



**NEWS RELEASE**

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## **After School Matters Chair Maggie Daley Honored as Champion for Youth in Nation's Capital**

*Presented with the "Afterschool for All" Champion award for her work with Chicago's youth*

**WASHINGTON, D.C./CHICAGO** – The Afterschool Alliance and the Illinois Afterschool Network today honored After School Matters Chair Maggie Daley for her support for afterschool programs at the "Breakfast of Champions," a gala event in Washington, D.C. U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan presented the national award to Chicago's first lady for her tireless support and advocacy on behalf of afterschool programs.

"I am honored to accept this award on behalf of the student apprentices, instructors and volunteers who make After School Matters a strong, positive force in the lives of Chicago's youth," said Mrs. Daley, founder and chair of After School Matters. "By giving students opportunities to explore career paths and develop marketable skills – we are enriching their lives and shaping their futures. The success of this program speaks volumes to the teens' desire to be involved in something constructive, to learn new skills, and to simply have a safe outlet where they can have fun."

Founded as a public/private partnership in 1991, After School Matters serves tens of thousands of Chicago teenagers, providing them with opportunities to explore their interests through hands-on experiences under the guidance of industry professionals. This year, After School Matters will provide teens with more than 30,000 opportunities in more than 1,300 programs in 62 public high schools and over 100 community-based organizations in diverse areas such as theater, robotics, culinary arts and lifeguard training.

After School Matters partners with a wide array of community-based organizations and industry experts to provide programs for teens. It is a model for the afterschool field and has provided valuable lessons about successful teen programming, system coordination and community partnerships. After School Matters also works closely with the Illinois Afterschool Network to increase support for afterschool initiatives and improve the quality of programming across the state.

Mrs. Daley was honored for her vision and commitment, which have helped make After School Matters one of the strongest afterschool initiatives nationwide and the largest program of its kind serving teenagers in the United States.

*(more)*

Following the presentation, Mrs. Daley delivered the “Breakfast” keynote address, giving special thanks to Abbott for the company’s extraordinary support of afterschool programs, including After School Matters and the “Breakfast of Champions” event. The Afterschool Alliance also honored eight state champions for supporting and working on behalf of the afterschool programs that keep kids safe, inspire them to learn and help working families.

“At this time of tremendous economic stress, America needs many more quality afterschool programs so that our kids are safe and supervised after the school day ends,” said Afterschool Alliance Executive Director Jodi Grant. “The *No Child Left Behind Act* authorized slow, steady increases for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers (21<sup>st</sup> CCLC) initiative, which is the principal federal funding stream for afterschool, but right now we are far below the \$2.5 billion authorized for this year. Our *Roadmap* demonstrates just how far we are from making sure every child who needs afterschool has access to it. Reaching that goal will require increased contributions from all levels of government and the business and charitable communities. We are looking to the federal government to lead the way.” The *Roadmap* is available at [www.afterschoolalliance.org](http://www.afterschoolalliance.org).

The “Breakfast of Champions” is part of the eighth 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.

The “Breakfast of Champions” was sponsored by Abbott, United States Tennis Association, Bright House Networks, Marriott, Inc., Open Society Institute, NAMM, National Association of Chain Drug Stores, Cable in the Classroom, National Afterschool Association, National League of Cities and Foundations, Inc.

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*After School Matters is a non-profit organization that partners with the City of Chicago, the Chicago Public Schools and Community-Based Organizations to expand out-of-school opportunities for Chicago teens. Through After School Matters’ innovative gallery37, science37, sports37, tech37, and words37 programs, Chicago teens take part in engaging activities that provide skills that translate to the workplace. [www.afterschoolmatters.org](http://www.afterschoolmatters.org)*

*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).*