



## Afterschool News September 2012

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### 98% of DASN-Supported Sites Improve Quality

Dallas AfterSchool Network's Program Quality Initiative (PQI) proved a success in its first full year of implementation. 49 out of the 50 afterschool sites that received staff-coaching, training, curriculum and other program resources from DASN met or exceeded more of the national standards for a high-quality program than they had before enrollment in the Program Quality Initiative. Their successes involved, among other things, making a safer environment for students through staff CPR/First Aid certification and updated emergency procedures; strengthening family and community relationships through parent focus groups and increased dialogue with students' teachers; and increasing the program's sustainability through refined HR management and salary structures.

Find a list of all of the afterschool sites participating in the Program Quality Initiative [here](#) on our website.

As the opening bell rings on the 2012-2013 school year, Dallas AfterSchool Network looks forward to bringing more coaching, professional development opportunities and program resources to all 165 afterschool sites currently enrolled in DASN's Program Quality Initiative. Our recently expanded Lending Library has exciting new resources for afterschool sites, including "The Math Explorer" and "The Science Explorer" from San Francisco's nationally-renowned interactive museum, the Exploratorium, plus field trips to the Sci-Tech Discovery Center's October exhibit "Animal Grossology: Science is Scent-sational!"

## 25 Summer VISTAs Placed in 14 DASN-Supported Sites

This summer, Dallas AfterSchool Network recruited, trained and placed 25 Summer VISTA members to work directly with children in free summer programs we support. Our VISTA members came from all over the country to serve 10 weeks in Dallas area summer programs. Most had prior youth development experience, but all went through 16 hours of training with DASN before they were introduced to their site. These VISTA members were provided free of charge to DASN-supported sites and helped DASN sites to improve the quality of summer programming for their students.



Dallas AfterSchool Network's 25 Summer VISTAs attended 16 hours of training before beginning their service in a DASN-supported summer program.

One of our Summer VISTA members, Rickella Hannon, served at The Family Place, where she made lesson plans, led classroom activities and developed nurturing relationships with the children of families that have experienced family violence. After Rickella's service ended, Dallas AfterSchool Network's VISTA Leader recognized her desire to continue working with children and

encouraged her to apply for a job opening at Big Thought, for which she was hired. As a Site Guide in Big Thought's Thriving Minds program, Rickella will have a lot of the same responsibilities that she had at The Family Place. Best of all, Dallas AfterSchool Network will be able to expand its support of Rickella in her new capacity, as all of Big Thought's afterschool sites are enrolled in The Program Quality Initiative. She will have



[Click to watch Rickella's video.](#)

access to all of the professional development opportunities DASN has to offer and will be supported by a DASN Quality Advisor.

## DASN Seeking Passionate Volunteers

Whatever your passion, whether it be photography, yoga, science or sports, Dallas AfterSchool Network invites you to share it with a student. DASN is seeking passionate people to join the ranks of its volunteer corps. The afterschool sites we support are as diverse as the interests of the children who attend them, so we can be sure to find a location that best fits your interests and needs.



Need some incentive to get involved? Check out Emily Ward's inspiring story:

Emily is a corporate employee who has with a passion for children. She was seeking a volunteer opportunity that would combine her interests in children with her love for sports when she met Erika Johnson, DASN Volunteer Coordinator. After learning about Emily's youth sports experience, Erika matched her to Project Transformation to deliver weekly ACTIVELife programming with 3<sup>rd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> grade students. For a full school year, Emily taught Project Transformation students about nutrition and healthy lifestyles through fun, interactive games. Dallas AfterSchool Network helped ensure the success of the program by training Emily in the delivery of ACTIVELife programming and giving her all the materials she needed.

*"DASN was so easy to work with and really quick to set me up with a program that fit my personality so well. There's nothing I'd rather do after getting off work and I look forward to volunteering with DASN for a really long time."*

- Emily Ward, Dallas AfterSchool Network Volunteer

For more information, email Dallas AfterSchool Network's Volunteer Coordinator, [Erika Johnson](#), or call 214-306-8400 x111. [Click here](#) to apply.

## You're Invited: Out of School Time Advocacy Training

On Monday the 17th, take advantage of the opportunity to learn about federal and state public policy issues concerning the quality and availability of out-of-school time for children in our community and what you can do about it.

The Texas Partnership for Out of School Time (TXPOST) in conjunction with Dallas AfterSchool Network, is hosting a 90-minute interactive advocacy workshop on September

17th. Whether you are an afterschool professional, a parent or just concerned about the children in your community, this workshop is for you!

Join Dallas AfterSchool Network in welcoming TXPOST to Dallas:

**Monday, September 17th**  
**3:00pm-4:30pm**  
**United Way of Metropolitan Dallas**  
**1800 N. Lamar St.**  
**Dallas, TX**

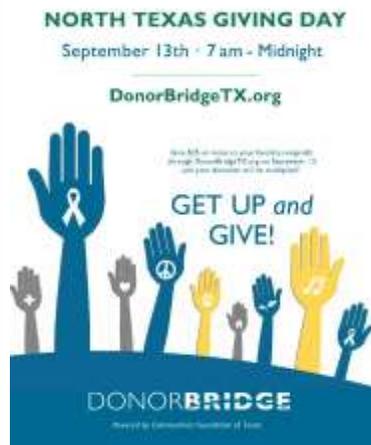
**Attendance is complimentary, but RSVP is required!**

[RSVP here.](#)

Unable to make the training? TXPOST is hosting an **advocacy webinar on Tuesday, November 13th**. Check in with the [TXPOST website](#) for more information.

## Get Up and Give on September 13th!

Thursday, September 13th is the 4th Annual North Texas Giving Day! Donate to Dallas AfterSchool Network through [Donorbridge](#) on this day and your gift of \$25 or more will receive a portion of over \$1,000,000 in matching funds!



Donating is simple:

- Go to [www.donorbridgetx.org](http://www.donorbridgetx.org) between 7am and Midnight
- Search for Dallas Afterschool Network
- Click "Donate Now"
- Take pleasure in knowing you've helped

12,000 students in North Texas have high-quality, inspiring afterschool experiences!

And of course, you can always donate directly to Dallas AfterSchool Network at any time by clicking the button below. Every contribution you make goes to coaching and training for afterschool staff and curriculum and field trips for afterschool students.

**Donate Online**

*Dallas AfterSchool Network makes afterschool better!*

Contact Us to Learn More About Dallas AfterSchool Network

Want to learn more about Dallas AfterSchool Network's mission and how you can help

make afterschool better? Contact [Tanya McDonald](#), Chief Executive Officer, at 214-306-8400 x100.

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