



## QUALITY CAMPAIGN MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

A grassroots organization with strong ties to both the faith community and underserved families in the South Hills, **Melting Pot Ministries** serves about 100 students, with one-third from four middle schools in South Park, Bethel Park, and Baldwin-Whitehall. Because of a reading achievement gap, Melting Pot looks for alternative and interesting ways to provide more opportunities for verbal expression. The theme this year is "Express Yourself," with programming focused on communications skills that include critical thinking and problem solving. "Last summer we discovered our children were totally engaged with poetry as long as it had rhythm and movement. This year we've invited two performing artists to work with our children," said executive director Brenda Lockley. "Thanks to the Quality Campaign, we are able to consistently evaluate our program in a more concise and efficient manner, which is a great management tool for training and oversight of all of our afterschool students."



"Afterschool matters to me because in 8th grade stuff gets a lot harder and I need someone to help me. I need help because my mother works a lot and I don't always have my mom at home to help me and so if I need someone to help me, I have someone."

A student from Saturday Light Brigade Radio, Spring 2015

## QUALITY CAMPAIGN DASHBOARD

January 2016

43 members

22,225 youth served

Research has shown the importance of quality afterschool programs in supporting the healthy development of children and youth. A key strategy for building program quality is to support skill development of youth practitioners. APOST offers professional development workshops at no cost to youth-serving organizations and is committed to supporting and building access to high-quality opportunities for children in our communities.

**Afterschool and summer programs keep kids safe, inspire learning and help working families.**

**Here's how you can make a difference.**

**Show your SUPPORT for QUALITY out-of-school programs for Allegheny County youth!**

- Share student success stories from Quality programs
- Encourage providers to become Quality Campaign members
- Advocate for access for *all* kids to Quality out-of-school programs

## Spotlight on Practitioner: Rosemary Anderson



**Rosemary Anderson** spent most of her career as a successful elementary math or junior high French teacher. In fact, she was a finalist for the West Virginia Teacher of the Year award. Through her experiences, Rosemary recognized the importance of afterschool programs and decided to focus her energy and attention there. "Afterschool programs provide students with opportunities not available during the regular day. Afterschool is where students can think, be nurtured, and learn," professes Rosemary. Now director of afterschool programs for the Propel Charter Schools in Pittsburgh, Rosemary directs ten afterschool sites that serve more than 700 youth. Instructors at Propel's afterschool programs are mostly teachers and aides from the school day, so there is a seamless progression from one to the other. The instructors have attended two professional development training sessions made available to them as members of the APOST Quality Campaign. "Our staff thought the presenters were excellent. We learn a lot through APOST," Rosemary said.



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