



NEWS RELEASE
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Afterschool Alliance

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Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, Actress Rhea Perlman To Headline Fifth Annual *Lights On Afterschool!*

California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger will be the National Chair of *Lights On Afterschool*, the nation's largest rally for afterschool programs, again this year, and actress Rhea Perlman will be the national spokesperson. Perlman is best known for her role as Carla on the long-running television show "Cheers;" she also volunteers with LA's BEST, an afterschool program in Los Angeles.

Governor Schwarzenegger will participate in the national *Lights On* kick-off event on Sunday, October 3 in Los Angeles. The event is sponsored by the Beyond the Bell Branch of the Los Angeles Unified School District. Some 4,000 children, parents and community members will participate.

"We are delighted that Rhea Perlman and Governor Schwarzenegger are once again helping to get out the word that afterschool programs are vitally important to children, families and communities," said Afterschool Alliance Executive Director Judy Y. Samelson. "Afterschool programs keep kids safe, help working families and inspire children to learn. We all have a role to play in keeping the lights on afterschool." A study released in May by the Afterschool Alliance and supported by The JCPenney Afterschool Fund found that 14.3 million latchkey children have no adult supervision in the afternoons.

The Afterschool Alliance launched *Lights On Afterschool* in October 2000. That year more than 1,200 events were held across the country. In 2003, more than half a million people rallied at more than 5,000 events in all 50 states. Organizers expect this year's event to be even larger. A list of 2004 *Lights On Afterschool* events is at www.afterschoolalliance.org/loa_2004/find.cfm.

The 2004 National Presenting Sponsor of *Lights On Afterschool* is the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation and the JCPenney Afterschool Fund is a National Sponsor of the event. The David and Lucile Packard Foundation and the Open Society Institute are providing additional support.

The Afterschool Alliance is a nonprofit public awareness and advocacy organization supported by a group of public, private, and nonprofit entities working to ensure that all children and youth have access to afterschool programs by the year 2010. Information is available at www.afterschoolalliance.org.

The Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, established in 1926 in Flint, Michigan, by an automotive pioneer, is a private philanthropy committed to supporting projects that promote a just, equitable and sustainable society. More information is available at www.mott.org

JCPenney Afterschool is committed to helping provide children with high-quality, affordable after-school programs to help them reach the "power of their potential." The JCPenney Afterschool Fund is a nonprofit, 501(c)(3) organization. JCPenney Afterschool has contributed more than \$34 million during the past five years to five of America's leading after-school advocates. JCPenney Afterschool's support helps provide safe, fun and educational after-school programs and raise awareness of the need for more such programs across the country.

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