



NEWS RELEASE
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Washington, DC Third Grade Tennis Star to Speak at National Afterschool Event on Capitol Hill

Kai Goodall, a third grader at Horace Mann Elementary School in Washington, DC and a participant in the Capital Region Education and Tennis Experience (CREATE), spoke to a crowd of national policy makers and students, parents, educators and other afterschool advocates about the importance of afterschool programs to her and her fellow students at the Afterschool Alliance's "Breakfast of Champions" on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC this morning.

The "Breakfast of Champions" is part of the tenth annual *Afterschool for All Challenge*, which brought 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.

Goodall was introduced by Barry Ford, Director of Education, Advocacy and Public Affairs for the United States Tennis Association (USTA), which sponsored Goodall to speak at the event. Goodall has been in the CREATE program for three years and has won several trophies in that time. She also volunteers at Washington Kastles matches, and helps coaches teach tennis to children who are hearing impaired.

"I have been playing tennis since I was five," said Goodall. "Being involved in this sport has helped build my confidence in my athletic ability, but also in myself. I helped to start a tennis team at my school and I have also become an excellent student, earning the 'Student of the Month' award last year for helping classmates complete their homework. Right now, I am studying to compete in the 2011 Spelling Bee."

CREATE Tennis, Inc. is a non-profit entity in the District of Columbia, with a mission to stimulate the minds of youth and provide an educational and positive sports environment for DC youth. CREATE is dedicated to making tennis and education a pleasurable experience for children. A United States Tennis Association (USTA) Community Tennis Association, CREATE is using tennis as a vehicle to develop character, discipline and integrity. USTA is the national governing body for the sport of tennis and the recognized leader in promoting and developing the sport's growth on every level in the United States, from local communities to the crown jewel of the professional game, the US Open.

The "Breakfast of Champions" is part of the *Afterschool for All Challenge*, 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. Following the Breakfast, parents, educators and other afterschool advocates in fanning out across Capitol Hill to meet with

Members of Congress and talk to them about the importance of afterschool programs and expanding opportunities for kids to engage in STEM activities in those programs. This year is The Year of Science in Afterschool.

The 2011 *Afterschool for All Challenge* is sponsored by: United States Tennis Association, Peavey Electronics, NAMM, Open Society Foundations, Cable in the Classroom, National AfterSchool Association, Clever Crazes for Kids, and Arnold and Sandra Grant. Additional funding is provided by the S.D. Bechtel, Jr. Foundation, Time Warner Cable, the Noyce Foundation and jcpenny.

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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.