

CHILDREN'S DEFENSE FUND 2016 ANNUAL REPORT



Children's Defense Fund

CDF's Mission

The Children's Defense Fund Leave No Child Behind® mission is to ensure every child a *Healthy Start*, a *Head Start*, a *Fair Start*, a *Safe Start* and a *Moral Start* in life and successful passage to adulthood with the help of caring families and communities.

CDF provides a strong, effective and independent voice for *all* the children of America who cannot vote, lobby or speak for themselves. We pay particular attention to the needs of poor children, children of color and those with disabilities. CDF educates the nation about the needs of children and encourages preventive investments before they get sick, drop out of school, get into trouble or suffer family breakdown.

CDF began in 1973 and is a private, nonprofit organization supported by individual donations, foundation, corporate and government grants.



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“The Scratch Line”

“We do not all start at the same scratch line, although there’s one original position hypothetically for everybody. You were born here owning nothing, having earned nothing, just born! There you are helpless! You are indebted to everybody – but some of us opened our eyes and saw nothing but blessings just dumping on us. I opened my eyes and there was [my parents] Herbert and Thelma and my grandma Hattie, [born] a slave . . . smiling on me. How in the world could I lose? Taught me how to read and sing four part harmony before I ever got to school; taught me how to play the clarinet and the piano and made me go to Sunday school. Daddy didn’t send us, Daddy took us to Sunday school. If there was nobody in the Sunday school but one person, that would’ve been my daddy with his little six children there in the Sunday school at the Bank Street Baptist Church. That’s what I inherited! I didn’t earn it. You can’t get that with a Visa card – it was given to me.

“Now all through my neighborhood, there were other young fellas . . . daddies were drunk half the time, they didn’t read in their homes, nobody went to Sunday school, none of that. They started life below the scratch line. I started life way above the scratch line. Everywhere I went, someone said, ‘Aren’t you Ms. Hattie’s grandson?’ ‘Are you Herbert’s boy?’ . . . Everything smiling on me – finished high school at 15, went on to college on a scholarship. None of that did I deserve; I hadn’t earned any of it. I started out with a head of steam...[My parents] gave all of that to us in great abundance, and my buddies up the street had none of that.

“Now if we want these bones to live again, those of us who have inherited benefits that we did not earn or deserve need to turn around and help those who inherited deficits that they did not earn or deserve and help them to rise up to the scratch line where we are so that they may earn and enjoy all of the benefits that we so take for granted. Can these bones live again, O Lord? These bones can live!”

— Rev. Dr. Samuel DeWitt Proctor, Opening Dedication Sermon
of CDF Haley Farm, “Can These Bones Live” 1994



CDF Haley Farm in Clinton, Tennessee, the only place with two Maya Lin designed buildings enabled by the generosity of Len and Louise Riggio.

President's Message

The aftermath of our unexpected and shocking national political tsunami places a half century of hard earned child investments, policies and programs at risk of complete dismantlement and/or massive cuts. We need your help as we struggle to set our compass on how best to get our children's little boats to safe harbor in this unprecedented, unpredictable and turbulent national sea.

I begin each year at CDF Haley Farm in our annual women's spiritual retreat to get centered for the hard work ahead. Haley Farm is also home to our annual week long July child advocacy ministry institute named for our first great worship leader Dr. Samuel DeWitt Proctor, former college president, senior Peace Corps official, and successor to Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. as senior minister of historic Abyssinian Baptist Church in Harlem. Over the years we have been privileged to hear America's leading academic theologians and greatest preachers and child advocates speaking on the moral responsibility to care for children, especially those below the "scratch line." Seeding and building a transformative social justice movement requires a deep and strong spiritual base and reaching out and listening to and engaging a wide variety of constituencies who share their deepest hopes, fears and concerns over time. Movements do not happen overnight.



On January 9-10, 2017 CDF convened a listening and sharing gathering to hear from 55 extremely thoughtful intergenerational leaders about where we are and where we go from here. We were inspired and informed by Congressman John Lewis — my colleague from the sit-in movement in 1960; North Carolina Moral Monday leader and NAACP head Rev. Dr. William J. Barber II; Brittany Packnett, a key Black Lives Matter leader; Dr. Jared Bernstein, top economic advisor to Vice President Biden and now senior fellow at the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities; Congressman Bobby Scott (D-VA), ranking member of the Committee on Education and the Workforce; and Catherine Lhamon, Esq., the extraordinarily effective head of the Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights and new chair of the U.S. Civil Rights Commission. College students from Howard University along with high school students from the "I Have a Dream" Foundation network and their president, former CDF-NY head Donna Lawrence, and other CDF alums including the head of Public Allies came as did all CDF state directors.

We discussed the multifront dangerous war on children, the poor, the disabled and other vulnerables now underway, how to set priorities and fight back strategically with all our collective might intergenerationally. Children do not come in pieces as every parent knows but holding on to Medicaid, the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) and the Affordable Care Act (ACA) which affect coverage for 95 percent of all children in America tops our agenda along with the early childhood education, child nutrition, child welfare and housing protections every child needs.

Building on our 2015 *Ending Child Poverty Now* report and soon to be published 2017 *State of America's Children* and *Portrait of Inequality* reports we will keep planting and nurturing seeds to organize a movement to end immoral, indefensible and costly child poverty in America as the 50th anniversary of Dr. King's Poor People's Campaign approaches in 2018. The Poor People's Campaign gave birth to CDF's parent organization, the Washington Research Project, in 1968. I know Dr. King would be calling for a campaign to end child poverty in rich America today when wealth and income gaps between rich and poor are at historic levels. That children are the poorest age group in America is morally indefensible and economically costly and a great threat to our future economic and national security.

