



**NEWS RELEASE**  
September 17, 2007

**CONTACT:** Gretchen Wright  
202/371-1999

## **Nonprofits, Corporations, Lawmakers Support National Rally for Afterschool**

Afterschool programs benefit kids and parents, but they also help businesses, communities, cities, states and our nation. That's why organizations as diverse as T-Mobile USA, AARP, The U.S. Conference of Mayors and the National Police Athletic/Activities Leagues, Inc. are among the nearly 200 national organizations supporting the Afterschool Alliance's eighth annual *Lights On Afterschool* celebration on October 18.

Organizers expect more than a million people across the U.S. and at military bases throughout the world to participate in *Lights On Afterschool* 2007. Events will include open houses, fun runs, street fairs, carnivals and much more, all organized by afterschool providers – 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers programs as well as those affiliated with Boys & Girls Clubs of America, YMCA of the USA, Junior Achievement, 4-H Afterschool, The After-School Corporation, Young Rembrandts and others.

“Our *Lights On Afterschool* partners know that afterschool programs do even more than keep kids safe, help working families and inspire students to learn,” said Afterschool Alliance Executive Director Jodi Grant. “They also keep communities safe and train the workforce of the future. We all benefit when children have access to afterschool programs. This year's *Lights On Afterschool* will celebrate these programs and also kick off the tenth anniversary of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers initiative – the chief federal funding stream for afterschool programs. It's a reason to celebrate and to recommit to making afterschool programs available to all children and families who need them.”

A list of 2007 partner organizations is available online at  
[http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/lights\\_on/sup\\_orgs.cfm](http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/lights_on/sup_orgs.cfm)

*Lights On Afterschool* was launched in October 2000. Last year, a million people rallied at 7,500 events to show their support for afterschool programs. Organizers expect this year's event to be even larger. Actress Rhea Perlman is the spokesperson for *Lights On Afterschool* and California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger is National Chair, a position he has held since 2001.

*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).*

# # # #