Call to Action
For Our Children

Children’s Defense Fund
CDF Mission Statement

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 and minority children 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 foundation and corporate grants and individual donations. We have never taken government funds.

Cover photo © T.C. Perkins, Jr
Inside photos © Mark Finkenstaedt, Roland L. Freeman, Steve Liss, T.C. Perkins, Jr., and Vivian Ronay
Black Community Crusade for Children (BCCC)

In December 1990, Dr. John Hope Franklin and Dr. Dorothy Height co-convened with CDF 22 Black leaders at the Rockefeller Foundation’s beautiful conference center in Bellagio, Italy for five days to discuss the crisis facing Black children and families. We concluded that the Black child and family faced one of the worst crises since slavery and that we must do something about it. We decided to launch a Black Community Crusade for Children (BCCC) To Leave No Child Behind™. Dr. Franklin drafted an eloquent manifesto summarizing the meeting (see below). Barbara Sabol’s phrase “Leave No Child Behind™” became CDF/BCCC’s trademarked mission statement. Although it was illegally hijacked and tarnished by the Bush Administration, we meant and mean it.
A follow up BCCC meeting took place at the Rockefeller Foundation Conference Center in Bellagio in 1992.

In 1992, CDF reconvened a working group of 1990 participants and seven new leaders at Bellagio to implement the crusade’s mission. They included AME Bishop John Hurst Adams, Mayor Unita Blackwell, Geoff Canada, Henry Hampton, Judge Leon Higginbotham, Dr. Deborah Prothrow-Stith, Dr. Elsie Scott, Henry Louis Gates and Maggie Williams. CDF’s follow-up work between the two meetings included a Peter Hart Associates national poll of Black adults and youths which garnered prominent coverage on all major national TV networks. Black parents and youths named gun violence as their top concern and feared their children would not reach adulthood. BCCC responded by launching a long term campaign on children and gun violence which continues today. CDF publishes an annual child and gun violence report, Protect Children Not Guns. When BCCC began, 16 children a day died from gun violence. The latest data show that nine children die a day from gun violence (2007). The number of Black children and teens killed by gunfire since 1979 is more than 10 times the number of Black citizens of all ages lynched in American history. CDF/BCCC reached out to and convened grassroots leaders and networks addressing gun violence and collected and shared best practices and stories. The Boston 10 Point Coalition has been an ongoing partner.
The Black Community Crusade for Children found a home at CDF Haley Farm in Clinton, Tennessee, in 1994.

The BCCC working committee met a third year in 1993 in Santa Fe, New Mexico at the beautiful last home of Georgia O'Keefe, thanks to the hospitality of Charles and Beth Miller, while we searched for a permanent home for our movement to Leave No Child Behind™. We found it in the 154-acre former Alex Haley Farm near Knoxville, Tennessee which CDF bought in 1994. Since then tens of thousands of leaders across age, discipline, faith, and race have come through the Haley Farm gates for robust discussion, sharing of best practices, training, and spiritual renewal.

Norton Pond under the gazebo.
Thanks to BCCC steering committee member Bill Lynch, Barnes and Noble chair Len Riggio became engaged in CDF/BCCC’s mission and generously underwrote the reconstruction of the over 100-year-old unfinished cantilever barn, now the Langston Hughes Library, designed by Maya Lin.
First Lady and former CDF board chair Hillary Rodham Clinton, board member Len Riggio, and Maya Lin participated in the ribbon cutting for the Langston Hughes Library in 1999. Almost 300 leaders of every discipline attended a symposium celebrating the arts and scholarship. Leading writers including Toni Morrison, Rita Dove, Joyce Carol Oates, and Nikki Giovanni spoke along with philanthropic, civil rights, civic and community leaders.

CDF board members, including former board chairs Hillary Rodham Clinton and Donna Shalala, and Secretary of Labor Alexis Herman attended the library dedication.
Dr. Maya Angelou and Dr. John Hope Franklin stand in the reading room honoring them.
Leading children’s book authors and illustrators discussed the role of reading and books in children’s lives. Many serve on the Langston Hughes Library advisory board which helps select books each year for the thousands of Freedom Schools children served by CDF/BCCC.
The Riggio-Lynch Chapel

