



The following information is also available on www.psaydn.org.

Take Ten!

Welcome to *Take Ten!* - A monthly bulletin designed to keep you informed. We invite you to take 10 minutes a month to update yourself with what's going on in the network and the afterschool/youth development field.

October 2007

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THE SPOTLIGHT!

Lights Lit: A Brighter Future for Children and Youth – On October 18th, over 500 Pittsburgh students and 200 afterschool supporters came together at Peabody High School in East Liberty to support the 8th Annual *Lights On Afterschool!* Celebration organized by State Representative Wheatley and Wireless Neighborhoods. Wireless Neighborhoods, formed in 2003, is an alliance of community and faith organizations committed to using partnerships, technology and training to improve communities' capacities to support children's education, promote economic development, and address other social barriers facing Pittsburgh residents. Leading advocates such as John Lasky, Wireless Neighborhoods Board President, Superintendent Mark Roosevelt, Pittsburgh Public Schools, State Representative Jake Wheatley and Kisha Bird, PSAYDN Project Director spoke at the event to stress the power of afterschool programs. Mayor Luke Ravenstahl addressed Pittsburgh's current actions to support the effort and emphasized the availability of over 250 jobs for Pittsburgh youth – which is “real cool” according to Peabody's High School junior, Christine Perry. Perry was one amongst dozens of high school students that afternoon who volunteered to help usher the event and serve refreshments to attendees. Many of the youth expressed the same appreciation for afterschool programs as Perry, “I used to do horrible in school but now I'm doing real good.” For more information about Wireless Neighborhoods, visit www.wireless-neighborhoods.org. For more information about this event, visit www.psaydn.org or http://www.pittsburghlive.com/x/pittsburghtrib/news/cityregion/s_533451.html.

PSAYDN UPDATE

Stay informed – Here's what's going on.

- **Building Pathways to Success** – PSAYDN recently held a planning meeting and technical assistance call with the National Institute of Out of School Time to discuss the progress of the Career Pathways Project, a national initiative of the Next General Youth Work Coalition designed to help states coordinate and articulate youth workforce issues. Within the past six months, PSAYDN, in partnership with PA Keys, held several meetings to raise awareness on the Keystone STARS quality rating system and create an initial crosswalk of each “youth sector” based on the Career Pathways core principles. The meetings allowed the work group to identify areas and gaps where more information is needed to develop recommendations to support a quality afterschool workforce. PSAYDN recognizes a clear linkage between practitioners' qualifications, program quality and children's positive outcomes and will produce an initial policy recommendations report next spring. For more

information about Keystone STARS, visit www.pakeys.org. For more information about the Career Pathways Project, visit <http://www.nydic.org/nydic/staffing/workforce/nextgen.htm>.

- **Regional Afterschool Summit Update** – In early October, PSAYDN held its third Regional Afterschool Summit entitled, *A Continuum of Learning: Pennsylvania Supports the Power of Afterschool*, at Northampton Community College in Bethlehem. PSAYDN reached out to over 60 individuals whose line of work ranged from providing afterschool services to counseling teens in the juvenile justice system. Presenters included the Honorable John Morganelli, Northampton District Attorney and a member of Fight Crime: Invest in Kids, who spoke about youth crime and the benefits of afterschool programs and Dr. Paul Pierpoint, Vice President for Community Education and Dean of Southside Center at Northampton Community College. Attendees were satisfied with the event and expressed interest and support for PSAYDN's plan to hold smaller, county-wide meetings in the upcoming year. For more information about PSAYDN, visit www.psaydn.org.

PROMISING PRACTICES – PROVEN STRATEGIES

Learn about what is going on locally and nationally.