When President Reagan took office in 1981, he proposed complete dismantlement of the federal safety net for poor children and families woven over many decades. We and others acting in coalition fought back and focused on saving the infrastructure of critical federal programs. Although we lost tens of billions of dollars in cruel cuts, we

recouped them over ensuing years with persistent bipartisan leadership and organized pressure.

Today our top concern is protecting and expanding the hard earned framework of the laws including Medicaid, CHIP, and the ACA and critical investments in early childhood, education, child welfare, child and family nutrition, the Earned Income and Child Tax Credits which lift millions from poverty, and SNAP (formerly food stamps), which served 44.2 million Americans last year and is a crucial protection against hunger for about 2 million Americans with no income. Since Robert Kennedy visited the Mississippi Delta with me in 1967 and saw babies and young children with swollen bellies from food deprivation, much progress has been made. But child hunger in summer months ravages child bodies and minds with an 80 or more percent drop from the nutrition assistance children get through school breakfasts and lunches during the school year.

Nationally the federal health safety net covers 95 percent of all children. California and New York are pacesetters: more than 97 percent of New York children and 97 percent of California children have health coverage regardless of immigration status.

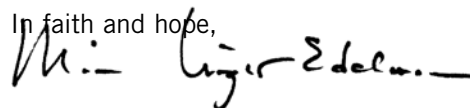
On February 7, 2017 I joined House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, Democratic Whip Steny Hoyer, Ranking Member of the Committee on Education and the Workforce Bobby Scott, and other Representatives, parents and children in a packed press conference dedicated to protecting children's critical health care.

In December 2016 I spoke to the Department of Education's staff to thank them for their strong leadership in protecting the most vulnerable children — poor, homeless, foster care, transgender and children of color who suffer unjust disciplinary and special education practices. All are at risk. And we will make every effort to prevent elimination of crucial data systems and guidelines designed to help the most vulnerable children succeed in school.

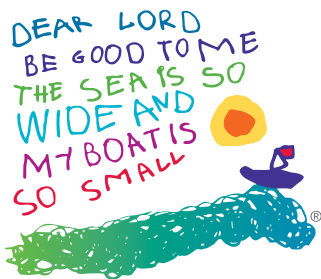
With your continuing support, we will fight with all our might to go forward and never backwards. We are continually inspired by over 600 Beat the Odds® youths we have honored and provided college scholarships over the past 27 years who have succeeded despite poverty, homelessness, violence, or parental incarceration or loss. We are delighted to have our first *Beat the Odds* Rhodes Scholar this year, Caylin Moore, a CDF-CA *Beat the Odds* awardee in 2011 and Texas Christian University senior who will be attending Oxford University. We also have our first Mayor from our youth leadership development networks — 26-year-old Stanford graduate Michael Tubbs. After serving four years on the City Council he is now Mayor of Stockton, California.

CDF's most important role is seed sower for new generations of servant leaders committed to lifting others as they climb. Thanks to caring friends like you and a network of community partners in 30 states and 98 cities, over 150,000 children have had a CDF Freedom Schools® experience and intergenerational leaders are lifting up their voices and using their lives to leave no child behind™. Loving to read is now a common experience among Freedom Schools children. Many of our college-age teacher/servant leaders are becoming teachers and school administrators and helping fill a huge hole in our non-White teacher pipeline in a public school system where the majority of our children are non-White and disproportionately poor. Thousands who have come through one of CDF's servant leadership development doors are building a powerful army to slay the Goliaths who leave millions of children victimized by poverty and violence and hopelessness in our boastfully affluent land and I am optimistic and grateful.

Thank you for all you do for CDF and for children! Your support enables us to mount a strong *independent voice* for all the children struggling below the scratch line in powerful and rich America. With your help, we are as determined as ever to build a stronger more just America where we Leave No Child Behind™.

In faith and hope,


Marian Wright Edelman



ENDING CHILD POVERTY NOW



Changing the Odds for Children Left Behind

Building on CDF's groundbreaking 2015 publication, *Ending Child Poverty Now*, and progress making improvements on the Earned Income Tax Credit and the Child Tax Credit, CDF continues our campaign and advocacy to reduce overall child poverty by 60 percent and Black child poverty by 72 percent. In 2016 a key CDF partner, the American Academy of Pediatrics, recommended that all pediatricians ask about poverty and basic needs in patient visits and urge state and federal lawmakers to expand existing housing, food and health programs. The Academic Pediatric Association (APA) devoted an entire supplement to child poverty in their official journal *Academic Pediatrics*. "Poverty is the most serious noncommunicable disease that children have — and it's the most common," wrote Dr. Benard Dreyer, President, AAP. CDF's President contributed a commentary sharing CDF's proposed solutions. Bottom line: America cannot afford not to end child poverty now.



HEALTH + EDUCATION = LEARNING



U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services Sylvia Burwell, U.S. Secretary of Education John B. King, Jr. and Marian Wright Edelman at Cardozo High School in the District of Columbia

CDF and coalition partners helped secure funding for the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) ensuring health coverage for 8 million children and for the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program through 2017. Thanks to the Affordable Care Act, Medicaid and CHIP, more American children have coverage than ever before! CDF will never stop until all of America's children have coverage. In August U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services Sylvia Burwell and U.S. Secretary of Education John B. King Jr. hosted CDF and AASA, The School Superintendents Association, in releasing our *Happy, Healthy and Ready to Learn: Insure All Children!* toolkit. The toolkit, supported by The Atlantic Philanthropies, shares lessons learned from CDF and AASA's extensive work with school districts to identify uninsured children through a routine school registration process and enroll them in health coverage. Healthy children are better learners and asking the simple question, "Does your child have health insurance?" on annual school enrollment forms is central to connecting children to the health coverage they need to survive and thrive.