The ark-shaped interfaith Riggio-Lynch chapel designed by Maya Lin symbolizes the safe haven every child deserves. This beautiful, simple, functional, and inspiring space is alive with great music and great preaching, prayer and worship, discussion and debate. It was made possible by the generosity of Len and Louise Riggio.
The intergenerational Samuel DeWitt Proctor Institute for Child Advocacy Ministry is held for five days each July for 500 faith leaders. In its 16th year, Joshua and Deborah Generation faith leaders are mentored by Moses and Miriam Generation faith leaders. The Institute seeks to inspire social justice ministries for all children in the tradition of Dr. King. Haley Farm is a smoke-free, drug-free, alcohol-free, violence-free, and hate-free environment grounded in love and mutual respect and strives to be the beloved community we seek everywhere.
Civil rights leaders former U.N. Ambassador Andrew Young and Dr. Dorothy Cotton were top aides to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. They generously share time and wisdom about the Civil Rights Movement with young leaders at Haley Farm and help to explain the growth of the Civil Rights Movement to ensure that each generation knows about the history of the struggle for freedom and justice and passes that legacy on to future generations.

Young movement builders (from left) Felicia Nobles, Pickett Harrington, La’Mont Geddis, Dionne Knox, Christina Cowens, and Macheo Payne.

CDF board member and BCCC Steering Committee Member Angela Glover Blackwell with Sean Irving, Macheo Payne, and Christina Cowens.

Rev. Dr. Otis Moss Jr. was a leader of the Atlanta student movement and co-pastor of Ebenezer Baptist Church with Daddy King after the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. He is co-pastor-in-residence of the annual Samuel DeWitt Proctor Institute for Child Advocacy Ministry at Haley Farm with his son, Dr. Otis Moss III. pastor of Trinity United Church of Christ in Chicago.
CDF board member and BCCC Steering Committee Member Bill Lynch.

CDF board chair and BCCC Steering Committee Member Geoffrey Canada is president of the Harlem Children’s Zone, which was debated and incubated in the Haley Farm lodge.

Kellye McIntosh with BCCC Steering Committee Member Barbara J. Sabol, former Commissioner of the NYC Human Resources Administration and coiner of the phrase “Leave No Child Behind.”
Historically Black College and University (HBCU) student body presidents and vice presidents attend a Young Advocate Leadership Training (YALT®) Institute at Haley Farm.

In April of 2009, the Langston Hughes Library was selected as the site for the prestigious May Hill Arbuthnot Honor Lecture sponsored by the Association for Library Services to Children (ALSC), a division of the American Library Association (ALA). Walter Dean Myers, renowned author of more than one hundred books for children and young adults, was the lecturer. This was the first time in the annual honor’s forty-year history that a Tennessee library was chosen as the Arbuthnot Honor Lecture site. About 500 children’s book authors, publishers and librarians from across the nation and Canada attended.
Ella Baker Child Policy Training Institute

Named after SNCC mentor and godmother Ella Baker, the national training institute prepares college servant leaders to implement *CDF Freedom Schools* programs in communities across America. More than 9000 servant leaders have trained at Haley Farm to conduct Freedom Schools since 1994. In 2010 over 1200 servant leader interns, trainers, site coordinators, experts, and speakers attended the institute.

In 2010 trainees and staff at national training stretched to every inch of the largest tent available at Haley Farm. Until Haley Farm’s physical facilities are completed, Freedom School trainees utilize the dorms, eating, and classroom facilities at the University of Tennessee and convene at the Knoxville Convention Center for some plenary sessions.

College servant leaders learn how to implement Freedom Schools Integrated Reading Curriculum and effective classroom management strategies.
Site Coordinators engage energetically with CDF national staff at one of several trainings held throughout the year at Haley Farm to learn how to successfully implement the *CDF Freedom Schools* program in their communities.

Servant Leaders attend a session at the Knoxville Convention Center during Ella Baker National Training. National Freedom Schools Director Dr Jeanne Middleton Hairston addresses group. She was one of the first eight Black students enrolled at Millsaps College in Jackson, Mississippi and their first Black faculty member. She also began and headed the college's Institute for Principals.
On the 50th anniversary of the sit-in movement and founding of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), SNCC freedom singers and other civil rights leaders shared their history with the 2010 Ella Baker Trainees. They shared the important role music and storytelling played in building and sustaining the movement.

