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SASF'S JOHN CURTIS WINS PASESETTER AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING COMMITMENT TO UNDERSERVED YOUTH

LONGTIME DIRECTOR OF AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM AT QUEENS SCHOOL HONORED FOR DEDICATION TO IMPROVING STUDENTS' LIVES

Woodside, Queens – The Sports & Arts in Schools Foundation (SASF), a leading provider of after-school and summer programming for NYC public school students, is proud to congratulate John Curtis for receiving a PASEsetter Award from the Partnership for Afterschool Education (PASE) on Jan. 26th. The award, presented by PASE to a select few at their annual gala, recognizes outstanding commitment and dedication to youth services in underserved communities by professionals in the after-school field.

John has worked in after-school programming for 36 years. His last 15 years has been spent directing SASF's sports, arts and academic after-school program at I.S. 238 in Hollis, Queens. John's leadership and commitment to the program has facilitated the creation and development of a top-quality Dance Theatre Troupe that now performs regularly at places like Walt Disney World and the Colonial Theater in Pittsfield, MA. Many graduates of John's after-school theater program at I.S. 238 have gone on to matriculate at some of the city's most selective performing arts high schools; others have returned to I.S. 238 upon college graduation to work for John, demonstrating the immense impact his program had on their lives.

Just as important has been John's focus on academic improvement among his program participants over the years. He has made homework help, test prep and even individualized tutoring a hallmark of the after-school experience at I.S. 238. Partly due to the program, 238's overall academic performance has improved steadily over the last decade.



"John Curtis represents the best of the after-school movement in New York City, and he epitomizes what we strive to achieve at each of our SASF program sites," said Jim O'Neill, President of SASF. "John exemplifies high quality, high enthusiasm and a complete dedication to the youngsters under his watch. On behalf of the entire organization, I congratulate John and his family."

The PASEsetter Awards gala represented a "who's who" of the media and youth services communities in NYC. Presenters and attendees included CBS 2 News Anchor Maurice DuBois, NYC Dept. of Youth and Community Development Commissioner Jeanne Mullgrav and Jaclyn DeVore of the Starr Foundation.

Established in 1992, the non-profit Sports & Arts in Schools Foundation (SASF) offers a wide variety of after-school, Saturday, vacation and summer programs – including sports and fitness activities, performing and visual arts classes, academic tutoring, character development workshops and community service learning projects – that combat three growing threats to the well-being of urban youth: the alarming high school drop-out rate; growing cases of childhood obesity; and increasing youth-on-youth violence. SASF serves almost 50,000 students in more than 300 public schools annually.