

*Enfield*

## **ERfC Honors National “Lights On Afterschool” Initiative**

**School Stuff**

*Submitted by Maripat Finigan (ERfC) on October 29, 2009*

On Thursday, October 22nd, Educational Resources for Children, Inc. (ERfC) was one of more than 7,500 organizations across the nation participating in the tenth annual “Lights On Afterschool” initiative as they invited community members to visit one of their After School Learning Centers located in Enfield.

Organized by Afterschool Alliance, “Lights On Afterschool” occurs every October to encourage the nation and local communities to officially recognize the importance of after-school programs in being instrumental to children’s success.

In honor of “Lights on Afterschool,” ERfC hosted a myriad of elected officials and community leaders, including State Senator John Kissel, State Representative Karen Jarmoc, Mayor Scott Kaupin, Executive Director of the CT Afterschool Network Michelle Doucette Cunningham, and Enfield 2009 Teacher of the year, Tom Higgins.

Members of the community were able to see first-hand the benefits of after school programming as they witnessed children running several activities and performing patriotic songs.

Claire Hall, Executive Director of ERfC stated she was grateful for the opportunity to provide parents and community members the opportunity to see “the many educational activities that children are involved in during their out-of-school hours.” In addition to helping working families and providing youth with enriching opportunities to help them grow into successful adults, Hall stated that “quality afterschool programs give children the opportunity to discover hidden talents as they grow academically and socially.”

ERfC, a community-based non-profit organization dedicated to increasing youth resiliency, has been providing innovative after-school programming since 1994 to the Enfield Community.

ERfC currently operates three Learning Centers dedicated to after-school activities. JFK After School operates four days a week from 2:30 PM to 6:00 PM while the Alcorn & Enfield Street and the Barnard & Crandall Learning Centers operate five days a week from 3:00 PM to 6:00 PM for elementary school children. ERfC also provides the new KidZ Sports program after school at Stowe and Barnard Schools. ERfC programs are fully funded through grants and community donations.

For more information about ERfC Learning Centers and how to enroll children, call 860-253-9935, email [erfc@erfc.us](mailto:erfc@erfc.us), or refer to the ERfC website at [www.erfc.us](http://www.erfc.us).

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