

## **Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger Honors Todd Wagner, Others at After-School All-Stars Annual Gala**

**LOS ANGELES** – On February 18, nearly 600 guests joined Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger at the Third Annual “Reaching for the Stars” Gala to raise money for After-School All-Stars (ASAS) and to present the organization’s Educate, Inspire, and Enlighten awards. Entrepreneur and philanthropist Todd Wagner received the Inspire Award for his role in bringing much-needed ASAS programs to Dallas through his eponymous Foundation and for his decade-long service on the ASAS Board of Directors.

In addition to Wagner, Henry Cisneros, Former Secretary of Housing and Urban Development received the Enlighten Award, and Dr. Sabrina Kay, Chief Executive Office of Freemont College, received the Educate Award. “Extra” host Mario Lopez served as emcee at the event, which raised more than \$700,000 for ASAS programs.

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger founded After-School All-Stars (ASAS) in 1990 to give middle and high school kids a safe, supervised place to go between the hours of 3 p.m. and 6 p.m. Today, ASAS is the leading after-school program provider to students living in disadvantaged areas. Nationally, ASAS serves 81,000 students at 450 campuses in 13 major cities across the country.

The innovative and activity-based enrichment programs offered by ASAS are designed to “Educate, Enlighten and Inspire” students while also keeping them safe and building their self-confidence. The programs take place five days a week and focus on the visual and performing arts, health and fitness, technology, chess and book clubs, and youth leadership and service-learning. Through participation in ASAS programs, students learn important academic study skills and become comfortable establishing positive relationships with adults and peers, practicing decision-making and serving as leaders.

While accepting his award at the Gala, Wagner said he first heard about ASAS when he and his business partner Mark Cuban sold Broacast.com to Yahoo! He said he remembered thinking, “That’s exactly what I want to do. Let’s not reinvent the wheel.”

So in 2001, Wagner brought the All-Stars organization to Dallas and built it into a widely respected program that has reached approximately 8,600 children through partnerships with 50 Dallas ISD schools and a dozen community- and faith-based organizations. In August 2006, Dallas After-School All-Stars announced that it had united its innovative programs with the YMCA of Metropolitan Dallas so that more youth can benefit from diverse academic and recreational opportunities that will help them achieve success in school and life. With this combination of programs, staffing, experience and support, Dallas ASAS

programs were integrated into the YMCA's after-school curriculum through a transition that was seamless to the participating children and their parents. The Todd Wagner Foundation is committed to funding specific ASAS programs in partnership with the Dallas YMCA through 2012.