

# Alachua County Florida

## A Proclamation

### Declaring October 23rd, 2025, as “Lights on Afterschool Day” in Alachua County, Florida

**Whereas,** the Children’s Trust of Alachua County stands firmly committed to investing in quality afterschool programs because they provide safe and engaging learning experiences that help children develop social, emotional, physical, and academic skills; and

**Whereas** afterschool programs provide critical support for the academic growth and well-being of children and youth and offer new experiences and opportunities that help young people learn and thrive. Afterschool programs provide innovative, hands-on activities for children to engage in learning and build stronger communities by involving students, parents, businesses; and

**Whereas** volunteers in the lives of young people. Today, afterschool programs address key issues in our state such as school absenteeism, learning loss recovery, and workforce development. Afterschool provides a solid return on investment. Every \$1 invested in afterschool programs saves at least \$3 by increasing kids’ earning potential; improving kids’ performance at school; and reducing crime and juvenile delinquency; and

**Whereas,** The Children’s Trust of Alachua County has provided significant leadership in the education and well-being of our children and youth. Quality afterschool programs are key to helping our children become successful adults; and

**Whereas,** lights on Afterschool, the national celebration of afterschool programs, held this year on October 23, 2025, promotes the importance of quality afterschool programs for our children, families, and communities.

**Whereas,** many afterschool programs across the country are facing funding shortfalls and they are being forced to close their doors and turn off their lights. The Children’s Trust of Alachua County is committed to investing in afterschool programs to ensure every child has access to a safe and engaging place where they can learn and grow, while helping them develop the skills essential for success in life and work.

**Now, therefore,** through the authority vested in me by the Board of County Commissioners of Alachua County, Florida, I do hereby proclaim, October 23, 2025, as “Lights on Afterschool Day” in Alachua County, Florida.

Duly proclaimed this 14<sup>th</sup> day of October, A.D., 2025.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF ALACHUA COUNTY FLORIDA

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Charles S. Chestnut, IV, Chair

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
J.K. “Jess” Irby, Esq.