Charles Cobb, a founder of 1964 Mississippi Freedom School Project; Avon Rollins, a SNCC Field Secretary; Jeanne Middleton Hairston, National Director of CDF Freedom Schools Program; Pernessa Seele, founder and CEO of Balm in Gilead; Charles Neblett, a SNCC freedom singer; Hollis Watkins, a SNCC freedom singer, Marian Wright Edelman, an Atlanta sit-in student leader and a SNCC founder; Marshall Jones, a SNCC freedom singer; and Taylor Branch, Pulitzer Prize-winning historian of the Civil Rights Movement during the King years, who spoke to trainees about the role of student activism in the 1960’s.
The Outward Bound ropes course at Haley Farm builds young leaders’ team spirit and confidence.
Actress Cicely Tyson reads a story at the opening of the first CDF Freedom Schools after-school program site in New Orleans for Katrina's children. She joined CDF board members Reese Witherspoon, Carol Biondi, Ruth-Ann Huvane, Katie McGrath, and Malaak Compton-Rock and CDF friends Jennifer Garner, Holly Robinson Peete, LaTanya Richardson Jackson, Regina King, Deborah Santana, and other prominent women for a Katrina Child Watch® to draw the nation’s attention to the continuing trauma and needs of Katrina’s children and their families. Their visit catalyzed support for this and other CDF Freedom Schools sites in Louisiana and a mobile health van. In 2010 there are 31 Freedom Schools in Louisiana.
CDF board member Malaak Compton-Rock visits and reads to New Orleans Freedom Schools scholars.

Scholars at work at the Jackson State University Freedom Schools site.
Secretary Arne Duncan met on May 7, 2010 with Black and Latino male former Freedom Schools interns who became teachers and principals to get their advice about how to get more minority males into teaching. Louisiana’s State Superintendent of Education Paul Pastorek, New Orleans Recovery School District Superintendent Paul Vallas, New Orleans Mayor Mitch Landrieu, Congressman Joseph Cao, and Xavier University President Norman Francis joined him.
Beat the Odds® Celebrations

To celebrate the strengths of our children and counter the negative media portrayal of Black youths as violent predators, drug pushers, and dropouts, BCCC/CDF launched Beat the Odds Celebrations in 1990 in Los Angeles with Black entertainment executives. These celebrations honor high school juniors and seniors who are beating the odds of abuse, neglect, parental incarceration, drug and alcohol addiction, and homelessness and who are staying in school and serving others. Over 500 youths have received college scholarships and are productive young leaders today in this ongoing program conducted annually in eight CDF state office cities. Many of these young leaders, predominantly Black and Latino, are now doctors, lawyers, teachers, and Peace Corps volunteers and contributing citizen leaders. They are part of the CDF youth leadership pool working to change the odds for all children.
Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton with *Beat the Odds* Award recipients in New York City.

CDF board member Reese Witherspoon with *Beat the Odds* Award recipients in Los Angeles.

In 2004, CDF convened 55 former *Beat the Odds* winners at Georgetown Law School to hear their views about the *Cradle to Prison Pipeline* and celebrate five new youths honored for beating the odds.
BCCC Outreach

The BCCC working committee decided at its initial meeting to have organizations who shared our mission carry out activities in their own names. Geoff Canada’s Rheedlen Centers for Children in New York City, now the Harlem Children’s Zone, became BCCC’s northeast regional office; Angela Blackwell’s Urban Strategies Council, now PolicyLink, became BCCC’s western regional office. CDF expanded its Mississippi BCCC office region-wide under the leadership of Oleta Fitzgerald to empower Southern rural Black women in 77 Black Belt counties in Mississippi, Louisiana, Arkansas, Georgia, and Alabama through the Southern Rural Black Women’s Initiative (SRBWI). Its activities include the Unita Blackwell Young Women’s Leadership Institute at Tougaloo College and implementation of a Kellogg Foundation SPARK initiative to get children ready for school and align early childhood and primary school curricula.
Artist Varnette P. Honeywood created the logo and poster for BCCC which was widely distributed to rally the Black community and all Americans to Leave No Child Behind.

Jacob Lawrence's print, named Forward Together, depicted Harriet Tubman's Underground Railroad to freedom.
Protect Children Not Guns is published each year
In the teen pregnancy prevention partnership research found that hope is the best prevention and the lack of basic skills and poverty were the strongest predictors of adolescent pregnancy.

Awards-Winning Media Campaigns from CDF’s Pro Bono Advertising Partner Fallon McElligott (Now Fallon Worldwide)
Fallon’s groundbreaking and award-winning Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Campaign was targeted to males and females and youths of all races. Although Black teens are disproportionately more likely to get pregnant than White teens, more White teens than Black teens get pregnant every year. Our research found that hope is the best prevention and the lack of basic skills and poverty were the strongest predictors of adolescent pregnancy.
IF YOU REALLY WANT TO SEE HOW FAST HE CAN RUN, TELL HIM YOU’RE PREGNANT.

