**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
[DATE]**

**CONTACT:
[Your Program Name]**

**[Contact Name]**
**[Phone]**

**[E-mail]**

***Lights on Afterschool* Celebration Features [name and title of visitor]
*[Your City]*** *Event Part of Nationwide Celebration of Afterschool Programming*

**[Your City]-** Hundreds of children, parents, business and community leaders will come together on October 20th, 2016 to promote the importance of quality afterschool programs in the lives of Georgia’s youth as part of the 16th annual nationwide *Lights On Afterschool* celebration. Last year, over one million people celebrated the importance of and demand for afterschool nationwide during *Lights on Afterschool*.

In **[city/county]**, **[name of program]** will be holding a celebration as part of *Lights on Afterschool* on **[date]** from **[time]** to **[time]**. **[Insert information about your celebration here. What activities will be taking place? Will there be a tour? Is anyone speaking?]**

 “Throughout Georgia, afterschool programs provide the kind of enriching environment that has been consistently proven to be a keystone to academic success,” said Katie Landes, Director of the Georgia Statewide Afterschool Network. “Afterschool programs have been shown to increase attendance, improve behavior and raise student achievement.”

According to data released in 2014, only 16% of Georgia’s K-12 youth participate in afterschool programs, while 18% are responsible for taking care of themselves after school. Despite this, 40% of Georgia’s children who are not in an afterschool program indicated that they would likely participate if one were available in their community.

**[Add a quote from someone familiar with your program such as]:** "Unfortunately, we don’t have enough afterschool programs to accommodate this demand,” said **[program staff/director]**. “This event, like events throughout the state, will showcase the - high quality afterschool programming that should be available to all of Georgia’s youth.”

**[Note: If you would like, insert a description of your program here – how long your program been in operation, how many children are enrolled in your program, the communities/neighborhoods that you serve, any feedback you have gotten from K-12**

**teachers and/or parents about the impact of your program on a child, etc. We recommend that descriptions be limited to 60-80 words.]**

Georgia’s *Lights on Afterschool* celebration is a joint effort between the Georgia Statewide Afterschool Network, a public-private collaborative dedicated to advancing, connecting and supporting quality afterschool programs throughout Georgia, and Voices for Georgia’s Children, a public-private child policy and advocacy organization.

**# # #**

About The Georgia Statewide Afterschool Network

The Georgia Statewide Afterschool Network (GSAN) ([www.afterschoolga.org](http://www.afterschoolga.org)) is a public-private collaborative that envisions a day when all communities in Georgia have the resources to provide exceptional afterschool programming. Our mission is to advance, connect, and support quality afterschool programs to promote the success of children and youth throughout Georgia.

About Voices for Georgia’s Children

Established in 2003, Voices for Georgia’s Children ([www.georgiavoices.org](http://www.georgiavoices.org)) is a nonprofit child policy and advocacy organization that envisions a Georgia where all children will thrive because they are safe, healthy, educated, connected to family and community, and prepared to be productive and responsible citizens. Our mission is to promote equity, quality, and accessibility in systems created to serve children’s needs. We are dedicated to advancing policies and implementation actions that ensure the best possible outcomes for children.