit to afterschool programming.

Birmingham, Alabama: Linda Martin is an educator, a single mother to seven adopted children of diverse backgrounds, some with special needs. The Grantswood Community School Afterschool Program provides her children with a safe place, while offering special needs kids the attention they need during after school hours.

Brandon, Florida: Johnnie Mae Scott adopted her grandkids to give them a proper upbringing. She works two jobs, one at the local Boys & Girls Club, and relies on the safe place Boys & Girls Clubs provide for her grandchildren afterschool. Her granddaughter, 17-year-old Ashley Simmons, is the *Youth of the Year* for the Boys & Girls Clubs of Tampa Bay. Says Ashley of her afterschool program: "The Boys & Girls Clubs is kind of cool. They have computer labs, and game rooms, a huge gym, snacks. And what else could you ask for? ... It really opened my eyes to see how many people are actually watching you and the way your attitude is, especially little kids. You're like a role model to them..."

Leesburg, Florida: The Walls family depends on free afterschool care for 8-year-old Hunter and 10-year-old Jenna, because it's the only way the family can make ends meet. Both attend the Genesis Program, an afterschool program run by the First Baptist Church of Leesburg. There, they get state-of-the-art educational activities, homework help, games and fun activities, and a healthy snack. Hunter credits his improvement in reading to the support he receives afterschool.

Indianapolis, Indiana: Jeremy Satisfield was well on his way to being kicked out of the summer program at the YMCA of Indianapolis because of behavior problems, when Alice Weber, the Y's Sports and Family Director, decided Jeremy was not going to fail on her watch. She met with him and together created a rewards program to help modify his behavior. A year later, Jeremy is a role model for other kids with behavior challenges. Jeremy's parents, Glenda and Dean Ewing, credit his involvement at the YMCA for a complete shift in his attitude, his behavior, and his overall outlook on life.

Bakersfield, California: Gregory Quintero attended the local Police Activities League afterschool program, and was selected by Bright House Networks to represent Bakersfield at the Afterschool Alliance's *Afterschool for All Challenge* event in Washington, D.C. this past April. While there, he met with his local Member of Congress and spoke at the kickoff event, the Breakfast of Champions. Gregory developed a passion for soccer at the PAL, which kept him coming back to the program. According to officials, he took on a mentoring role for younger children in the program. The connection kept him in school and working toward his diploma. He graduated and is now the first in his family to go to college.

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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.