Become pregnant too soon and your whole life can get off track.

THE CHILDREN’S DEFENSE FUND.

DON’T LET A HOT DATE TURN INTO A DUE DATE.

Just a reminder that one night with your girlfriend could last a lifetime.

GET PREGNANT AND CLOTHES WON’T BE THE ONLY THING YOU CAN’T GET INTO.

If you think pregnancy would limit your wants, be, you should see what it would do to your life. Keep your options open. Don’t get pregnant.

THE CHILDREN’S DEFENSE FUND.
BCCC faith leaders met with senior White House official Rahm Emanuel, the Washington Post Editorial Board, and a number of Senate and House leaders to warn of the dangers of the pending “superpredator” juvenile justice provisions which would have eliminated protections to reduce disproportionate minority confinement and separation of juveniles from adults. Busloads of Black youths visited their members of Congress along with adult leaders. Their actions delayed the bill’s then imminent reauthorization and later achieved reauthorization with existing protections.
BCCC networks and leaders played a quiet but significant role in helping defeat the Gingrich proposed balanced budget amendment to the Constitution, the centerpiece of the Contract with America. BCCC leaders met with Senator Robert Byrd and other key Senators and Representatives to make the case for its negative impact on children and the poor and strategically mobilized back home networks. CDF’s 501(c)(4) Action Council permits lobbying which is carefully monitored. Each year the Action Council issues an annual Legislative Agenda and Scorecard reporting on how well members of Congress voted to protect children.
BCCC/CDF Gun Violence Prevention Campaign

By your child’s first year, she can squeeze your fingers with seven pounds of pressure, approximately the same amount needed to squeeze the trigger of a gun.

What does it take for a kid to buy a $50 handgun?

About $50.

And the underground market. And weak gun restrictions. And lack of enforcement. And greedy gun dealers. And, of course, a lack of support for gun control.

This is how many safety regulations our government imposes on the product that kills over 5,000 American children a year.

If you keep a gun in your home, it’s 18 times more likely to kill someone living in your home than to kill an invader. And that’s a statistic you can’t argue with.

CeaseFire

Children’s Defense Fund

Research shows that gun safety measures can make a difference.

Every year, hundreds of children accidentally shoot themselves or someone else. So if you get a gun to protect your child, what’s going to protect your child from the gun?
End Child Poverty and Ensure Health and Safety for All Children
Television PSAs were aired and Brian Lanker’s wonderful photo of Miss Ruby Forsythe in the best seller *I Dream A World* was featured on tens of thousands of church fans which instantly disappeared from churches to homes.
Marian Wright Edelman addressing over 250,000 people gathered at the Lincoln Memorial for the 1996 Stand for Children event. Mrs. Rosa Parks issued a statement challenging participants to commit themselves to improving the lives of children saying, “If I can sit down for freedom, you can stand up for children.” Dr. Samuel DeWitt Proctor and Geoff Canada were among the Stand for Children Day speakers which mostly featured children.
The 1997 Stand for Healthy Children event in New York City’s Central Park drew over 30,000 participants to rally support for health care for all children.

Mrs. Rosa Parks and Rosie O’Donnell co-chaired the 1997 Stand for Healthy Children Day which had over 700 local events and provided the grassroots constituency for a bipartisan child health bill sponsored by Senators Orrin Hatch and Ted Kennedy which covered five million children.
Children in CDFFreedom Schools’ National Day of Social Action rallied for health care for all children in 2007, 2008, and 2009. In 2010, after passage of national health reform covering 95% of all children, all Freedom Schools children and leaders will engage in a 100% Enrollment Campaign for children and families during the month of July.
On November 4, 2009, almost 4,000 babies in strollers, young children, parents, youths, teachers, child care providers, doctors, prominent faith leaders and grandparents rallied and circled the U.S. Capitol to tell Congress that millions of children must be treated justly in any national health reform bill. The landmark bill that was signed into law by President Obama guarantees access to health coverage for 32 million people in America, including more than 95% of all children. The next step now is implementation. Many faith based leaders, Dr. Dorothy Height, Dr. Ray Hammond of Boston’s Ten Point Coalition, Senator Bob Casey (D-PA) Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D-CT), Rep. Bobby Rush (D-IL), and Rep. Bobby Scott (D-VA) were among the speakers and strollers during the Stroller Brigade march to advocate for health care for all children. Faith based leaders, Dr. Dorothy Height, Senator Bob Casey (D-PA) Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D-CT) and Rep. Bobby Rush (D-IL) were among the speakers and strollers during the Stroller Brigade to advocate for health care for all children.
Children and youths were active participants in the Stroller Brigade showing that they are not citizens in waiting and will fight for justice now.
In 1990, the distinguished historian, Dr. John Hope Franklin, and National Council of Negro Women President, Dr. Dorothy Height, co-convened, with the Children’s Defense Fund, 22 Black leaders for five days at the Rockefeller Conference Center in Bellagio, Italy to discuss the plight of Black children and families. Below, in the elegant words of Dr. Franklin, is what we concluded and decided to do after determining that Black families and Black children faced one of the worst crises since slavery.