CDF-Texas pioneered this method more than a decade ago. Over the last five years CDF worked with fifteen school districts in California, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas. The toolkit offers a clear set of steps, useful tools, tips and lessons that superintendents, school districts, teachers and parents across the country are using to make connecting uninsured children to health coverage through schools routine in America. Since children do not come in pieces, it is a welcome step forward for school officials to recognize that if a child cannot see or hear the teacher, health is an education issue. We will continue spreading this model to schools across America.

Superintendents at CDF School Discipline Reform Symposium



MaryLee Allen, CDF Director of Policy; Ginel Garcia, Illinois Student; Dwanna Nicole, Advancement Project; Leia Esser, Madison, Wisconsin Assistant Superintendent; Emily Chiariello, Educational Consultant; and Sybil Knight-Burney, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania Superintendent.

Twenty-nine Superintendents and district leaders representing 1.5 million students joined CDF and AASA, The School Superintendents Association, for a Superintendent School Discipline Reform Symposium October 28-29 in Chicago. Successful superintendent led strategies were spotlighted and the challenges superintendents face helping all children achieve. Discussions centered on reducing suspensions and expulsions and their disproportionate impact on children of color, promoting positive school climate, confronting race and implicit and explicit bias, and using the new Every Student Succeeds Act to promote positive school climate and end exclusionary discipline. Special attention was given to engaging teachers, students, parents and other community leaders and organizations to help improve school climate and help students succeed.

U.S. Supreme Court Rules

On April 4th the U.S. Supreme Court in *Evenwel v. Abbott* unanimously upheld the longstanding practice of drawing electoral lines on the basis of total population and rejected the recommendation that only eligible voters be counted when drawing districts. CDF filed a friend of the court brief defending the total population practice as an important safeguard for voteless children. “Nonvoters have an important stake in many policy debates and in receiving constituent services. By ensuring that each representative is subject to requests and suggestions from the same number of constituents, total population apportionment promotes equitable and effective representation,” Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg wrote in the majority opinion.

Who Says Reading Can't Be Fun? CDF Freedom Schools® Program



The joy of reading radiates from a CDF Freedom Schools® scholar in Arkansas.



Children pore over a book in a group activity.



Children march to end child poverty during the National Day of Social Action.



Nation Wright, age 1, is CDF Freedom Schools youngest Native American reader.



Scholars prepare to march in Seattle, Washington.



The motivational song, *Something Inside So Strong*, empowers over 12,000 children in CDF Freedom Schools sites in 30 states including the District of Columbia, Hawaii, the U.S. Virgin Islands and this site in California.

Planting and Nurturing Seeds: Building the Next Generation of Servant Leaders

Making a Difference through 2016 CDF Freedom Schools® Program

The CDF Freedom Schools® program offers an empowering child centered and culturally engaging pedagogy to stop summer learning loss for children left behind and to create a crucial non-White teacher pipeline. The *CDF Freedom Schools* program is our proven servant leadership development model for two generations of children and youths and for engaging parents. In 2016, 12,500 K-12 children attended *CDF Freedom Schools* programs in 30 states and 98 cities. On average *CDF Freedom Schools* scholars demonstrated an eight-month increase in instructional reading levels with 84 percent maintaining or gaining in instructional reading levels without experiencing summer learning loss. Children who read below grade level at the start of the summer experienced even greater gains making an average of 1.2 years in reading gains from the empowering carefully designed curriculum and inspiring college-age teacher-servant leader role models from their own communities many of whom overcame great odds. Many are becoming teachers and school administrators and beginning to fill a huge hole in our teacher of color pipeline in a public school system where the majority are children of color and disproportionately poor. In Minnesota a *CDF Freedom Schools* program serves predominantly Native American scholars, 600 poor native children on Hawaii's Big Island, and poor children in South Carolina are now getting an after-school experience. Through the *CDF Freedom Schools* program youths in secure juvenile detention centers and homeless shelters have a lifeline of hope to hold on to and strive for a positive future. Since 1995, more than 150,000 pre-K-12 children have experienced and more than 17,000 college students have been trained to deliver this empowering model.

"I hope you will answer the call to rescue our youth from hopelessness and despair and dead-end lives by starting a *CDF Freedom Schools* program in your community." — *Marian Wright Edelman to CDF interns*

Studying at Florida State University for a master's degree in Exceptional Student Education, Keely Smith spent the summer of 2014 as a *CDF Freedom Schools* intern. She heard that call and immediately said sure, why not! A year later Keely ran a *CDF Freedom Schools* site serving 50 children in a rural community near her home in Tallahassee. In 2016 Keely co-directed two sites serving 100 children. She partners with Florida State and Florida A&M Universities to support the work: "I honestly could not imagine life without *CDF Freedom Schools* program. It has made me a more joyful person and educator, and I know it has had the same impact on my staff and our scholars. You can see it in our excitement this summer!" Recently married, Keely is now called Mrs. Norris by middle schoolers in her special education classes. She is a shining example of servant leadership and of CDF's youth leadership development programs.

Annual CDF Freedom Schools® Ella Baker Child Policy Training Institute

In 2016, over 1,800 college students and graduates, educators, probation and juvenile detention staff and local program leaders gathered at CDF Haley Farm and the University of Tennessee to hear an extraordinary array of inspirational leaders including U.S. Secretary of Education John King, Jr., CDF Board members Bryan Stevenson and Angela Glover Blackwell, historians led by Dr. Peter H. Wood, Emeritus Professor of History at Duke University, leading children's book authors and other exciting speakers to prepare them for the classroom.

