



Afterschool News March 2012

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The Importance of Program Quality

Dallas AfterSchool Network's Program Quality Initiative (PQI) is a prescribed process for helping afterschool sites to implement best practices and ultimately achieve national quality standards. Dallas AfterSchool Network provides the staff coaching, training workshops, assessment tools, and other resources to help committed sites move through this process.

Why does program quality matter? Because research proves that

"Students who regularly attend high quality afterschool programs have the equivalent of 91 extra days a year of educationally enriching experiences."

(Center for Collaborative Solutions, 2009). Wow! That's a whole summer's worth of enrichment and learning, but only if a child is enrolled in a high quality program. Research indicates that children who attend low-quality or average-quality programs achieve no different outcomes than children who attend no program at all.

Quality does matter.

To see a list of sites that are actively working with our Program Quality Initiative, please [click here](#).

For a full description of the 10 elements of a quality afterschool program, [click here](#).

Dallas ISD Partners with Dallas AfterSchool Network to Build Quality

Dallas ISD's Out-of School Time department is partnering with Dallas AfterSchool Network to establish quality standards for all 127 Dallas ISD afterschool sites. Our mutual goal is to ensure consistency of program quality across all 6 vendors currently providing afterschool services on Dallas ISD campuses.

Current vendors include Big Thought/Thriving Minds, Dallas Park & Recreation, Boys & Girls Club, St. Simon's, Wilkinson Center and Dallas ISD's Afterschool Achievers program.

Together, we are committed to creating safe and enriching afterschool experiences on all Dallas ISD campuses.

Dallas AfterSchool Network Connects Parent with First Lady Michelle Obama

On Thursday, February 9th, First Lady Michelle Obama celebrated the second year of her "Let's Move!" campaign with eight DFW parents at an Olive Garden in Fort Worth. Among those invited to join her was Jubilee Park & Community Center parent, Cynthia Foster. Cynthia's daughter, Destiny, is an active member of Jubilee's afterschool program. She participates in their Farm Stand nutrition program and volunteers as a babysitter for "Mother's Night Out". Destiny aspires to be a professional dancer and is enrolled in the Mahogany Dance Theater, a group that uses dance to promote wellness, self-discipline and self-expression.



Jubilee parent Cynthia Foster (right) at dinner with First Lady Michelle Obama.
Photo Courtesy of Star-Telegram/Ron Jenkins

As Michelle Obama's "Let's Move!" Campaign is focused on how families can change the eating and exercising habits in their homes, the First Lady came to DFW looking for parents like Cynthia Foster who have succeeded in making those changes a reality for their children. Dallas AfterSchool Network was able to provide the "Let's Move!" campaign with a connection to Jubilee Park, which this past fall also participated in a health and wellness curriculum offered by Dallas AfterSchool Network, Junior League of Dallas' *Kids in the Kitchen*.

3rd Annual Afterschool Achievers

Please plan to join us for the 3rd annual Afterschool Achievers event. This is a night to honor the extraordinary students and

volunteers in our afterschool community.

This year's event will be bigger than ever before, as we honor over 100 students from dozens of afterschool programs across the Metroplex. Students will receive a certificate of merit, as well as a gift bag filled with JCPenney gift cards, museum passes, movie tickets and other exciting gifts.



Tuesday, May 8, 2012

6:30PM-8:00PM

The Majestic Theater

1925 Elm Street

Dallas, TX 75201

To RSVP, please [click here](#).

We are currently seeking sponsors and volunteers for Afterschool Achievers. If you would like to help, please contact [Austen Crossley](#), 214-306-8400 x113.

Calling All Summer Volunteers!

Dallas AfterSchool Network's volunteer placement program is seeking individuals to serve as volunteers or VISTA Summer Associates for the summer programs enrolled in our Program Quality Initiative.

VISTA Summer Associates serve a 10 week term beginning June 4th. VISTA members will receive a monthly stipend and an educational award at the end of their service, so this is the perfect job for a college student! If you know of any interested candidates, please have them contact [LaTasha Hill](#), VISTA Leader, 214-306-8400 x106.



Our Volunteer Coordinator is always seeking responsible adults to serve as volunteers in the afterschool or summer programs supported by Dallas AfterSchool Network. The one-on-one or small group attention from an adult volunteer makes a significant difference in a child's afterschool experience, self-esteem and motivation. If you're looking to get involved with children in our community, please contact [Erika Johnson](#), Volunteer Coordinator, 214-306-8400 x111.

Dallas AfterSchool Network makes afterschool better!

Make your donations go further! An investment in Dallas AfterSchool Network provides staff coaching, training and program resources to more than 100 free or low-cost afterschool sites in our community.

Donate Online

www.dasn.org

214-306-8400

Contact [Tanya McDonald](#), Executive Director, to learn more.