“Twenty-two African Americans met December 10-15, 1990, to consider problems regarding the Black family and especially the Black child. After due deliberation, we concluded that the Black family and the Black child are in a crisis and that we intend to do something about it.

- Each day 1,169 Black children are born out of wedlock.
- Every three minutes a Black infant is born to a teenage mother.
- Each day 201 Black children are born to women who have had late or no prenatal care.
- Every 46 minutes a Black infant dies in the first year of life.
- If the infant is a boy, he has one chance in four that he will drop out of school before high school graduation.
- If the infant is a girl, she has a greater chance than one in four of being unemployed as a teenager.

“These are just a fraction of the indicators that tell us just how critical the present status and future outlook of the Black family and child really are. These indicators must be modified in a very positive way if Black children are to have an equal chance to inherit the bountiful natural and human resources that this country has to offer. Our desires and hopes for our children are reasonable to the point of modesty, but we wish no less and no more for them than we wish for every child in every land.

“We want them to grow up with healthy bodies and healthy minds, in a drug-free society, with ample tools for engaging in critical thinking and making sound judgments.

“We want them to have every opportunity to achieve success in school and to understand fully the world of work, what is involved in acquiring marketable skills, and how important it is to make a significant contribution to that world. This involves knowing how the community, state, and workday world operate and what their place is in it.

“We want our children to learn that the greatest success lies not so much in amassing a fortune as in having a concern for others and in recovering and preserving the tradition of selfless service to family and community.

“We want them to appreciate fully the artistic, moral, and spiritual values that will bring to them much of their heritage of the past and make it possible to pass them on to their successors.

“We want them to have an understanding and appreciation for family, for their own rich heritage derived from their African forebears as well as their American experience, the kind of understanding that will simultaneously provide them with roots and wings.

“In the nation’s recent past, its families and its schools have experienced deep crises. Family instability has increased markedly, while many schools have deteriorated dramatically, both in their role as educational institutions and as transmitters of our culture and civilization. The nation’s Black families have been faced with a deeper crisis in the lack of educational opportunities available to them, exacerbated by the fact that their plight is as old as the nation itself. Slave children were regularly separated from their parents through sale, and the family’s stability was purchased by desperate measures such as running away or resisting sale. Meanwhile, until emancipation in 1863, education was systematically withheld from them, and in many states it was unlawful to teach them to read and write.

“This legacy of family degradation and educational deficiency, reinforced by disenfranchisement, job discrimination, and finely spun theories of scientific racism became a normal part of the American landscape far down into the twentieth century. The grimness of the picture was relieved only by self-help on the one hand and philanthropic assistance on the other. Neither was adequate to move Blacks to a position where they even approached equality of opportunity in education, in the work place, or in the administration of justice.

“In recent years the crisis had deepened to the point where the very survival of the Black family and its progeny is at stake. The mere effort to survive is so
exhausting, as well as demeaning in an affluent society, that constructive contributions to the well-being of the nation remain essentially minimal. The resultant waste of valuable human resources is reminiscent of the waste of natural resources, too long a familiar characteristic of our country. We cannot stand by idly and observe this waste, whether the consequence of profligacy, of lack of respect for human dignity, or of deliberate design.

"Consequently, we pledge ourselves to do everything humanly possible to strengthen the Black family, save Black children through succor as well as love, and to improve and modernize our schools in order to enhance significantly their chances for educational and life success. In this gigantic task we shall utilize to the fullest the resources of parents, children, and the general public.

