



NEWS RELEASE
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Brooklyn Middle School Student Wins National 'Lights On Afterschool' Poster Contest

Afterschool programs help children “shine and grow.” That is the message of [this year's poster](#) to promote *Lights On Afterschool*, the only nationwide rally for afterschool programs. The poster was designed by 10-year-old Rosanie Cazeau, who attends the Children of Promise, NYC afterschool program in Brooklyn, New York. Cazeau's poster features a tree with leaves that represent many of the activities afterschool programs offer, including: study, play outside, paint, draw, write, math, music, healthy snacks, gym, feel safe, and have fun.

Cazeau's artwork was selected from thousands of submissions. In addition to having her drawing featured on the official 2013 *Lights On Afterschool* poster, which will be displayed at thousands of rallies around the country, she will receive a \$500 gift certificate from Discount School Supply.

“We are so proud of Rosanie,” said Monique Newton, vice president of programs for Children of Promise, NYC. “She worked a long time on her drawing and we feel that it is a wonderful representation of the comprehensive activities we offer the students in our program. It's an honor to have her art used for this national event.”

The poster will be used by afterschool programs across the country and on military bases overseas to promote their *Lights On Afterschool* events this October. This is the 14th year for *Lights On Afterschool*, and more than a million people are expected to participate in more than 8,000 events.

“I'm very excited to have my artwork seen by people all across the country,” said Cazeau. “My brothers and I really enjoy our afterschool program and I like being able to share how much we learn and all the great things that afterschool programs do for kids like us.”

The Afterschool Alliance organizes *Lights On Afterschool* to draw attention to the myriad ways afterschool programs benefit students by offering them opportunities to learn new things – such as robotics, Tae Kwon Do and art – and discover new skills. The events give youth a chance to showcase the skills they learn and talents they develop at their afterschool programs, and to send the message that millions more kids need quality afterschool programs.

“Afterschool is all about helping our students learn and grow,” said Afterschool Alliance Executive Director Jodi Grant. “This year's poster, featuring a tree showing some of the many

ways that programs support children, is a wonderful way to represent *Lights On Afterschool*. We congratulate Rosanie on winning this contest and thank her for sharing her beautiful drawing with us and with students, parents and afterschool providers everywhere.”

A steady stream of afterschool evaluations reveals gains in academic achievement among children in afterschool programs, as well as gains in safety, discipline, attendance and avoiding risky behaviors. In addition, researchers have found that afterschool programs encourage increased parental involvement, an important building block for student success. More than 15 million school-age children – more than one in four kids in the United States – are unsupervised after the school day ends. The parents of 18 million children say they would enroll their kids in afterschool programs – if programs were available.

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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.