



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

October 14, 2014

**CONTACT**

Karen Scarborough  
Reach for the Stars Program  
770-722-9779  
Karen\_reachforstars@yahoo.com

**“Reach for the Stars Program to Celebrate *Lights on Afterschool Week*”**

*Weeklong Event is Part of Nationwide Celebration of Afterschool Programming*

In Acworth, hundreds of children, parents, businesses, and community leaders will come together during the week of October 20-24<sup>th</sup> for Georgia’s very first *Lights On Afterschool Week*, which will celebrate the achievements of Georgia’s youth and draw attention to the need for more afterschool programs in Georgia. In Acworth, the Reach for the Stars Program will be holding a celebration as part of *Lights on Afterschool Week* on **Tuesday, October 21, 2014 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at Baker Elementary School.** While the event is taking place at Baker, all three of the Reach for the Stars’ sites will be represented. These sites also include Acworth Intermediate and Barber Middle School.

“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. “The connection is clear: when students report positive afterschool experiences, teachers report gains in the classroom.”

According to *America After 3PM*, only 17% of Georgia’s K-12 youth participate in afterschool programs, while 25% are responsible for taking care of themselves after school. Despite this, 32% of Georgia’s children who are not in an afterschool program have indicated that they would likely participate if one were available in their community. “Unfortunately, we don’t have enough afterschool programs to accommodate this demand,” said Program Director, Karen Scarborough. “This event, like events throughout the state, will showcase the high quality afterschool programming that should be going on in all Georgia’s communities.”

Join in on the fun and hands-on learning that will be showcased. Activities include the STAR LAB-Planetarium, Engineering stations, science experiments, drama club, cooking club, and much more. You will be able to participate in the project-based learning that the students experience on a daily basis.

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

###