



NEWS RELEASE
July 16, 2010

CONTACT: Gretchen Wright
202/371-1999

Lead Guitarist and Founder of Hootie and the Blowfish, Mark Bryan, Joins Afterschool Alliance Leadership Circle

Afterschool Alliance's "Leadership Circle" Includes High Profile Afterschool Supporters from Government, Philanthropy, Entertainment

The Afterschool Alliance today announced that Mark Bryan, lead guitarist and founding member of Hootie and the Blowfish, has joined a select group of celebrities, journalists, actors, performers and other leaders who are working to help ensure that every child will have access to a safe, stimulating afterschool program. The Afterschool Alliance's Leadership Circle honors a select group of high profile individuals who are helping to promote or support afterschool programs.

In addition to his successful musical career, Bryan is the founder of Carolina Studios, a nonprofit which provides afterschool activities during the school year and summer programs for youth in Charleston, South Carolina. Carolina Studios provides opportunities for youth to participate in and learn about digital arts, including recording, photography and videography, while they develop core computer and behavioral skills that will serve them all their lives.

"We are delighted to have Mark join our illustrious group of afterschool supporters," said Afterschool Alliance Executive Director Jodi Grant. "His commitment to keeping kids safe, inspiring them to learn and helping working families by providing afterschool and summer programs is truly inspirational. In the United States today, 15 million children are unsupervised after the school day ends. We all need to work together toward a day when we have quality, affordable afterschool programs available for all our children and youth. Our Leadership Circle is helping us reach out to and motivate more people to join our efforts."

Other members of the Afterschool Alliance Leadership Circle include: Kevin Sorbo, actor, the Afterschool Alliance's national spokesperson; William White, president of the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation; Joey Altman, award-winning celebrity chef; Steve Azar, country music artist; Alana De La Garza, actor, "Law and Order;" Tyler Florence, Chef and TV Personality; Judge Glenda Hatchett, host of the television show, *Judge Hatchett*; Glenda Hood, former Florida Secretary of State; Richard Riley, former United States Secretary of Education; Stephanie Robinson, CEO & President, Jamestown Project, and commentator, *Tom Joyner Morning Show*; and Joel Stein, *Time* Magazine contributor and *Los Angeles Times* columnist.

Members of the Afterschool Alliance's Leadership Circle have participated in national events like *Lights On Afterschool* and the *Afterschool for All Challenge*, signed letters in support of afterschool programs, testified before Congress and much more.

#

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.