"There are, of course, a variety of ways to meet these and other worthy goals, and we have had the exciting opportunity to hear some of them described and discussed.

"We have learned about rigorous assistance programs that provide out-of-school opportunities to improve language skills and interpersonal relationships, to learn the critical nature of modern entrepreneurship and technology, and to involve parents and other adults in the learning process.

"We have learned that to a remarkable degree replicable models are being developed in which family ties are strengthened, programs for medical services and child care are expanded, and indigenous staff have been trained to perform effectively at a level approaching professionalism.

"We have learned how in some communities Black people have organized a vast array of self-help groups, extending across many states, through which they impart techniques and approaches that, at little or no cost, have trained a large cadre of leaders able to work with children, organize church groups, and create new organizations dedicated to the improvement of the Black family and Black children.

"We have learned to appreciate the enormous success that professionally trained staffs can achieve when children, parents, and school officials are brought together with clearly articulated goals for improving our children's learning experience.

"We have learned the importance of school reform itself - sometimes mild, sometimes drastic - but at all times with the clear objective of providing the kind of healthy environment to accommodate the needs of the children.

"We are convinced by these and other experiences that our schools and our families can do much to improve the chances of success for our children. Some have been tested over time and have been found to be successful. Others bear the mark of recent innovations but also bear the mark of mature and responsible thinking that augurs well for their success.

"We have reminded ourselves that government at every level has had an active role not only in programs of racial degradation and discrimination, but also in enabling the economic sector to exploit the land and its resources and thus to prevent anything resembling an equitable distribution of the natural gifts of this country. It is not possible, even with the self-help of persons and organizations, for the government to default on its responsibility to provide a healthy economic order that will not permit a small minority to enjoy the rich resources of the country, while the majority - made up of Blacks and many other Americans - has no resources commensurate with its size. Government has had and must continue to have an important role in solving the deep economic problems that we face.

"We have not completely explored or fully utilized our own talents, or the resources of the many organizations with which we are affiliated. We shall, however, pursue this task relentlessly, knowing full well that some much-needed talents and resources are readily at hand.

"We claim no monopoly of positive and rewarding thoughtfulness about plans and programs for the future of Black families and Black children. We only claim a sincere and deep appreciation of the fact that the crisis is very real and demands the immediate attention of all sincerely interested persons and organizations.

"The crisis of Black families and Black children requires all responsible civic, religious, professional, community, and national groups to join in a nationwide effort to save the Black family, to save the Black child, and to save for our country a rich resource that has already done so much to make the country what it is today and that can do so much to serve it in the future."
What the Black Community Crusade for Children Will Do (1990)

The Black Community Crusade for Children will engage in five related activities to:

1. Communicate the crisis facing Black children and the steps that must be taken to produce positive outcomes for Black children and families.
2. Build effective, informed African American leadership focused on the needs of Black children.
3. Inspire, encourage, and support high quality, effective personal and organizational actions, programs, and initiatives aimed at improving the life circumstances and chances for Black children.
4. Promote sound, effective initiatives and policies at the local, state, and national levels that ensure every Black child a healthy start, a head start, and a fair start and that support efforts aimed at revitalizing communities and ensuring safety.
5. Reconnect the Black middle class and Black poor and rebuild the extended Black community family that historically has provided a web of support and a lifeline of hope for Black children.

BCCC II

And the struggle continues. A new BCCC II will be launched in December 2010 at CDF Haley Farm on the 20th anniversary of BCCC I to replace the Cradle to Prison Pipeline with a pipeline to college, productive work, and successful adulthood for all children. The goal is to bring to scale and incorporate into policy and systems successful community models. Efforts begun during BCCC I include Freedom Schools, Harlem Children's Zone and Youth Leadership Development, Beat the Odds. BCCC II will highlight best practices and identify and train a critical pool of next generation leaders to help carry on and build the movement for freedom and justice for all children. Over the next 5 years CDF/BCCC II will train 5000 next generation leaders, at least half Black males and half other minority youths and encourage them to teach and instill the Freedom Schools child centric and energetic culture into as many public schools as possible to bolster child achievement. We will double Freedom Schools from 142 in 2010 to 300 in 2015 serving 20,000 children in the 5th year. In early 2011 we will convene Latino leaders for a second time to launch an inclusive crusade for children for both communities.
The clock has been turned back on racial progress in America, though scarcely anyone seems to notice. All eyes are fixed on people like Barack Obama and Oprah Winfrey who have defied the odds and achieved great power, wealth and fame.

