

**CLAYTON COUNTY CELEBRATES
LIGHTS ON AFTERSCHOOL**

- WHEREAS:** Clayton County stands firmly committed to quality afterschool programs and opportunities because they:
- Provide safe, challenging, and engaging learning experiences that help children develop social, emotional, physical and academic skills.
 - Support working families by ensuring their children are safe and productive after the regular school day ends.
 - Build stronger communities by involving students, parents, business leaders and adult volunteers in the lives of young people, thereby promoting positive relationships among youth, families and adults.
 - Engage families, schools and community partners in advancing the welfare of our children; and
- WHEREAS:** Clayton County has provided significant leadership in the area of community involvement in the education and well-being of our youth, grounded in the principle that quality afterschool programs are key to helping our children become successful adults; and
- WHEREAS:** Lights On Afterschool, the national celebration of afterschool programs held this year on October 18, 2012, promotes the importance of quality afterschool programs in the lives of children, families and communities; and
- WHEREAS:** More than 28 million children in the U.S. have parents who work outside the home, and 15.1 million children have no place to go after school; and
- WHEREAS:** Many afterschool programs across the country are facing funding shortfalls so severe that they are being forced to close their doors and turn off their lights; now
- THEREFORE:** I, ELDRIN BELL, Chairman, on behalf of the Clayton County Board of Commissioners do hereby proclaim October 18, 2012 as Lights On Afterschool Day in Clayton County, Georgia and recognize the commitment to innovative afterschool programs and activities that ensure lights stay on and the doors stay open for all children after school. I urge all citizens to ensure that every child has access to a safe, engaging place where the lights are on after school.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of Clayton County, Georgia, to be affixed this 9th day of October in the year two thousand twelve.

Eldrin Bell, Chairman