



After-The-Bell

Annual Report 2023-2024

Serving middle school students in the Kennett Consolidated School District for more than 25 years

Kennett After-School Association
www.afterthebell.org | 610-268-5889

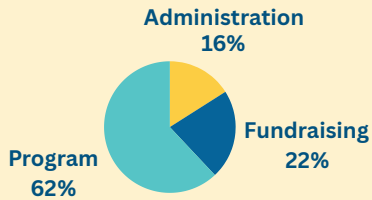
AFTER-THE-BELL



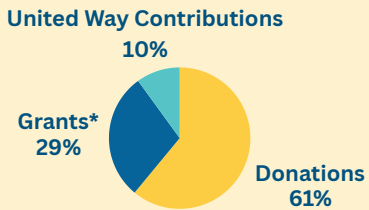
FINANCES:

JULY 1, 2023 - JUNE 30, 2024

Operating Expenses: \$226,196



Operating Revenues: \$199,447



*Grants exclude \$25,000 received in the spring of 2024. After-The-Bell recorded a \$50,000, two-year award in the spring of 2023 which was paid over two years.

WHAT'S NEXT FOR AFTER-THE-BELL?

Our 25th Anniversary Celebration was truly one for the books and we are grateful to the extraordinary donors, volunteers, community partners and board members who gave so generously of their time and financial resources to make it a year we will never forget. However, it is not time to rest on our laurels. That is why we called our grand finale event *Flying Into The Future!* It is time to think about the next 25 years and what unique and beneficial activities and services we can offer to the thousands of students who will join us in the years to come.

The model for After-The-Bell has served us well, and we truly believe in the old adage: *If it ain't broke, don't fix it!* And so we will continue to ensure that every student can attend After-The-Bell at no cost to their families and at no cost to taxpayers. We will continue to welcome students of all abilities and provide services to ensure that each student will have a rewarding experience. We will continue to rely on the kindness of volunteers who donate their time to share their expertise and passions with our students. We will continue to provide our students with a healthy snack when they arrive and a bus ride home at the end of the day.

We will continue to partner with incredible local businesses and organizations that provide our students with unforgettable offsite activities and donate funds to support our efforts to keep middle school students safe after school. Instead of changing these vital components of our program, we will find ways to enhance the activities and services we offer to meet the needs of students in our changing world.

We will explore how today's children learn, how they can use modern technology and emerging educational methodologies to achieve academic success. We will seek new and innovative ways to make sure that all students who attend our program do so in an atmosphere where they feel safe, validated and joyful. We will keep our eyes on the horizon to ensure that the activities we offer prepare our students for the careers and opportunities that lie ahead.

We can only do this with the ongoing support of the Kennett Area community. Thank you for helping After-The-Bell to reach the 25-year milestone. We hope you will join us as we travel forward into the next 25 years.

BY THE NUMBERS 2023-24

350 Students Participating	174 Total Volunteers	BY THE NUMBERS 2023-24		3,528 Volunteer Hours	11 Sports Activities
14 Art Activities	638 Facebook page Likes	32 Community Partners	110 Individual and Family Donors	38% of Kennett Middle School Students Attended ATB	
74 High School Volunteers	4,180 Visits to ATB website	8 Off-Site Activities	34 Business and Charitable Supporters	176 Activity Sessions Offered	
16 Career Activities	12 Stem & Nature Activities	7,240 Total Students Since the Start of After-The-Bell		1,125 Healthy Snacks Served	55 Unique Activities Offered

VOLUNTEERS

Adult & College Volunteers

Jale Aldemir
Sarikaya
Jose Alvarez
Stephen Arrigo
Jean Baiardi
Bedatanu Banerjee
Hanne Blau
Jillian Bonacquisti
Kymm Bontrager
Hillary Boucher
Mary Beth Brutout
Tina Burke
Martha Castillo
Ruth Clark
Bonnie Corrado
Nancy Cusick
Nick D'Addezio
Carol Davidson
Kaitlyn Dempsey
David Dickens
Marie DiGiulio

Mary Drinker
Heather Drzal
Shelly Dutton
Janet Fender
Samantha Ferraro
Robert George
Adriana Gorea
Megan Greener
Michael Hahn
Dolores Horvat
Jeanne Hutton
Kenneth Hutton
Melissa Keer
Nicole Krom
Yareli Lara
Joanna Lawler
Alison Lawler
Sharon Livesay
Guadalupe
Manocchio

