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**PARENTS CAN LOCATE AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS STATEWIDE VIA
NEWLY CREATED MAP ON THE RIASPA WEBSITE**

PROVIDENCE, R.I., SEPTEMBER 7, 2011 – The Rhode Island Afterschool Plus Alliance, an education initiative of the United Way of Rhode Island, now offers parents an easy-to-use location map of afterschool programs on its website. The newly designed RIASPA map assists parents statewide seeking high-quality programs for children and can be found at www.afterschoolri.org/parents.

The website's parents' section also offers a helpful checklist for parents to use when visiting an afterschool program to determine its suitability for their child. Additionally, a research page describes how afterschool experiences enhance and improve children's education. Links to informative, related sites are found there as well. Lastly, a "Share Your Story" feature is included, which allows parents to post thoughts, observations and recommendations about various programs.

The map lists more than 200 afterschool programs across Rhode Island. Organizations that operate the programs include Boys & Girls Clubs, YMCAs, child care centers, community and neighborhood centers, libraries, schools, teen and youth centers, and more from Westerly to Woonsocket. Depending on the program, educational and recreational activities might include visual and performing arts, homework help, computer training, reading, health skills, music, cooking, dance, swimming, nature exploration, photography and field trips.

Parents are encouraged to visit the RIASPA website and then directly contact programs of interest for their children. For organizations that provide afterschool programs and wish to be included on the map please contact RIASPA's Leslie Patron at leslie.patron@afterschoolri.org or 401-331-2869.

RIASPA has 700 members and is recognized in Rhode Island as a leading, public policy advocate for the professional field of afterschool education, bridging policy and practice while serving as a liaison between schools, community organizations, funding sources, business leaders, government agencies and elected officials. One of 39 national, statewide afterschool networks funded by the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, RIASPA encourages and facilitates the creation of new afterschool and summer programs and enhancements to existing ones, so that Rhode Island's youth are given greater opportunity to learn beyond school walls and lead productive lives.

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