Pennsylvania

This year more than 7,500 events were registered for the 8th Annual *Lights On Afterschool* celebration; Pennsylvania ranked 5th in the Afterschool Alliance's State to State Breakdown with over 250 events registered across the Commonwealth. In Carbon County, local newspapers such as the *Times News* covered the celebration as children of SHINE program sang to R. Kelly's "The World's Greatest. In Philadelphia, Philadelphia Safe and Sound and the Franklin Institute hosted an event which encouraged speakers such as Mayor John Street, Tom Brady, Interim CEO of the School District of Philadelphia, Doug Kammerer, CBS3 Meteorologist, and LaJuan Ramsey, Philadelphia Eagles to call for the expansion of afterschool programs. From CHAMPS Afterschool Program in Erie to Team Zone in Greensburg, hundreds of students, parents and providers opened their doors to policy-makers and other community leaders to show them the benefits of afterschool programs and emphasize three powerful contributions of afterschool programs: keeping kids safe, inspiring learning, and helping working families. For more information about Pennsylvania Lights on events, visit www.afterschoolalliance.org.

Around the Country

States across the country held successful and innovative *Lights On* events as well. In New York City, the Empire State Building was lit for the very first time in honor of the celebration. In Arkansas, Eureka Kids gave away 100 laptops and desktops to youth throughout Carroll County. In Seattle, T-Mobile USA, School's Out Washington, Pacific Science Center, and the Afterschool Alliance hosted a gala and award ceremony for the Washington Afterschool Hall of Fame and in Fresno, California the Central Valley Afterschool Foundation held a news conference and carnival to discuss funding needs for afterschool programs. Each year, the Afterschool Alliance encourages afterschool supporters everywhere to show support by either attending or hosting a *Lights On* event. Although this year's celebration just recently passed, PSAYDN invites all supporters to start planning for next year's celebration which is scheduled for October 16, 2008. For more information about *Lights On* events in other states, visit www.afterschoolalliance.org.

RECOMMENDED READING

Check-out these recent articles, research, and reviews on afterschool and youth development issues.

- **Ensuring Success for All High School Graduates** – The Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children's new publication addresses current issues surrounding high school graduates in the Commonwealth and offers recommendations to assure that all students are ready for work, higher education and life. To read the publication, visit http://www.papartnerships.org/ensuring_success/index.asp.
- **More than Homework, a Snack, and Basketball: Afterschool Programs as an Oasis of Hope for Black Parents in Four Cities** – This executive summary communicates the opinions of low-income and working-class Black parents on the quality and importance of afterschool programs obtained from a recent study conducted by the Black Alliance for Educational Options. To read this summary, visit <http://www.baao.org/files/mottSummary.pdf>.
- **Snapshots of Sustainability: Profiles of Successful Strategies for Financing Out-of-School Time Programs** – This publication highlights 32 successful programs across the country and reports common

financing and sustainability themes that are found in all programs. To read this publication, visit <http://www.financeproject.org>.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mark your calendars; you don't want to miss these events.

- **11/1/07 – 11/21/07 Counselor Training Workshop** – The Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA) and Pennsylvania Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (PASFAA) invites you to join a nationwide celebration to voice the importance of afterschool programs. Location varies according to workshop; for more information please visit http://www.pheaa.org/k_thru_12/hs_workshops.shtml.
- **11/5/07 First Monday Series: Four Levels of Evaluation** – This one-hour on-line session, held from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m., is hosted by the Pennsylvania Departments of Education and Public Welfare in partnership with the Center for Schools and Communities. There is no charge to participate. To register, visit www.21stcccl.org.
- **11/9/07 The 7th Annual Youth Development Conference** – This event is sponsored by the Greater Philadelphia Federation Settlements and United Way of Southeastern Pennsylvania and will be held at the Philadelphia Convention Center. For registration information, visit <http://greatsettlements.org/2007-onlinereg.html>.
- **11/14/07 – 11/17/07 On Their Turf: Creative Approaches to Supporting Teens & Young Families** – The Healthy Teen Network's 28th Annual Conference will be held at the Hyatt Regency Baltimore in Baltimore, MD. To register, visit www.healthyteenconference.org.
- **2/6/08 – 2/7/08 4-H Afterschool: Creating Partnerships Conference** – This event will be held at the Celebration Hall in State College, PA. For more information, please visit <http://quest.cvent.com/EVENTS/Info/Summary.aspx?e=f66467d1-e1ee-4373-b698-042ba94bd8f6>

The **PSAYDN** is a collaborative effort among state, regional and local partners. Its purpose is to promote sustainable, high-quality out-of-school time youth development programs through advocacy and capacity building to enhance the welfare of Pennsylvania's children, youth and families.

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