

[See Our Other Communities](#)

Community

Advertise with us

[Today's top ads](#) | [Jobs](#) | [Cars](#) | [Homes](#) | [Yellow pages](#) | [Videos](#)[articles](#)[sign in](#)[Home](#) | [Legals](#) | [Obituaries](#) | [Business Directory](#) | [Classifieds](#) | [Community](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Opinion](#) | [my content](#)[news](#) | [sports](#) | [police logs](#) | [lifebeats](#) | [columns](#) | [video](#)

## Greenman says after-school programs essential, now more than ever

by Meg Fraser

Apr 05, 2011 | 484 views | 0 | 6 | |

Adam Greenman knows that teachers do the best they can. He spent three years with Teach for America in Camden, N.J. and saw firsthand how an education could impact a child's life.

During that time, though, he also realized that the hours spent outside of the classroom were equally important. He decided to stay in Camden to build after-school programs in that community for another two years before moving to Rhode Island to tackle student enrichment here.

Now the executive director of the Rhode Island Afterschool Plus Alliance, Greenman says after-school programming is now more important than ever.

"Kids are out of school two-thirds more than they're in school, so school alone can't improve educational outcomes," he said. "If districts are cutting back, there are still organizations out there who are offering these programs. We're seeing demand even greater because schools are cutting programs."

Especially in the current economy, many parents continue to work long hours to support their family. That leaves the question of where children go after school. Crime among young people increases in the after school hours, and Greenman cites a Brandeis study that claimed as much as \$300 billion in productivity is lost by businesses in the hours of 3 to 6 p.m. due to worried parents.

According to RIASPA, every dollar invested in expanding learning opportunities returns \$2.50 by decreasing the costs of criminal justice, welfare and additional schooling.

"Kids really do fall behind when they're not engaged in some kind of learning activity," Greenman said.

RIASPA is one of 39 statewide after-school networks across the country. They do not run any programs on their own. Their goal, rather, is to make existing programs better and foster the creation of more programs.

"We consider ourselves, and really work to be, an incubator of creative ideas for out of school time," he said.

In Warwick, the types of programs RIASPA targets are the Boys and Girls Club, Westbay Children's Center, Crayons Child Care and A Family Tree, to name a few. Those programs can use RIASPA as a resource, though Greenman says there are many more organizations out there that could benefit from their services. RIASPA offers professional development opportunities for after-school programs. When RIASPA can't offer a workshop that is needed, they connect after-school activities with grant opportunities so they can improve programming on their own.

"A lot of the professional development we do is improving the quality of after school programs," Greenman said. "There is a huge contingent of some after-school programs that can't afford the big professional development. It's these organizations we really work with to ensure they have the same high standards."

RIASPA works with all types of programs, not just those that are academically focused.

"You can put learning into any activity, whether it's sports or something else. It's about social and emotional growth as well," Greenman said. "There's always a demand for music, there's always a demand for sports, there's a demand for anything that's fun and gets kids excited about learning. Any program, it doesn't need to be academically focused, has to reinforce what kids are doing at school."

Wednesday

Access to programs is another cornerstone for the Afterschool Plus Alliance. Urban core communities that have high concentrations of at-risk students have more federal funding opportunities, but RIASPA wants programs to be accessible to kids statewide.

One way to increase accessibility, Greenman said, is connecting school districts with after school organizations like the YMCA.

"It's really about bringing these folks around the table. The more that we can get school teachers working with these community organizations, the better it's going to be for the children and youth in this state," he said.

For more information on the Rhode Island Afterschool Plus Alliance, call 331-2638 or visit [www.afterschoolri.org](http://www.afterschoolri.org).

Share This Article |

**similar stories**

**Sisters step out on own, discover how quickly a 'Family Tree' can grow** | 2 years ago

**Warwick's Promise to expand effort working with youth** | 9 years ago

**Letter: After-school drug testing would turn students to streets** | 8 years ago

**Fitness challenge earns Scott students a 'cheat' luncheon** | 3 years ago

**Volunteer Guardian Program helps elderly in need** | 6 years ago

**post a comment**

comments (0)

no comments yet

Disclaimer: The comments on this website in no way reflect the opinions of Beacon Communications or its employees.

We believe it is absolutely possible for people from a variety of points of view to discuss issues in a civil manner; and we reserve the right, but assume no obligation, to remove comments and ban accounts of users that foster incivility. We encourage contributions that contain local information, local people or of local relevance. Contributions not considered of local relevance may be removed at any time for any reason. If you see something on this site that you believe is offensive, please contact our office and ask for Matt Bower at 732-3100.



**event calendar**

April, 2011						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

Select date

[help](#)   [about us](#)   [contact us](#)

software copyright © 2010 matchbin, inc. content copyright © 2010 Warwick Beacon

**[read our privacy policy](#)**

The Warwick Beacon is located in Warwick, RI