



MEDIA ALERT  
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CONTACT: Gretchen Wright  
202/371-1999

## **Americans Rally to Keep the Lights on Afterschool From Atlanta to Anchorage This Week**

### **There's a *Lights On Afterschool* Event in Your Community**

On October 14, more than half a million people will rally for the afterschool programs that are key to kids' success. At schools and community centers, on football fields, in churches and parking lots, on fair grounds, at malls and other venues, students, parents, educators, business and religious leaders and community members will join athletes, lawmakers and other leaders for the fifth annual *Lights On Afterschool*, the largest annual nationwide afterschool rally ever held. More than 7,000 *Lights On Afterschool* events are being held around the nation and in Germany, Italy, Japan and elsewhere this week.

*Lights On Afterschool* is organized by the Afterschool Alliance to draw attention to the need for more afterschool programs. The 2004 National Presenting Sponsor 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. National *Lights On Afterschool* Chair Arnold Schwarzenegger participated in a *Lights On* kick-off event on Sunday, October 3 in Los Angeles with the Los Angeles Unified School District, LA's BEST and other afterschool programs.

**A sampling of events throughout the country is available online at [www.afterschoolalliance.org/loa\\_2004/documents/events.pdf](http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/loa_2004/documents/events.pdf). A full list of the more than 7,000 events is available at [www.afterschoolalliance.org/loa\\_2004/find.cfm](http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/loa_2004/find.cfm)**

*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. More information is available at [www.afterschoolalliance.org](http://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](http://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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