

The Bridge Teen Center, JCPenney celebrates Lights On Afterschool

HEATHER WARTHEN, Editor

Joining afterschool programs not only across the State of Illinois, but across the country as well, the Bridge Teen Center and JCPenney in Orland Square Mall recently teamed up to celebrate "Lights On Afterschool Day" Thursday, Oct. 20.

The Oct. 20 celebration was part of the Afterschool Alliance's 12th annual national rally for afterschool programs. The Bridge Teen Center Founder and Executive Director Priscilla Steinmetz was recently named an ambassador for Afterschool Alliance. Steinmetz said that nationwide there were more than 7,500 events going on to celebrate and this was a good opportunity for



Sandburg senior and Bridge Teen Center member Athena Tapia performs during the "Lights On Afterschool Day" held at JCPenney in Orland Square Mall. HEATHER WARTHEN/22ND CENTURY MEDIA

them to let people know about the organization.

The Orland Park event featured a performance by Sandburg student and Bridge Teen Center member Athena Tapia, as well as free Chick-fil-A chicken sandwiches and an appearance by the famous Chick-

fil-A cow. The one-hour event also featured T-shirt giveaways of "Lights on Afterschool" T-shirts and other prizes.

For more information on The Bridge Teen Center, call (708) 532-0500 or visit www.thebridgecenter.org.

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Tinley Park residents Kathryn Barnes, Cody Kush, Ryan Giovanni and Amber Holup were among those who attended the event.

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The Bridge Teen Center Founder and Executive Director Priscilla Steinmetz (left) smiles with Bridge Teen Center members (left to right, back row) Kathryn Barnes of Tinley Park, Cody Kush of Tinley Park and Chris Haines of Oak Forest; (front row) Emily Cooper of Oak Forest, Ryan Giovanni of Tinley Park and Amber Holup of Tinley Park at the “Lights On Afterschool Day” event in Orland Park. HEATHER WARTHEN/22ND CENTURY MEDIA