



For Immediate Release: 10/13/09  
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## **YMCA to Host *Lights On After school!***

**Buffalo, NY – On Thursday, October 22, all 33 YMCA School Age Child Care locations will be celebrating *Lights on Afterschool*.** *Lights on Afterschool* is a nationwide event organized by the Afterschool Alliance to rally support for after school programs. Afterschool programs keep kids safe, help working families, and inspire learning. Discussions surrounding Character Development and the value of after school programming will be on the YMCA agenda as well as hearing back from our youth as to why they enjoy being a part of an after school program at the YMCA.

Funded by the JCPenney Afterschool Fund, a charitable organization committed to inspiring children to be smart, strong and socially responsible, the original study was released in 2004. It found that 14.3 million kindergarten through 12th graders took care of themselves after the school day ended. At the time, just 6.5 million children were in afterschool programs - but the parents of another 15.3 million children said their children would participate if an afterschool program were available.

YMCAs are inviting parents, community and business leaders, elected officials, volunteers, and the media to come see YMCA after school programs in action and to learn about YMCAs' commitment to providing "safe zones" for America's children. After school programs, like YMCA School Age Child Care, keep kids safe, help working parents, and improve academic achievement.

YMCA Buffalo Niagara is an inclusive association of people committed to a common effort to help individuals and families reach their fullest potential in terms of spirit, mind, and body. Founded locally in 1852, the YMCA is committed to significantly expanding a fiscally sound, service delivery organization which delivers high quality, market driven services to a growing Western New York constituency.

As a dynamic, charitable, organization, YMCA Buffalo Niagara has been able to assist countless youth, families, and senior citizens so that they may benefit from YMCA programming. YMCA Buffalo Niagara serves more than 100,000 people annually through its association of seven branches across Western New York, YMCA resident Camp Weona as well as 40 community based program sites. From fitness to school age child care programs, swimming lessons to camp, there is something for everyone at the YMCA. For more information on all of the programs the YMCA has to offer and our financial assistance program, please contact your local YMCA branch or visit us online at [www.ycabuffaloniagara.org](http://www.ycabuffaloniagara.org).

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