Hannah
Masenheimer
Christine McDonald
Virginia McGarvey
Marianne McNeice
James Mellon
Andrew Miller
Camille Morrison
Joseph Mulry
Scott Nichols
Susan Nichols
Jean O'Neil
Sarah Palm
Andrew Pogonyi
Patricia Pranzo
Kelly Rasero
Audrey Reith
Sue Reno
Kelly Reuter
Charlene
Richardson



Sarah Richter
Larry Rigler
Laura Robidoux
Jessica Rogers
Dana Rogers
Judith Rzucidlo
Mary Salomaki

Baris Sarikaya
Tim Sheppard
Dorothy Siegfried
Robert Smyth
Judy Sokol
Sue Soraruf
Frank Trubiano

Maryanne Uhl
Janice Washington
Helga Weires
Ariel Whaley
Andrew Wiedemann
Amanda Will
Ron Wilson
Pamela Woodford

High School Volunteers

Camila Aguilera
Lemus
Alexandra Arellano
Fatima Avalos
Villagomez
Lesly Bartolo
Romero
Yeily Bedolla
Vazquez
Andrea Cordova
Katerina Darlington
Bella Das
Sandra Das
Grant DeWilde
Junior Diaz
Miguel Duque
Rolando Eligio
Joanna Espinoza
Betanzos
Jocelyn Gabbard



Geymer Gabriel
Lester Galvez Ortiz
Julissa Gama
Iretzi Garcia
Carolina Garcia
Perez
Alonzo Gazoli
Michael Gourley

Christian
Guadarrama
Easha Gundecha
Keyla Guzman-
Almanza
Cooper Hanigan
Sofia Heins
Itzel Hernandez

Osiel Hernandez
Yaretsy Hernandez
Edwin Ayala
Herrera
Wendy Herrera
Christina Hicks
Cory Huber
Emma Javor
Addison Javor
Grace Jiang
Steffanie Jones
Genesis Juarez
Vasquez
Emma Li
Bejamin Lin
Asherly Lin
Gareth Liu
Jasmine Liu
Ashley Llaguno
Hernandez

Roxann Llaguno
Hernandez
Fausto Lopez
Oscar Mendez Gabriel
Yoli Carrillo Mendoza
Phoebe Meng
Odalis Montero
Navya Nadkarni
Anna Nam
Yalitza Navarro
Jason Oquendo
Joshua Oquendo
Karen Perez
Atanacio
Kimberly Quintero
Kenia Quintero
Lopez
Ismaeel Qureshi
Katherine Reno

Lupe Reyes
Bernabe
Cesar Sacul
Sugeidy Sazo
Ivan Semian
Tanvi Shah
Lina Sypherd
Mia Sypherd
Yesleni Tomas
Trigueros
Henry Welch
Elizabeth Yeh
Chris Yu
Anthony Zamora
Nava
Azucena Zavala
Guerrero
Ariana Zavala
Medina

Celebrating 25 Years

After-The-Bell first opened its doors at Kennett Middle School on January 19, 1999, so it is only fitting that in January 2024, we joined together with our students, volunteers, and many of the people responsible for the success of the program for a 25th Birthday Party.

With cake and cupcakes, along with colorful t-shirts and gift bags, hundreds gathered to celebrate 25 years of fun, exploration and kinship, and to recall the thousands of after-school activities offered to more than 7,200 students over the years.

Special thanks to our event sponsor, Chuck Weed State Farm, and to our honored guests: State Representative Christina Sappey, Kennett Square Mayor Matt Fetick, Kennett Consolidated School District Superintendent Dr. Dusty Blakey, Kennett Middle School Principal Jake Moore and Kennett High School Principal Lorenzo DeAngelis. They joined with current and former Kennett After-School Association Board Members and After-The-Bell Directors to help us celebrate in style.