2016 CDF Freedom Schools® Speakers



Michelle Alexander, author of *The New Jim Crow*



Angela Glover Blackwell, Founder and CEO of PolicyLink; co-chair of CDF Board



Bryan Stevenson, author of *Just Mercy*; Founder and CEO of Equal Justice Initiative; CDF Board Member



Rev. Dr. William J. Barber II, Architect of North Carolina's Moral Monday, Forward Together Movement, author of *The Third Reconstruction*



U.S. Secretary of Education John B. King, Jr.



Dr. Michael Nettles, Senior Vice President, Policy Evaluation and Research Center, Educational Testing Service



Dr. Terrell L. Strayhorn, Director, Center for Higher Education Enterprise, The Ohio State University



Dr. Christopher Emdin, Associate Professor, Dept. of Mathematics, Science and Technology at Teachers College, Columbia University



Michael Tubbs, Adjunct Professor and Mayor of Stockton, California



Nikki Giovanni, Poet, Author and Distinguished Professor, Virginia Tech



Donovan Livingston, Poet and Educator



Dr. Peter H. Wood, Emeritus Professor of History at Duke University



Dr. Crystal R. Sanders, Asst. Professor of History and African Am. Studies, Penn State University



Dr. Christopher Myers Asch, Author and Founder, Sunflower County Freedom Project and Editor, *Washington History* journal



Dr. Robert K. Ross, President & CEO, The California Endowment and Rev. James Lawson, Jr., Chief Nonviolence Advisor to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



Charlene Carruthers, National Director of the Black Youth Project 100 and Kent Wong, Esq., Director, University of California-Los Angeles Labor Center and co-author with Rev. James Lawson of *Nonviolence and Social Movements*



Dr. Rex M. Ellis, National Museum of African American History and Culture



Ilse Escobar, Director of Programs, Miguel Contreras Foundation, Los Angeles



Authors Panel: Doreen Rappaport, Jason Reynolds, Carole Boston Weatherford, Don Brown and Rita Williams-Garcia



Engaged college students from across the nation are inspired to make learning fun and empowering.



Scholar at Westbury United Methodist Church CDF Freedom Schools® program in Houston, TX



Servant Leader Intern helps a scholar in Nashville, TN.



Homeless child at the D.C. General CDF Freedom Schools program



Scholar at CDF Freedom Schools site in Hawaii



Charlotte, North Carolina CDF Freedom Schools scholar chooses a book.



District of Columbia scholar at National Day of Social Action



Scholar in South Carolina



Scholars learn computer skills at Blenheim, SC Elementary Middle School.



Middle school scholars work together on a project.



South Carolina scholar enjoys a *CDF Freedom Schools* experience.



Summer interns with CDF's President in Washington, D.C.

CDF Beat the Odds® Youth Leadership Program

CDF held Beat the Odds® celebrations in New York, Minnesota, Ohio, Texas, California and Washington, D.C. to lift up exceptional high school seniors who have overcome great challenges to succeed academically and give back to their communities. Over 600 youths have been honored since 1990. Throughout the year CDF offers guidance to the scholars through the college admissions process, scholarships and leadership training.

2016 *Beat the Odds* College Graduate



Antonia Mulvihill and De'Von Jennings. As his high school English teacher, she welcomed him into her family.

Today life is good for De'Von Jennings after an early childhood full of loss and abuse. His mother died when he was 3. Abuse from his father and others followed. Child Services got involved when he became suicidal at 11. A high school English teacher, Antonia Mulvihill, believed in him and made a huge difference in his life. In 2012, he received CDF-Ohio's *Beat the Odds* and the Bill Gates and Horatio Alger scholarship awards.

De'Von seized every opportunity during his college years: A semester at Hong Kong's University of Science and Technology as an exchange student; engineering internships including one with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission; and research with a leading transportation researcher, Dr. Xuesong Zhou, in traffic modeling. On May 11, 2016 he received his bachelor of science in Civil & Environmental Engineering from Arizona State University and will begin pursuing his PhD at the University of California Irvine in spring 2017.

2016 CDF Beat the Odds® Scholars



CDF-New York *Beat the Odds* Scholars: Aesron Jeremiah, Sashagale Moore, Elham Chowhury, Shirleyka Hector and Ruben Suazo



CDF-Ohio *Beat the Odds* Scholars: Emily Wilcox, Journae' Morris, Linda Ransom, Ebi Reyes Leiva and Darrius McLean



CDF-Minnesota *Beat the Odds* Scholars: Hennessey Carlborn, Christopher Oquist, Domenic Johnson, Mela Nguyen, Sebastien Lannelongue and Shamaria Jordan



CDF-Texas *Beat the Odds* Scholars: Christine Egu, Mikenzie Yates, Taylor Garrett, Drew Bernard and Bontu Workneh



CDF-California *Beat the Odds* Scholars: Destiny Novillo, Cierra Gunderson, Jose Aceves, Alexandra Flores and Florencia Valenzuela

CDF National Beat the Odds® Celebration at the Newseum with CDF Alumna in her First Post-Election Appearance



Hillary Rodham Clinton, former Secretary of State, CDF Alumna, and first woman to win the popular vote for President of the United States with Carlos Lopez-Sanchez, Troy Johnson, Janet Lagah-Bona, Yuchabel Sanon and Bethany Pruitt

On November 16, the Children's Defense Fund honored former U.S. First Lady, Secretary of State and CDF Alumna, and the first woman to win the popular vote for President of the United States of America, Hillary Rodham Clinton and five extraordinary youths at the 2016 *Beat the Odds* Celebration in Washington, D.C. The event garnered major national and international press coverage of Hillary Rodham Clinton's first public appearance after the 2016 presidential election and reached more than 100,000,000 people.

