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Subject: RELEASE: AYS" Lights On Luncheon: A Celebration of Afterschool is Oct 25
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AYS' Lights On Luncheon: A Celebration of Afterschool is just under a month away! If you would like to interview someone from AYS about this event and the importance of afterschool programs to Central Indiana's children, please let me know (interviews can include a visit to an AYS site for photos/video). We can also schedule a time for you to talk by phone with the event's keynote speaker, Eric Rowles. Rowles will be available for interviews here in Indianapolis on the morning of the luncheon, as well. Thank you!

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AYS' 2nd annual Lights On Luncheon: A Celebration of Afterschool set for Oct. 25
Event featuring nationally-recognized speaker Eric Rowles will raise funds to help more low-income families attend high-quality out-of-school time programs

(Indianapolis, Ind.) – [AYS, Inc. \(AYS\)](#), Central Indiana's premier provider of out-of-school time programs for kids, today announced that its 2nd annual [Lights On Luncheon: A Celebration of Afterschool](#), will be held on Wednesday, Oct. 25, 2017.

The luncheon, which will be from 11:30 a.m. until 1 p.m. at the Ivy Tech Corporate College and Culinary Center, 2820 N. Meridian St., will feature nationally-recognized speaker Eric Rowles. Rowles, the CEO of Leading to Change, will be providing real stories and strategies to strengthen the out-of-school time network of community heroes. The fast-paced, multi-media presentation he will be sharing is titled, "3T's: Giving of Our Time, Our Talents, and Our Treasure."

Funds raised during the nonprofit's event will benefit the Ellen Clippinger Financial Assistance Fund, which provides scholarships for more children to attend AYS' high-quality programs.

"Our inaugural Lights On luncheon was a tremendous success, raising net proceeds of \$20,000 for low-income, working families who otherwise would not be able to participate in our programs," said AYS President and CEO Chrystal Struben. "We're

looking forward to welcoming even more luncheon guests this year, highlighting why out-of-school time is so important to Central Indiana's children, and making it possible for new families to experience fun, safe and enriching activities before and after school."

According to an [Indiana Afterschool Network report](#), afterschool and summer programs can add 1,080 hours of academic enrichment to a child's year, the equivalent of 144 school days. Yet, access is not equal. Low-income youth experience 6,000 fewer hours of enrichment and academic learning than their more affluent peers by the eighth grade. Also worth noting: while 68% of Hoosier families have both parents in the workforce, just 11% of those families participate in afterschool options.

AYS' Oct. 25 luncheon is being held in conjunction with the national Afterschool Alliance's [Lights On Afterschool](#) initiative, which was launched in 2000. The Afterschool Alliance has organized this nationwide effort to draw attention to the many ways afterschool programs support students by offering them opportunities to learn new things – such as science, community service, robotics, Tae Kwon Do and poetry – and discover new skills. The Lights On events are intended to send a powerful message that millions more kids need quality afterschool programs.

AYS offers a variety of services through its out-of-school time programs and school break camps. Its programs complement school-day learning and primarily focus on math, literacy, social development and health. The nonprofit's secondary priorities include science and art.

AYS' first program started in Indianapolis in 1980 with fewer than 10 children. Today, the organization serves more than 3,000 children throughout the year. AYS currently has over 40 school-age locations Central Indiana, including 10 in Indianapolis Public Schools and multiple sites in Washington Twp., Noblesville, Decatur Twp. and Speedway. For a complete list of AYS sites, please go to <https://www.ayskids.org/locations/>.

For more information on AYS and its education and enrichment programming, please visit www.ayskids.org. For tickets to the Lights On Luncheon: A Celebration of Afterschool, please go to www.ayskids.org/lightson/.

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