Happy 25th Birthday,
After-The-Bell

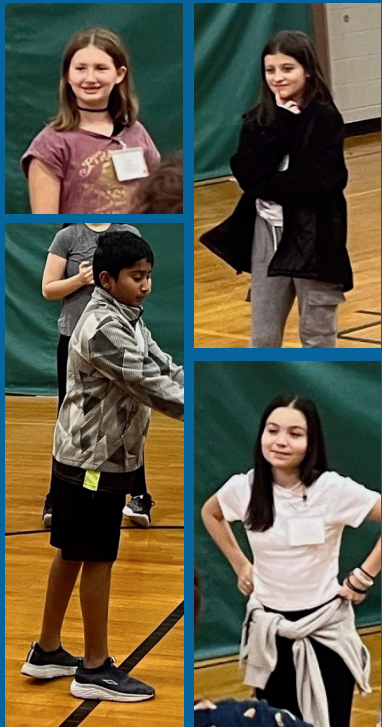


Improv Activity Boosts Students' Confidence

When students returned to After-The-Bell following the pandemic, many were dealing with higher levels of stress and anxiety due to the isolation and uncertainty they experienced during the long months of closures. In order to help students deal with the emotions they were feeling, former Executive Director Dawn Doherty Kohl reached out to our partners at West Chester University, specifically the school's Psychology Department, to seek advice.

There, she was put in touch with grad student Sarah Richter who immediately signed on to tackle the issue by creating the After-The-Bell *Drama Improv Club*. "I struggled with anxiety a lot when I was younger, especially social anxiety," Sarah recalled. "In high school, I took acting classes in which we did a lot of improv. Even though it was scary at first, I quickly gained confidence, and that confidence spread to so many other parts of my life."

Sarah created this extremely popular activity where students are given a character or a setting and then are told to just take the story wherever it might lead them. For many students, this was their first real experience with the benefits of improv. At the end of the program last year, students told Sarah that it had given them more confidence, both in school and in social settings. "So many of them talked about being more willing to talk to kids that they don't know or raise their hand in class. This is the exact outcome I was hoping for." The activity proved to be so successful ... and so popular ... that Sarah was able to get additional WCU students involved. Instead of being offered one day per week during the cycle, the *Drama Improv Club* is now offered every day that After-The-Bell is in session.



Thank you for helping us...

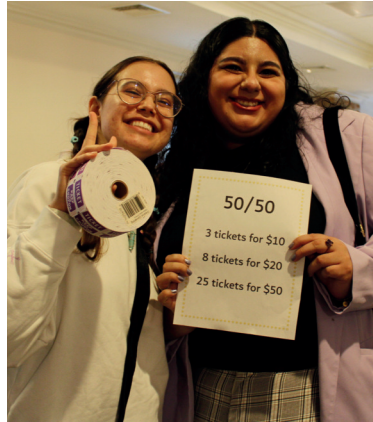
...Fly Into The Future!



As our 25th Anniversary Year came to a close in April 2024 we were thrilled to host the most successful fundraising event in the history of After-The-Bell. Thanks to our generous sponsors and guests, along with community partners who donated to our Silent Auction, we raised close to \$38,000 at the event, held at Hartefeld National Golf Course in Avondale.

The event, which we called *Flying Into The Future*, served as the launch of our commitment to look to the next 25 years and ensure that in our changing world, we continue to provide future students with the rewarding, relevant and fun activities that have been the hallmark of After-The-Bell for the last quarter century.

We are extremely grateful to the following sponsors:



**Galactic Sponsors
(\$5,000+)**

Corrado Construction Company
Ken & Jeanne Hutton
Kennett Education Foundation

**Moon Shot Sponsors
(\$2,500 - \$5,000)**

Rudy Karkosak
Rudy's Exotic Mushrooms &
Produce
Bill & Lynne Seligman
Mary Beth & Steve Verget

**First Class Sponsor
(\$1,500 - \$2,499)**

Chuck Weed State Farm

**Wing Walker Sponsors
(\$1,000 - \$1,499)**

George & Elaine Amoss
Beiler-Campbell Realtors &
Appraisers
Chadds Ford Complete Services
The Episcopal Church of the
Advent
Longwood Gardens
Manfredi Cold Storage
Phillips Mushroom Farms

**Para-Glider Sponsors
(\$500 - \$999)**

The Market at Liberty Place
Sue & Pete Soraruf
U.S. Nels, Inc.

