WASHINGTON, DC – The Afterschool Alliance today announced the appointment of Jaemie Ballesteros Altman to its board of directors. The San Francisco-based Altman runs her own business, providing consulting services to restaurateurs and entrepreneurs interested in starting restaurants. She has a long history of volunteer service to charitable causes, including Share Our Strength and the Chez Panisse Foundation.

The Afterschool Alliance works at the national, state and local levels to make afterschool programs available to all families. It organizes Lights On Afterschool, an annual series of rallies from coast to coast on behalf of afterschool programs. This year Lights On Afterschool was October 12, and included rallies at more than 7,500 sites drawing more than one million participants. Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger served as national chair of Lights On Afterschool, a position he has held since 2001.

“Jaemie Altman brings a terrific set of experiences and contacts to our work, and we’re thrilled that she’s agreed to serve on our board so that we can benefit from her wise counsel,” said Afterschool Alliance Executive Director Jodi Grant. “Jaemie and her husband Joey Altman, the James Beard Award-winning chef, have a long and demonstrated commitment to supporting organizations and causes that use food and nutrition to provide learning opportunities and skill development. We’re delighted to have them both join the Afterschool Alliance ‘family.’ Together we will work to make quality afterschool programs widely available, because they keep kids safe, inspire them to learn and help working families.”

Altman is a consultant to restaurateurs, and for the last eight years has been the Accountant and Financial Advisor to Chez Panisse. She served as Corporate Controller for Thomas Keller Restaurant Group, which included the renowned French Laundry, Per Se NY, Bouchon and Bouchon Bakery Yountville as well as Bouchon Las Vegas. She was a member of the five-person advisor board for Thomas Keller, and serves as an Advisor to the Chez Panisse Foundation, which runs an edible gardens program for children. She is a working mother who knows first-hand why afterschool programs are so valuable to children and working parents. “Afterschool programs are an absolute necessity in the U.S. today,” Altman said. “Parents need to know that their children are safe and supervised after the school day ends, and children benefit
tremendously from the opportunities that afterschool programs provide. I am proud to advocate for these programs, which are so important to families and communities.”

Other members of the Afterschool Alliance’s board of directors are Terry Peterson, Afterschool Alliance Chairman, Director, Afterschool and Community Learning Resource Network, Charleston, South Carolina; Herb Sturz, Afterschool Alliance Secretary, Trustee, Open Society Institute, New York, New York; The Honorable David Cicilline, Mayor, City of Providence, Rhode Island; Dr. Lucy Friedman, President, The After-School Corporation, New York, New York; Glenda E. Hood, former Secretary of State of Florida, Orlando, Florida; Donna Klein, President/CEO, Corp. Voices for Working Families, Washington, D.C.; Kenneth C. Montague, Jr., Secretary of Juvenile Justice, State of Maryland, Baltimore, Maryland; Gilbert Moreno, President/CEO, AAMA (Association for the Advancement of Mexican Americans), Houston, Texas; and Kevin Walker, Associate Vice President, Programs, CS Mott Foundation, Flint, Michigan.

The Afterschool Alliance has offices in Washington, D.C. and New York City.

# # # #

The Afterschool Alliance is a nonprofit public awareness and advocacy organization working to ensure that all children have access to quality afterschool programs by 2010. More information is available at www.afterschoolalliance.org.