The audience was deeply moved by her call for everyone to work together and never give up and strong endorsement of CDF's work "to give every child a healthy start, a head start, a fair start, a safe start and a moral start in life. And I cannot think of a more noble or necessary mission."



Geoffrey Canada, Founder Harlem Children's Zone, and *Beat the Odds*® scholar Yuchabel Sanon



Debbi Jarvis, Vice President of Corporate Relations, Pepco Holdings, Inc. and *Beat the Odds* scholar Janet Lagah-Bona



Lan Bentsen, CDF Board Co-Chair and *Beat the Odds* scholar Carlos Lopez-Sanchez



Malik Kofi, 15, extraordinarily gifted cellist



Rev. Dr. William Barber II, Architect of North Carolina Moral Monday, Forward Together Movement



Beat the Odds scholar Bethany Pruitt surrounded by friends



Marian Wright Edelman and Hillary Rodham Clinton



Martin Rodgers, Managing Director of Accenture DC office and CDF Board Member, and *Beat the Odds* scholar Troy Johnson



Rev. Dawn Hand, Executive Pastor, Foundry United Methodist Church



Dr. Rhondee Benjamin-Johnson, One Medical Group, 1992 *Beat the Odds* scholar, and 2017 scholar Bethany Pruitt



A full house of CDF supporters engaged with former Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton.

Faith-Based Child Advocacy



Dr. Walter J. Brueggemann, Williams Marcellus McPheeters Professor Emeritus of Old Testament, Columbia Theological Seminary; Rev. James Lawson Jr., Chief Nonviolence Advisor to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.; Marian Wright Edelman; and Rev. Shannon Daley-Harris, CDF Religious Affairs Coordinator and Samuel DeWitt Proctor Institute for Child Advocacy Ministry director

In July 500 child advocates from 28 states and the District of Columbia attended the 22nd Annual Samuel DeWitt Proctor Institute for Child Advocacy Ministry to build skills and share success stories in dismantling the Cradle to Prison Pipeline® in their communities. Co-Chaplains-in-Residence Rev. Will Gipson and Dr. Frederick J. Streets and Theologian-in-Residence Dr. Eileen W. Linder continued their steady leadership. CDF Religious Action staff, Rev. Shannon Daley-Harris and Rev. Dr. Janet Wolf created a for-credit Proctor course offered by more than 20 seminaries for 75 seminarians with the goal of redefining religious stewardship through the lens of child protection and investment. CDF partnered with two of those seminaries to help teachers redefine Christian Education/Theological Education through a *CDF Freedom Schools* lens. More than 200 seminarians have set goals to embed non-violent community organizing courses and projects in their seminaries.

Rev. Dr. Otis Moss III challenged participants to turn moments into movements just as Civil Rights leaders Ella Baker and Dorothy Height did — reminding us that women’s voices are vital in the children’s movement. Dr. Michael Brandon McCormack electrified the chapel tracing the roots of contemporary police violence and hate back to the violence of slavery and seizure. Rev. Dr. Otis Moss, Jr. warned the very survival of our children is at stake if we do nothing to stop violence and mistreatment.

We’re grateful to all the great preachers, speakers and workshop leaders over many years. With the generous support of the Bezos Family Foundation, we offered a track of workshops on how faith leaders and advocates can help strengthen young children in their communities. Special thanks to Rev. Clifford Barnett, Jane Morrow and Mebane Boyd from New Hanover County, North Carolina and Rev. Marilyn Cunningham, Karen Costello and Brigit Hurley from Rochester, New York, for sharing their effective programming and advocacy for parents of young children.

Great preacher Rev. Dr. John Kinney, senior vice president and dean of the Samuel DeWitt Proctor School of Theology at Virginia Union University, reminded us of who we are, our purpose, and why we must give more of ourselves to achieve the change we need in America. Rev. James Lawson, Jr. led workshops on nonviolent organizing and delivered the final sermon reminding everyone that our nation cannot be strong until we dismantle the injustices children face with compassion and truth.

2016 Great Preachers



Rev. Dr. Otis Moss, Jr., Proctor Co-Pastor in Residence and Pastor Emeritus, Olivet Institutional Baptist Church, Cleveland, Ohio, and former Co-Pastor with Dr. Martin Luther King, Sr. of Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta



Rev. Dr. Otis Moss III, Senior Pastor, Trinity United Church of Christ, Chicago and Proctor Co-Pastor in Residence, he and his father are the only father and son invited to deliver the prestigious Lyman Beecher Lectures at Yale's School of Divinity.



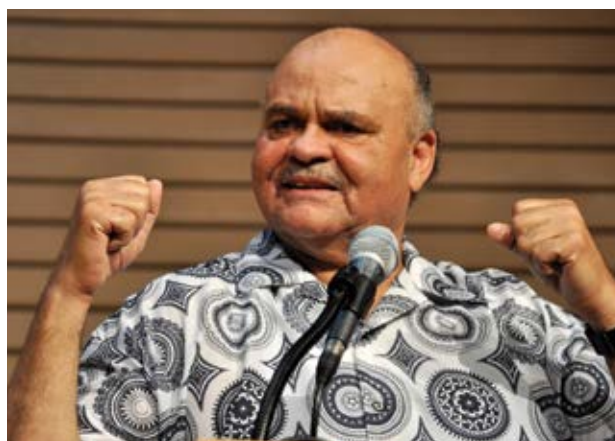
Dr. Michael Brandon McCormack, Assistant Professor, University of Louisville, Louisville, Kentucky



Dr. Kelly Brown Douglas, Professor of Religion, Goucher College, Baltimore, Maryland



Rev. Courtney Clayton Jenkins, Senior Pastor, South Euclid United Church of Christ, South Euclid, Ohio



Dr. John W. Kinney, Dean, School of Theology, Virginia Union University, Richmond, Virginia



Rewriting the Future Panel: Youth Leaders Abdulla Rahim, E'darrius Smith, AJ Morris and Mickey Scott-Bey Jones educate adults about urgent youth needs.