**Runway Sponsors
(\$250 - \$499)**

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Grieco Funeral Home &
Crematory, Inc.
Karen Jessee
Lester Water Inc.
State Street Pizza & Grill
The Tri-M Group, LLC
TJ & Aubrey Zak



INDIVIDUAL & FAMILY DONORS

Carillon Donors (\$1,000+)

Elaine & George Amoss
Denae & Mirciades Diaz
Anne Humes
Jeanne & Ken Hutton
Gail & Rick Jones
Rudy Karkosak
Jennifer & Robert McNeil*

The Meigs Family
Charles & Mary Miller
Anne & Michael Moran
Dana & Michael Rogers
Lynne & William Seligman
Mary Beth & Steve Verget



Chime Donors (\$500-999)

Beverly Bach
Teddi Barclay
Dan & Victoria Folmar
Doug & Kris Gabbard
Andy & Dana Garver

Ashley & David Harris
Art & MaryAnn Knechtel
Charlie Lewis
Jean & Jim O'Neil
Pete & Susan Soraruf

* After-The-Bell is sad to note the passing of Robert McNeil. Robert, along with his wife Jennifer, cared deeply about the people of Chester County. His legacy will be long remembered.

Campana Donors (\$150-499)

Karen Amoss
Maricela & Roberto Ayllon
Jean K. Baiardi
James & Rachel Brunke
Jenny Chen (Jianying Lemper)
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Kathleen & Vincent Flynn
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Edmundo & Sydnee Iglesias

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Susan R. & T.R. Woodward
Philip & Sue Yocum
Aubrey & Theodore TJ Zak

Cymbal Donors (\$50-149)

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Donna & Marty Beech
Betsy Benner
Beverly & Christopher Bove
Annette & Wes Bowers
Sally & Wayne Braffman

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Amy & John Carr Jr.
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Adrienne & Bill Gallagher
Victoria & W. Thomas Gehrt
Jordan & Renee Gushurst

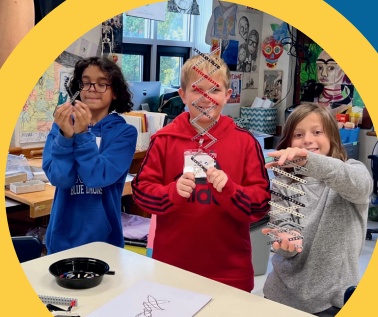
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Kathryn J. King
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Lawrence Kraines
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Tonya Momtahan
Jake D. Moore
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Moss Family
Dave & Susan Myers
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Scott & Susan Nichols
Debra & Robert Norris

John W. Pusey
Robert Smyth
Kathleen Snyder
Lisa Teixeira
Bindu Vemuri & Blesson Thomas
Mary Ella Verdes

Bell Donors (Up to \$49)

Becky Galante
Pat & William Graham
John & Susan Matthias
Gerald & Mary Ann McNeff
Rachel Medely



After-The-Bell Mission Statement

After-The-Bell provides a supervised after-school program of recreational, social, and academic skill-developing activities for Kennett Middle School students. The program is led by community volunteers and provided without charge.

Vision Statement of the Kennett After-School Association: All middle school children will have a safe, enriching environment to go to after school.

Values:

- Respect for self and others
- Caring relationships with adults
- Improved interpersonal & social behaviors
- Appreciation for volunteerism
- Exploration of varied opportunities

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

We are deeply grateful to all of the organizations, foundations, businesses and individuals listed on this page. Through in-kind or financial support, collaboration and friendship, those represented on this page share our mission and are vital to our success. The Foundation, Corporate and Community Supporters provide financial support so that we can offer this program to the children of the Kennett area. We offer our heartfelt thanks for all who made the last year so successful!



2023-24 COMMUNITY COLLABORATIONS AND PARTNERSHIPS

4-H Penn State Extension-
Chester County Office
Anchor Life+Fitness Club
Anson B. Nixon Park
Bridging the Community
Casa Guanajuato
Center for the Creative
Arts
Darlington Arts Center
Episcopal Church of the
Advent
Four Seasons Garden Club
of Kennett Square
Friends Home in Kennett
Square

Kennett Area YMCA
Kennett Consolidated
School District
Kennett Copy & More
Kennett Education
Foundation
Kennett High School Walk
in kNowledge (WIN)
Program
Kennett Library
Kennett Middle School
Administration and
Faculty
Kennett Middle School
Giving Garden

