



NEWS RELEASE  
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## **Bright House Networks Sponsor Lakeland Youth At Afterschool Event in Washington, D.C. Next Week**

**Maitland, Fla...May 9, 2008**— John Sanders Boys & Girls Clubs participant Jamia Gary of Lakeland, Florida will spend May 13 and 14 in our nation's capital learning about advocacy and urging lawmakers to increase funding for afterschool programs. Bright House Networks is sponsoring the high school junior's trip to participate in the Afterschool Alliance's seventh annual *Afterschool for All Challenge*.

"We're very aware at Bright House Networks that afterschool programs have evolved into significant initiatives that contribute to keeping children safe, helping working families and inspiring students to learn," said Michael Robertson, president, Bright House Networks Tampa Bay Division. "We believe it's important to support these programs and provide an opportunity for a young person like Jamia to go to Washington, DC and speak out for the afterschool programs that do so much for her and millions like her."

Gary will join hundreds of parents, children, educators and advocates from around the country at the two-day *Challenge*. On Tuesday, she will participate in a special youth leadership training to prepare to meet with Members of Congress. On Wednesday, she will attend a "Breakfast of Champions," at which the Afterschool Alliance will present awards to afterschool champions and innovative afterschool programs.

"The Boys & Girls Club has helped me so much and taught me a lot about volunteering and helping others," said Gary. "I'm looking forward to talking with my national legislators about how much these programs do for me and other young people all over the country. I am very grateful to Bright House Networks for giving me this opportunity."

After the "Breakfast of Champions," Gary will join other afterschool advocates as they fan out across Capitol Hill to meet with Members of Congress and congressional staff. In the meetings, advocates will discuss the benefits offered by afterschool programs and urge Congress to reject the President's proposal to cut the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers initiative (21<sup>st</sup> CCLC) and convert it to a voucher system. The 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC is the chief federal funding stream for afterschool.

“Parents, children and communities rely on afterschool programs to keep kids safe, inspire them to learn and help working families,” said Afterschool Alliance Executive Director Jodi Grant. “But federal funding isn’t keeping up with the demand for afterschool, and President Bush proposes to cut federal afterschool funding even further. Next week advocates will remind lawmakers that these cuts are short-sighted and counterproductive. All kids need the opportunities that afterschool programs provide. I’m delighted that Jamia will be with us to talk with her elected officials about how important afterschool programs have been in her life. We are enormously grateful to Bright House Networks for making her trip possible.”

This year, President Bush proposed cutting the federal budget for afterschool programs by \$281 million and converting the successful 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers afterschool initiative (21<sup>st</sup> CCLC) into a risky voucher system. If Congress agrees to his proposal, 300,000 students would lose access to afterschool programs.

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### **About the Afterschool Alliance**

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).

### **About Bright House Networks**

Bright House Networks is dedicated to providing customers with cutting-edge technology and unparalleled customer service. With its readily adaptable platform, Bright House Networks delivers video, voice and data services as they evolve, so customers always have the most up-to-date technology at their fingertips. Video-on-Demand (VOD), Subscription Video-on-Demand (SVOD), Digital Video Recorders (DVR), High Definition Television signals (HDTV), high-speed data services (HSD) and Digital Phone are just a few services offered by Bright House Networks today that not long ago were considered futuristic.

Exceptional customer service is the company’s cornerstone and its top priority. Bright House Networks’ local, customer service centers are available 24 hours per day, seven days per week, including holidays.

The company serves more than two million customers in several large markets including Tampa Bay and Central Florida (Orlando), Indianapolis, Birmingham, Bakersfield and Detroit, along with several other smaller systems in Alabama and the Florida Panhandle. Each community benefits from the company’s long-term support of education and to what matters most in the lives of Bright House Networks customers.

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