



NEWS RELEASE
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Bright House Networks to Sponsor Bakersfield Youth At Afterschool Event in Washington, D.C. Next Week

Bakersfield, CA – April 22, 2009 Bakersfield Police Activities League participant Gregory Quintero of Bakersfield will spend April 27 and 28 in our nation's capital learning about advocacy and urging lawmakers to increase funding for afterschool programs. Bright House Networks is sponsoring the high school senior's trip to participate in the Afterschool Alliance's eighth annual *Afterschool for All Challenge*.

"Afterschool programs are important not only to young people and their families, but also to communities," said Joe Schoenstein, President, Bright House Networks Bakersfield Division. "At Bright House Networks we support afterschool programs because we are deeply committed to improving our local area. We know that these programs not only help children succeed academically, they also help children learn new skills, develop an understanding of the importance of getting involved in their communities and become good citizens. We're delighted to give Greg the opportunity to travel to our nation's capital to tell Members of Congress how afterschool programs benefit him and the thousands of young people like him across the country."

Quintero will join hundreds of parents, children, educators and advocates from around the country at the two-day *Challenge*. On Monday, he will participate in a special youth leadership training to prepare to meet with Members of Congress. On Tuesday, he will attend and speak at a "Breakfast of Champions," at which the Afterschool Alliance will present awards to afterschool champions. The event will also feature U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan and Chicago First Lady and afterschool champion Maggie Daley.

"I've been attending the Police Activities League program since I was seven or eight," said Quintero. "It's kept me out of trouble and given me the opportunity to see my friends and bond with the cops who work with the program. Programs like the PAL are important because they offer academic help and give kids fun and productive things to do, like soccer, basketball and baseball. I'm very grateful that Bright House Networks has given me the opportunity to meet and talk to my national legislators about all that afterschool programs do for me and for kids around the country."

After the “Breakfast of Champions,” Quintero will join other afterschool advocates as they fan out across Capitol Hill to meet with Members of Congress and congressional staff. In the meetings, advocates will discuss the benefits offered by afterschool programs and urge Congress to continue to increase funding for the 21st Century Community Learning Centers initiative (21st CCLC). 21st CCLC is the chief federal funding stream for afterschool.

“Every child should have access to the benefits of afterschool programs,” said Afterschool Alliance Executive Director Jodi Grant. “That’s the message we will be carrying to our national legislators. Young people like Greg are perfect examples of how children flourish when they are in programs that keep them safe, inspire them to learn and help their working families. We need to support these programs and these children. We’re delighted that Greg is coming to DC to talk about all that his afterschool program has done for him and we’re extremely grateful to Bright House Networks for making his trip possible.”

About the Afterschool Alliance

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.

About Bright House Networks

Bright House Networks is the nation’s 6th largest multiple cable system operator (MSO) with 2.4 million customers in several large markets including Bakersfield, California; Birmingham, Alabama; Detroit, Michigan; Indianapolis, Indiana; Orlando, Florida (Central Florida Division) and Tampa Bay, Florida along with several other smaller systems in Alabama and the Florida Panhandle. The high-growth Tampa/Central Florida markets are contiguous and form one of the country’s largest cable clusters. Bright House Networks corporate locations are in Syracuse, New York and Orlando, Florida.

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