



NEWS RELEASE
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President and CEO of United Way of Wyandotte County Honored as an Afterschool Champion in Nation's Capital

Parents, Educators, Students, Afterschool Leaders Urge Congress to Increase Afterschool Funding

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The Afterschool Alliance today honored Wendell Maddox, the President and CEO of United Way of Wyandotte County, for his support for afterschool programs at the “Breakfast of Champions,” a gala event in Washington, D.C. that featured performances by lead guitarist Mark Bryan of Hootie and the Blowfish and afterschool youth. Maddox was a driving force behind a county-wide effort to provide before- and afterschool and summer programs for children and families. He was one of just ten individuals from around the country honored at the “Breakfast” for supporting and working on behalf of the afterschool programs. The Kansas Afterschool Network nominated him for the honor.

Acting on his firm belief that out-of-school programs are critical for youth and that a supportive community can help young people grow into productive citizens who give back to that community, Maddox helped bring together the United Way with the Kansas Enrichment Network and Public Agenda to address a gap in such programs in the county. The three organizations hosted a community conversation to discuss ways to increase access to quality out-of-school programs for young people across Wyandotte County. Maddox was also instrumental in creating the YouthBuild KCK program, which helps people complete their education and prepare to enter the workforce.

The “Breakfast of Champions” is part of the ninth annual *Afterschool for All Challenge*, sponsored by the Afterschool Alliance, which brings together hundreds of parents, educators, children, program directors and advocates from around the country for a series of events and meetings with Members of Congress. It is being held this year in conjunction with Be the Change, the National AfterSchool Association’s annual convention. At these events, afterschool advocates are urging Congress to safeguard federal funding for these programs and reject Administration proposals to cut funding by \$13 million in Fiscal Year 2011 and to allow non-afterschool programs to compete for federal afterschool dollars.

“This year, federal support for afterschool programs is in serious peril,” said Afterschool Alliance Executive Director Jodi Grant. “The Obama Administration is proposing making non-afterschool programs eligible for the already limited federal dollars available through the 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) initiative, which is the principal federal funding stream for afterschool. It is more important than ever that advocates speak up and speak

out to ensure that every child who needs afterschool has access to the programs that keep kids safe, inspire them to learn and help working families.”

Other state champions honored at the *Afterschool for All Challenge* are: William Byars, State Director of the South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice; David Davison, President and CEO of the American Savings Foundation in New Britain, Connecticut; Jerry Ellis, Mayor of Farmington Hills, Michigan; Thierry Malley, State Director of the Pennsylvania Area Council of Boys & Girls Clubs; Chuck Oberlie, Mayor of Michigan City, Indiana; Rhode Island State Representative Edwin Pacheco; Renee L. Rider, Assistant Commissioner of the Division of Child Care Services, New York State Office of Children and Family Services; Carla Sanger, President and CEO of LA’s BEST, California; and Ronnie Steine, Councilmember-at-Large, Metro Government of Nashville and Davidson County, Tennessee.

The 2010 “Breakfast of Champions” is sponsored by: United States Tennis Association, Bright House Networks, Quaker Chewy, Torani, Sony Pictures Entertainment, Open Society Institute, Peavey Electronics, NAMM, The Annie E. Casey Foundation, D.C. Children & Youth Investment Trust Corporation and Cable in the Classroom.

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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.