



Media Advisory

For Immediate Release
November 4, 2024

For more information contact:
JD Raucci
@ 309-210-7805

National *Lights on Afterschool* Event Shines Bright for 21st Century Schools at Tazewell County Health Department

On October 22nd, the national [Lights On Afterschool](#) event illuminated communities across the nation, and the celebrations hosted through Tazewell County Health Department's (TCHD) 21st Century Schools program were no exception. With an impressive turnout of 273 students, the event highlighted the importance of afterschool programs and the positive impact they have on youth development.

The *Lights On Afterschool* initiative, established in 2000, serves to raise awareness about the critical role afterschool programs play in keeping children safe, inspiring learning, and helping working families. This year the *Lights On* event brought together students, parents, educators, and community members for an afternoon filled with engaging activities.

The event offered a diverse range of activities aimed at highlighting the talents and creativity of students. With art displays and science experiments, attendees experienced a vibrant mix of projects that celebrated the accomplishments fostered by afterschool programs. TCHD, along with community organizations, collaborated to create interactive stations for students to participate in. Some of the stations featured hands-on CPR, STEM activities, fire safety, and information about the human digestive system.

The turnout of 273 students is a testament to the ever-expanding afterschool community that has been cultivated over the years. Research continues to show that afterschool programs contribute significantly to academic achievement, social skills development, and emotional well-being. They provide a safe space for children to explore interests, build friendships, and receive mentorship from caring adults.

As the event concluded, participants left with a renewed sense of community and purpose. Many expressed gratitude for the opportunities provided by afterschool programs, noting how they have positively influenced their lives.

The success of this year's event reflects a strong commitment to youth development and community involvement. As we look forward to next year's celebration, we will continue to advocate for the significance of afterschool programs and the bright futures they help create.

For more information, please contact JD Raucci at 309-210-7805.

###