



Afterschool Ambassador Program: Legacy of Leadership

NEWS RELEASE
October, 9 2017

CONTACT: Sam Trevathan
(225) 922-4656 ext. 103
strevathan@kidsorchestra.org

Baton Rouge's Trevathan Selected as One of Just 15 'Afterschool Ambassadors' in Country This Year

Sam Trevathan Will Work in Louisiana, Nationally to Increase Students' Access to Afterschool

Washington, DC – The Afterschool Alliance announced today that Sam Trevathan, Education Director, at Kids' Orchestra, has been selected to serve as a 2017-2018 Afterschool Ambassador. He is one of just 15 leaders from across the nation chosen for the honor this year. Each Afterschool Ambassador will continue directing or supporting a local afterschool program while also serving a one-year Afterschool Ambassador term, organizing public events, communicating with policy makers and in other ways increasing support for afterschool and summer learning programs.

“We’re delighted that Trevathan will serve as an Afterschool Ambassador this year,” said Afterschool Alliance Executive Director Jodi Grant. “He is exactly the kind of powerful champion we need at this time when federal funding for quality afterschool and summer learning programs is at risk. I know he will mobilize business, community and faith leaders, parents, educators and others to convince lawmakers to secure resources for the afterschool programs that keep kids safe, inspire them to learn and help working families. These programs offer hands-on learning opportunities, homework help, mentors, science and technology, healthy snacks and meals, sports and fitness, arts programming, college and job prep, and much more. We’re facing very real challenges this year, and more than a million students across the country could lose their afterschool programs. We will work together to stave off that threat.”

On his acceptance of the position, Trevathan says "I am thrilled at the chance to make some noise for Louisiana. Every child in our community and across the nation deserves access to high quality afterschool and summer learning programs. This is a time for students to explore interests and discover their passions, while giving parents some comfort in knowing that their children are safe and supervised, with opportunities to learn and grow. I am eager to join forces with others from around the country to advocate for more funding for critical afterschool programming."

Kids' Orchestra is the largest after school music program for Kindergarten through fifth-grade students in the United States. Nearly 800 students from across East Baton Rouge Parish are enrolled in Kids' Orchestra programming where they study an instrument, perform in an

ensemble, and/or sing in a choir. Kids' Orchestra receives 21st CCLC funding to provide academic enrichment, homework help, test prep, and more musical opportunities four days a week at three sites.

Kids' Orchestra's mission is to impact children's lives by creating a sense of community through after-school musical training and enrichment programs.

Each Ambassador will organize a major event for *Lights On Afterschool*, the Afterschool Alliance's annual rally for afterschool, to be held on October 26 this year. Last year, 1 million people participated in some 7,500 *Lights On Afterschool* events across the United States and at U.S. military bases worldwide.

The 2017-2018 Afterschool Ambassadors are:

- **Arkansas:** Ben Rediske, Program Director at Camp War Eagle in **Springdale**;
- **Florida (2):** Justin Pinn, Director of Auxiliary Programming at Breakthrough **Miami** and Sierra Newhouse-Ragoonanan, Project Coordinator at After-School All-Stars in **Orlando**;
- **Kansas:** Tony Yungeberg, Director of Valley Heights Community Education in **Waterville**;
- **Kentucky:** Tom Haggard, Program Director at Covington Independent Public Schools in **Covington**;
- **Louisiana:** Samuel Trevathan, Education Director at Kids Orchestra in **Baton Rouge**;
- **Maryland:** Terrell Sample, 21st Century Community Coordinator at Dorchester County Public Schools in **Cambridge**;
- **Michigan:** Rebecca Idzikowski, SPARKS Director at Clare-Gladwin RESD in **Clare**;
- **Montana:** Veronica Willeto, Site Coordinator at Pryor Public Schools 21st CCLC in **Pryor**;
- **Nevada:** Matt Sampson, Director of Operations at the Boys & Girls Clubs of Western Nevada in **Carson City**;
- **New Jersey:** David Haggerty, Director at the Morristown Neighborhood House in **Morristown**;
- **North Dakota:** Robin Nelson, Chief Executive Officer at the Boys & Girls Club of the Red River Valley in **Fargo**;
- **Oklahoma:** Danielle Hovenga, Director of the True Blue Neighbor's Initiative at The University of Tulsa in **Tulsa**;
- **Tennessee:** Jennifer Pettyjohn, Chief Executive Officer at the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Clinch Valley in **Knoxville**; and
- **Washington:** Dorinda Belcher, Project Director K-12 for the White Salmon Valley School District in **White Salmon**.

The [America After 3PM](#) household survey of more than 30,000 families, commissioned by the Afterschool Alliance, found that participation in afterschool programs has increased to 10.2 million students nationwide, up from 6.5 million in 2004. But the unmet demand for afterschool programs has increased as well. Today, for every child in an afterschool program, there are two more whose parents say they would participate, if a program were available. Unmet demand is

especially high in rural communities and communities of concentrated poverty. One in five students in the United States today is unsupervised after the school day ends.

A large and growing body of evidence demonstrates improvements in attendance, behavior, academic achievement and more among children in afterschool programs. Researchers have also found that afterschool programs encourage increased parental involvement – an important building block for student success.

###

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.