Proctor participants, in the Riggio-Lynch chapel on CDF Haley Farm designed by Maya Lin, lifting their voices in song.

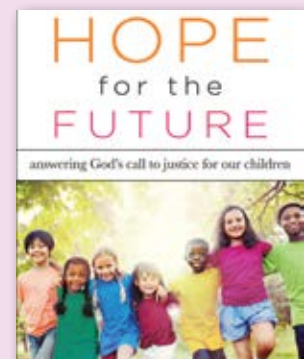
CDF's 25th Anniversary of the National Observance of Children's Sabbaths® Celebration

In October "Children of Promise: Closing Opportunity Gaps," united many thousands of multi-faith advocates in a common concern to end child poverty and close massive income and racial opportunity gaps that leave millions of children behind.



Children's Sabbath worship at Congregation of Rodeph Shalom Synagogue © Photo Courtesy of Public Citizens for Children and Youth, Philadelphia Tribune

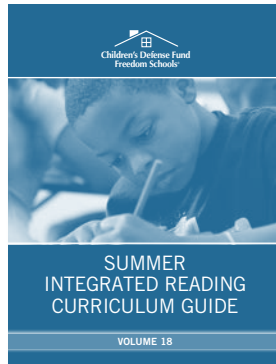
An exciting 2016 book, *Hope for the Future: Answering God's Call to Justice for Our Children*, by CDF's long-time Religious Affairs Coordinator, Rev. Shannon Daley-Harris with a Foreword by Marian Wright Edelman, offers twelve meditations for those working to create a better world for children and gives parents, pastors, child advocates and Christian educators vision and hope drawn from Shannon's 26 years of superb CDF service which was the basis for her ordination as a Presbyterian minister.



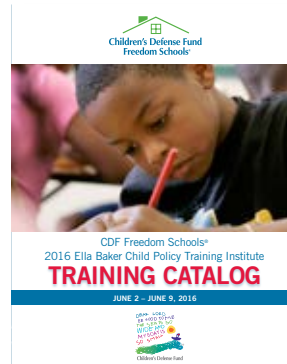
2016 Publications



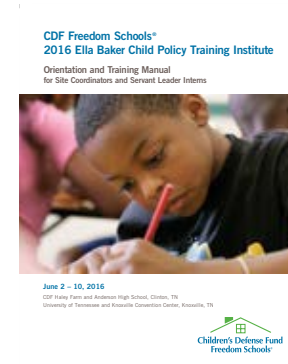
Insure All Children Toolkit



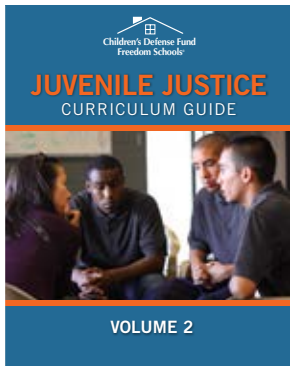
CDF Freedom Schools® Annual Publication



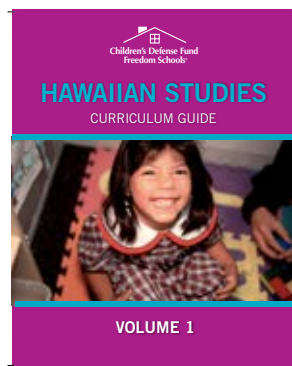
The research-based Integrated Reading Curriculum



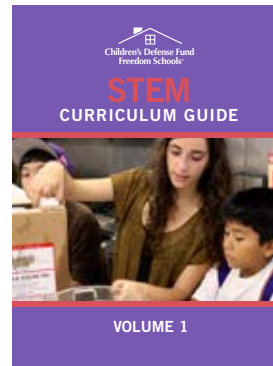
Training Catalog & Orientation Manual



CDF Freedom Schools® Juvenile Justice Curriculum Guide



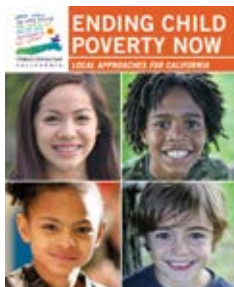
Hawaiian Studies Curriculum Guide



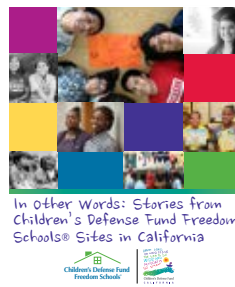
STEM Curriculum Guide



CDF National Observance of Children's Sabbaths Manual



CDF-CA Local Approaches for Ending Child Poverty Now



CA Freedom Schools Stories & CA Stories from High School Student Organizers



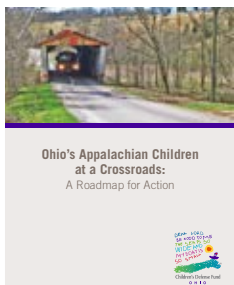
CDF-CA Report on School Climate in Long Beach USD



