



For Immediate Release
August 16, 2017

CONTACT: [Luci Manning](#)
202/371-1999

'A Special Responsibility'

Statement of Jodi Grant, Executive Director, Afterschool Alliance

"The heartbreaking events in Charlottesville last weekend are a painful reminder that our work to promote fairness and equality is not nearly done. All of us must take a stand against bullies and bigots and the hatred they espouse and especially the violence they use. That begins by teaching our children to respect others, to demonstrate compassion, to promote justice, to celebrate diversity and to love those who are different from themselves.

Those of us who teach and work with children have a special responsibility at times like this. We must first do all we can to make *all* children feel safe – especially those targeted by the racists and hate-mongers in Charlottesville and elsewhere. We must promote the ideals that our country was built on. And we must muster every resource we can to ensure that the next generation cherishes and perpetuates real American values.

That is the only way to prevent similar tragedies in the future and to make our communities and our country strong."

#

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.