Michelle Alexander, Author, The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness

Children of color will constitute a majority of America's population by 2025. Yet poverty and racial disparities in all child serving systems are shunting increasingly larger numbers of them into a pipeline to prison rather than into college and productive work. The human toll and economic loss to the nation's future productivity from preventable poverty, sickness and school drop outs, dependency, and incarceration is more than a trillion dollars annually.

A Black boy born in 2001 has a 1 in 3 and a Latino boy a 1 in 6 chance of going to prison in his lifetime. Over 80% of Black and Hispanic children cannot read or do math at grade level in 4th, 8th or 12th grade—if they have not already dropped out of school. This is a sentence to social and economic death in our competitive and globalizing world. More than 1 in 3 Black children—compared to 1 in 6 White children—is poor. Black children growing up in female headed households are the poorest in the nation. Seventy percent of Black children are being born to unmarried mothers.

This toxic cocktail of poverty, illiteracy and incarceration is sentencing millions of children to dead end, powerless and hopeless lives. It also is undermining the past half century of racial and social progress and creating a new American apartheid. Legal scholar Michelle Alexander calls incarceration the new Jim Crow—a new caste system. This is the moment to act with urgency, vision and courage to combat the growing racial and class apartheid in America and to build an intergenerational movement demanding investment in children before they drop out of school and get into trouble, building on and taking to scale what we know works.
Children and youths enter the Youth Leadership Network as a CDF Freedom Schools® student, college student Servant Leader Intern, Beat the Odds® recipient, CDF Intern, or campus based leader.

CDF Freedom Schools® programs empower two generations of children and youths. Over 80,000 K-12 children and 9,000 college student interns have participated along with parents. The goal is to double Freedom Schools in 5 years from 142 to 294.

Attend Young Advocate Leadership Training (YALT®) program for beginner, intermediate and advanced track child advocacy.

Join others in geographic area by participating in one of CDF’s campus based tax and benefit outreach enrollment efforts and local programs and mobilizations (SHOUT and SPROUT).

Connect with CDF state, regional and national offices for advanced advocacy and organizing experiences and campaigns.

The Paul Smith Child Policy Fellowships* seek to provide a ladder for social justice career development for young people inside and outside of CDF.

* A new program

CDF Alumni Network
The Making of a Children’s Movement: Ladder of Youth Leadership Development

GOAL
Train 5,000 new leaders by 2015: 50% Black Males and 50% Multi-Racial Young Men and Women 16–30 years old
1,000 graduates of the 3 tiers of Young Advocate Leadership Training (YALT®) each year for 5 years at CDF Haley Farm

FEEDER POOLS:

Current, Former and Future Beat the Odds® high school students who receive college scholarships: 50 a year for 5 years

Joshua-Deborah Next Generation Faith Leaders: 100 a year for 5 years

Freedom Schools: 80,000 K–12 children and youth in the Freedom Schools young leadership pipeline

Freedom Schools College Interns and advanced Ella Baker Trainers: 300 a year for 5 years

Freedom Schools Level 4 high school juniors and seniors: 300 a year for 5 years

Young Leaders Program for Foster Care and Juvenile Justice Youths: 100 a year

Public School and Public Charter Juniors and Seniors in targeted locations: 100 a year

Historically and Predominantly (HBCU/PBI) Black College Student Body Leaders: 150 a year

CDF Interns and Campus Outreach Leaders: 75 a year

OSI Black Male Leadership Partners: 200-400 a year for 5 years
Freedom Schools Summer Round Program Goals and Extended Year

**Inputs**
- Recruitment and Family Partnership
- Building Partnerships: Private, Public
- Recruitment and Family Engagement
- Increasing Quality Staff
- Training and Evergreen

**Outputs**
- Increased Student Passage of State Assessments
- More African American and Latino Males and Females in Community and Education Leadership Positions

**Reduction**
- Less Retention
- More High School Graduates

**Support**
- Teen Parenting Prevention and Pregnancy
- Teen Pregnancy Support

**Quality Curriculum**
- Appropriate Age

**Youth**
- Minority in Unemployed Reduction
DEAR LORD
BE GOOD TO ME
THE SEA IS SO
WIDE AND
MY BOAT IS
SO SMALL

Children’s Defense Fund

THE BLACK COMMUNITY CRUSADE FOR CHILDREN