

United Way  
of Seneca County

PO Box 623  
East Main St. Shops, Suite 215  
Waterloo, NY 13165  
Tel: 315.539.1135  
Fax: 315.539.3335  
www.uwseneca.org  
[uwseneca@rochester.rr.com](mailto:uwseneca@rochester.rr.com)



## **MEDIA ALERT**

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Contact: [jenngeorge@rochester.rr.com](mailto:jenngeorge@rochester.rr.com)  
315-539-1135 (day)  
315-651-6820 (eve.)

### **Surge After School Program to Hold Lights On Afterschool! Rally October 16**

*7,500 Rallies Nationwide Aim to Make Afterschool Programs Available to All*

The Surge After school Program will sponsor a *Lights On Afterschool* rally on Thursday, October 16 starting at 3 pm. The rally in support of afterschool programs will celebrate the tenth anniversary of the creation of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers initiative, the principal funding stream for federal support for afterschool programs, including the Surge After School Program in Seneca County. It will be one of more than 7,500 such events around the nation that day, the ninth annual *Lights On Afterschool* celebration, organized by the Afterschool Alliance. California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger is Chair of *Lights On Afterschool* again this year. The event will advocate for expanding afterschool opportunities so that every student who needs a program has access to one.

Participants in the *Lights On Afterschool* rally include school administrators and teachers, local business leaders and officials, and community members. The event will highlight three of the significant contributions that afterschool programs make to Seneca County: keeping kids safe and healthy, inspiring them to learn, and relieving working parents of worries about their student's activities during the afternoon hours.

- **What:** County-wide Surge After School Program Lights On Afterschool Rally
- **When:** 3 pm- Carnival for Students, 5 pm – Light Refreshments will be served, 5:30 pm- Guest speaker, Seneca Falls School District Superintendent Robert McKeveny and ReadNex Poetry Squad Performance
- **Where:** Waterloo High School
- **Who:** Local and state dignitaries, local business and community leaders, parents and supporters of afterschool

The Surge After School Program opened in 2000 with an Advantage After School grant from Office of Children & Family Services enhanced by a 21st Century Community Learning Centers grant from the U.S. Department of Education. It now serves 250 children, providing homework assistance, mentoring, tutoring, and classes and clubs in sports, recreation, mathematics, chess, and dozens of other subjects. The program is a collaboration between the school system, United Way of Seneca County, ACT for Youth, and Seneca County Partners for Children, Youth and Families.

The Afterschool Alliance is a nonprofit public awareness and advocacy organization working to ensure that all children have access to quality afterschool programs. More information on *Lights On Afterschool* is available at [www.afterschoolalliance.org](http://www.afterschoolalliance.org).

For more information or to arrange interviews with speakers, contact Jennifer George at 315-539-1135 or [jenngeorge@rochester.rr.com](mailto:jenngeorge@rochester.rr.com).