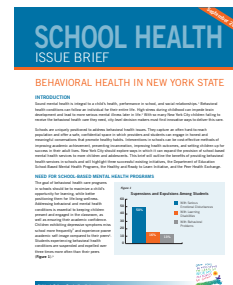
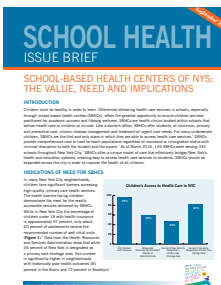
CDF-MN KIDS COUNT Data Book



CDF-OH Early Childhood Hunger Imperative



CDF-OH Roadmap for Action to End Child Poverty in Appalachia



Four CDF-NY School-Based Health Briefs

Children's Defense Fund 43 Years of Vigilance

Since 1973, the Children's Defense Fund has convened and participated in many coalitions and worked with numerous organizations, policymakers and community networks to help build bipartisan support in enacting laws and policies that have helped millions of children escape poverty and receive needed health care, nutrition, Head Start and Early Head Start, child care, education, special education, family support services, adoption assistance, protections for children in the child welfare and juvenile justice systems, and protection from gun violence. Children do not come in pieces and need a comprehensive quality continuum of care from birth to adulthood. Through careful research, public education, policy development, implementation and monitoring, and grassroots organizing and simply never giving up we have tried to help build a national house where every child is healthy, safe and educated, room by room. Although every room of our still unfinished but improved house is at risk of destruction today, we will not move backward — we will move forward thanks to you!

1974 *Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act*

Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act

Buckley Amendment to Protect Privacy of School Records

1975 *Education for All Handicapped Children Act*

1980 *Adoption Assistance and Child Welfare Act*

1981 Expansion of *Child Care Tax Credit*

1982 *Medicaid* extends coverage to children with disabilities requiring institutional care but living at home.

1984 *Medicaid* expansion requires coverage for all children under age five and first time pregnant women who meet *Aid to Families with Dependent Children* (AFDC) eligibility standards.

Child Support Enforcement Amendments

1985 *Medicaid* expansion reaches all pregnant women who meet AFDC eligibility standards.

1986 *Medicaid* expansion gives states the option to cover pregnant women and young children in families with low income.

Expansion of *Earned Income Tax Credit*

Foster Care Independent Living Program

1987 *Medicaid* expansion gives states the option to cover pregnant women and children under age one in families with incomes up to 185 percent of federal poverty level.

Expansion of *Earned Income Tax Credit*

1988 *Medicaid* expansion requires states to phase in coverage for all pregnant women and infants in families at or below 100 percent of federal poverty level.

Family Support Act provides additional federal support for state education, training and employment efforts for AFDC families and guaranteed child care for participating parents.

Expansion of *Fair Housing Act* prohibits discrimination against families with children and pregnant women.

1989 *Medicaid* expansion requires coverage for pregnant women and children under age six in families with income at or below 133 percent of federal poverty level.

Expansion of *Medicaid Early Periodic Screening Diagnostic and Treatment Program* covers additional diagnostic and treatment services for children.

1990 *Act for Better Child Care* establishes the Child Care and Development Block Grant.

Medicaid expansion phases in coverage of children ages six through eighteen in families with incomes at or below 100 percent of federal poverty level.

Expansion of *Earned Income Tax Credit*

Americans with Disabilities Act

Individuals with Disabilities Education Act strengthens and renames the *Education for All Handicapped Children Act*.

1992 *Children's Mental Health Services Program*

Family Unification Program provides housing vouchers to help children return home or avoid placement in foster care.

- 1993** *Vaccines for Children Program*
Expansion of *Earned Income Tax Credit*
Family Preservation and Support Services Program
Family and Medical Leave Act
- 1994** Reauthorizes and improves quality of *Head Start Child Welfare Demonstration Waiver Program*
- 1996** Strengthens *Child Support Enforcement Programs* with improved enforcement tools.
- 1997** *State Children's Health Insurance Program* allows states to cover children in families with incomes below 200 percent of federal poverty level.
Adoption and Safe Families Act
- 1998** *Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act* adds protections for minority children.
- 1999** *Foster Care Independence Act*
- 2001** Expands and makes *Child Tax Credit* partially refundable
Earned Income Tax Credit becomes refundable.
Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit expands
Family Unification Program expands to 18-year-olds aging out of foster care.
- 2002** *Food Stamp Reauthorization Act* is strengthened for families.
Promoting Safe and Stable Families Amendments provide education and training vouchers to youths aging out of foster care.
Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act protects against confinement of juveniles with adults.
- 2003** *Adoption Promotion Act* increases incentives for adoption of older children in foster care.
- 2004** Strengthens *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act*.
- 2006** *Child and Family Services Improvement Act* strengthens and targets funds for rehabilitation of methamphetamine and other drug abuse.
- 2007** *Head Start Program* continues with quality improvements and *Early Head Start* expands.
College Cost Reduction and Access Act increases Pell Grants and redirects federal funds from student loan firms to aid to students and college graduates.
- 2008** *Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act*
Second Chance Act assists incarcerated juveniles and adults returning home.
Mental Health Parity eliminates discrimination in the treatment of children and adults.
- 2009** *Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) Reauthorization Act*
The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act makes new investments in early childhood, education, nutrition, Medicaid, employment and training, and other programs and tax credits including earned income and child tax credits.
- 2010** *Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act* covers 32 million uninsured Americans and 95 percent of all children with health coverage and includes the *Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program*.
Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act
- 2011** *Child Welfare Services Improvement and Innovation Act*
- 2013** *Uninterrupted Scholars Act* assists child welfare agencies to access educational records to promote educational stability and success for children in foster care.
- 2014** *Child Care and Development Block Grant Act* reauthorizes child care subsidies for low-income working families and improves the health, safety and quality of child care.
Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act promotes better outcomes for children in foster care and prevents them from being victims of sex trafficking.
- 2015** *Children's Health Insurance Program and Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program* extended for two years
Earned Income Tax Credit, Child Tax Credit and American Opportunity Tax Credit improvements made permanent.
Every Student Succeeds Act reauthorizes the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, with new protections for students in foster care and homeless students.

