

QUEENS NEWS

EDITORIAL

Helping hand to kids

After-school hours are fraught with peril for kids. It's when they are likeliest to get up to mischief, such as drug use or petty crimes.

In 2005, the city began providing alternative academic, recreational and cultural activities with its Out of School Time program. It's a big success with the kids — there are now 489 programs in schools, settlement houses, libraries, parks and other venues.

That's great, but it's not enough. Not with a million schoolkids in town.

So the city is reaching out to New Yorkers to pitch in if they can and what they can through the new Take Action for Afterschool volunteer program.

Give what time, energy and expertise you can. Even an afternoon telling kids about your job, how you got it and how they can, too, can be useful. Or you could tutor or mentor or help a program get sports equipment or art supplies or other needed resources.

The program has already signed up 100 graduate students to tutor in math, science, engineering and technology. You could probably teach kids a thing or two yourself.

For information, go online at www.nyc.gov/service or call 311.

Chairman & Publisher **Mortimer B. Zuckerman**
President and CEO **William D. Holliber**
Editor in Chief **Kevin R. Convey**
Boroughs Editor **James Harney**
Deputy Boroughs Editor **Robert Massi**
Boroughs News Editor **Ginnie Teo**
Boroughs Sports Editor **Bruce Diamond**
Queens Bureau Chief **Paul H. B. Shin**