



For immediate release  
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### Prime Time Celebrates the Unsung Heroes in the Afterschool Field

West Palm Beach – Prime Time Palm Beach County, a nonprofit organization that helps children succeed through high quality afterschool experiences, honored the professionals who work with children in the hours that they are out of school at Prime Time’s 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Afterschool Symposium, May 18-19, at the West Palm Beach Marriott. Approximately 300 individuals attended the symposium, which serves to both educate and celebrate the afterschool community. The two-day event included a recognition breakfast to celebrate the youth workers’ professional and educational success, an exhibition showcase of products and services for the afterschool field, professional development workshops and a culminating celebratory luncheon featuring Bianca Buckridee, a leading voice in emerging trends in technology, how it serves our lives, and how we can connect it to the field of afterschool. The attendance included program directors and frontline staff from afterschool programs across the county and providers of services to the afterschool community in the areas of academics, arts, wellness, technology, and positive youth development.

Prime Time also honored Palm Beach County Commissioner Shelley Vana for her support and advocacy for quality afterschool and summer programs with its Community Engagement & Supports Advocacy Award. Other government officials and community leaders in attendance at the Symposium included City of West Palm Beach Mayor Jeri Muoio, Vice-Mayor Town of Haverhill Lawrence Gordon, Palm Beach State College President Ava Parker, Chief Academic Officer School District of Palm Beach County Keith Oswald and the Vice-President of Major Gifts at United Way of Palm Beach County Juan Carlos Fanjul.

Prime Time Palm Beach County has supported the afterschool community with generous funding from the Children’s Services Council of Palm Beach County for more than 15 years. The Children’s Services Council of Palm Beach County is an independent special district established by Palm Beach County voters, who dedicated a source of funding so more children are born healthy, remain free from abuse and neglect, are ready for kindergarten, and have access to quality afterschool and summer programming.

Prime Time Palm Beach County’s mission is to foster high quality in out-of-school time (OST) programs, which provide opportunities for children and youth to succeed. Accordingly, Prime Time oversees a system for reaching quality standards through assessment, program improvement planning and quality coaching. It also provides professional development, career advising, and networking opportunities to OST practitioners, and through partnerships, supports a range of enrichment activities available to OST programs countywide.

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