Kennett Middle School
Hermanitas
Kennett Run Charities
Kennett Trails Alliance
Kennett Square Golf &
Country Club
Lincoln University Women's
Basketball, Athletics &
Recreational Services
Longwood Rotary Club
New Garden Flying Field
Pennsylvania Statewide
Afterschool/Youth
Development Network

Southern Chester County
Regional Police Dept.
Technical College High
School-Pennock's Bridge
Campus
The Crimes Victims' Center
of Chester County
Unionville High School
After-The-Bell Club
Unionville Flaming Phoenix
FTC Team 7423
West Chester University
Psychology Department

2023-24 FOUNDATION, CORPORATE AND CHARITABLE SUPPORT

Aaron and Jean Martin
Fund
The Applestone
Foundation, Inc.
Beiler-Campbell
Charities, Inc.
Beiler-Campbell Realtors
CCRES, Inc.
Chadds Ford Complete
Services, LLC
Chuck Weed State Farm
Corrado Construction
Company, LLC
Episcopal Church of the
Advent

Family Promise of SCC
Ganly Vision Care, PC
George Krapf Jr. & Son's
Greico Funeral Home and
Crematory, Inc.
The Hadley Fund/Jessie
Cox
Hamilton Family Charitable
Trust
Hutton Family HeLP Fund
Kennett Monthly Meeting
Friends (Sara Bowers
Fund Comm.)
Kennett Rotary
Foundation

Lester Water, Inc.
Longwood Gardens
The Longwood Group,
LLC
Manfredi's Cold Storage
& Distribution, Inc.
Marshall-Reynolds
Foundation
The Mushroom Festival,
Inc.
Neil Joines Foundation
New Garden Meeting of
Friends
Phillips Mushroom Farms

Rotary Club of Longwood
Foundation
Rudy's Exotic Mushrooms
& Produce
St. Michael Lutheran
Church
State Street Pizza & Grill,
Inc.
The TRI-M Group, LLC
Unionville High School
Spanish Honor Society
United Way of Southern
Chester County
US Nels, Inc.

2023-24 BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND STAFF

★ From the Board

Looking back over our 25th Anniversary year, I am filled with both pride and gratitude as I think about all the people who came forward to support After-The-Bell and the important work we do to keep middle school students safe and engaged in meaningful activities after school. The kindness of our community led to the most successful fundraiser in our history. Throughout the year, we were thrilled to be able to celebrate this milestone with our students, volunteers and friends.

It is fitting that we called our April fundraiser *Flying Into The Future!* As we now turn our attention to the next 25 years at After-The-Bell, we are renewing our commitment to provide students with an experience that is fun, memorable, educational and relevant to their interests in our changing world. Thanks to all of you who continue to join us on this journey.

I have a feeling that the best is yet to come!

- Rudy Karkosak, Board President
Kennett After-School Association



Board Members

Officers

President - Rudy Karkosak, Ed.D.
Vice President - Jeanne Hutton
Secretary - Jean O'Neil
Treasurer - Rachel Brunke
Assistant Treasurer - Stephen Verget

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George Amoss
Maricela Ayllon
Lisa Baldwin
Kori Barley-Stoudemire
Sally Braffman
Sydnee Iglesias
Karen Jessee
Holly Peters
Susan Soraruf

After-The-Bell Staff

Executive Director

Paola Rosas

Grant Coordinator and Document Writer

Kathleen Meehan Do

Program Managers

Kassandra Allyon
Leticia DeWilde
Eric Salameda
Kathy Salameda
Citlaly Weed

Social Media

Amanda Cloran

Website / Graphic Design

Darlene Flores

Advisory Council

Arthur Knechtel
James Orisini, DVM
Loretta Perna
Lynne Seligman
Collis Townsend

Board Members Emeritus

The late Peg Baker
The late Aaron Martin
Lynn Pantazes
The late Randy Schofield
Carol Wendel
Susan Woodward

Founders

The late Marshall Newton
The late Denise Wood
The late John Wood



United Way of
Southern Chester County

afterthebell.org | Phone: 610-268-5889 | Email: afterthebell@kcsd.org
Kennett Middle School, 195 Sunny Dell Road, Landenberg, PA 19350
PO Box 1068, Kennett Square, PA 19348

The Kennett After-School Association is a 501(c)(3) independently-funded organization. The After-The-Bell program is housed at Kennett Middle School as an in-kind donation from the Kennett Consolidated School District. The program receives no funding from the school district or any other government source.