2016 Financial Report

The financial information presented below reflects preliminary financial results before completion of CDF's annual external audit. Audit site work for 2016 suggests no significant material variances from these pre-audit results. The final audit will be completed and available by late spring, 2017.

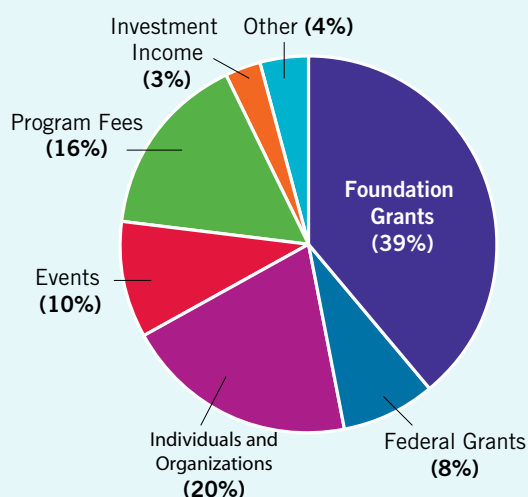
The Children's Defense Fund experienced a positive year of financial results during 2016. CDF experienced revenue growth of nine percent (9 percent) in 2016, and a reduction in expense of twelve percent (12 percent) year-over-year.

CDF continued to invest over eighty-four percent (84.5 percent) of every dollar in program services, with under sixteen percent (15.5 percent) of each dollar spent on administration and fundraising.

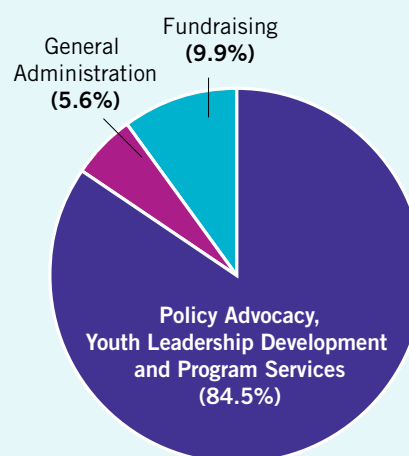
CDF experienced an overall growth in the number of grants — from 69 new grants in 2015 to 91 new grants in 2016. The number of individuals supporting CDF increased from 2015 to 2016.

CDF is committed to ensure in every way to be an effective and an efficient steward of every dollar received to achieve our mission and specific program and policy goals.

2016 Revenues \$20,735,050



2016 Expenses \$20,482,151



**CHILDREN'S DEFENSE FUND AND
CHILDREN'S DEFENSE FUND ACTION COUNCIL**
Consolidated Statements of Financial Position (Unaudited)
December 31, 2016

	At December 31, 2016
Assets	
Cash and cash equivalents	\$2,694,106
Investments - Wells Fargo	1,329,120
Investments - Morgan Stanley	11,328,616
Investments - Other	214,731
Pledges and foundation grants receivable, net	3,423,563
Government grants receivable	676,826
Debt service reserve	309,391
Bond issuance costs, net	379,548
Property and equipment, net	8,028,845
Total assets	\$28,384,746
Liabilities and Net Assets	
Liabilities	
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$1,647,386
Line of credit	7,500,000
Bonds payable	4,615,997
Deferred revenue	130,438
Total liabilities	13,893,821
Net assets	14,490,926
Total liabilities and net assets	\$28,384,746

CHILDREN'S DEFENSE FUND AND CHILDREN'S DEFENSE FUND ACTION COUNCIL

Consolidated Statement of Activities and Change in Net Assets (Unaudited) For the Year Ended December 31, 2016

	2016
Revenue, gains, and other support	
Contributions and donations	
Foundations and corporations	\$8,008,513
Individuals	4,159,639
Organizations	47,623
Other	
Special events	2,027,223
CDF Freedom Schools® fees	3,393,776
Federal grants	1,572,826
Miscellaneous	528,585
Rent	292,717
Investment income	
Endowment	
Interest and dividends, realized and unrealized losses, net of management fees	704,147
Total revenue gains and other support	\$20,735,050
Expenses	
Program services	17,307,417
Supporting services	
General and administrative	1,147,000
Fundraising	2,027,734
Total expenses	20,482,151
Change in net assets	252,899
Beginning net assets	14,238,027
Ending net assets	\$14,490,926

Children's Defense Fund National Management Team



MaryLee Allen
Director of Policy



Gijs deLeede
Chief Financial Officer



Tai Dixon
National Director of
State Offices and Field Operations



Marian Wright Edelman
President



Patti Hassler
Vice President of
Communications and Outreach



Richard Hooks Wayman
National Executive
Director



Mark Publow
Chief Development
Officer

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Bharti Wahi
Executive Director

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Louisiana, Mississippi)
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Oleta Fitzgerald
Southern
Regional Director

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www.haleyfarm.org



Janet Wolf
Director Haley Farm
and Nonviolent
Organizing

**Nashville Organizing
Team Office**
1512 Cedar Lane
Nashville, TN 37212
Tel: (615) 260-2894



Riggio-Lynch chapel at CDF Haley Farm — CDF's Noah's Ark and servant leadership school for today's children and youths.

