

Children's Defense Fund
2010 Annual Report

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 public charity supported by foundation and corporate grants and individual donations.

Seals of Approval



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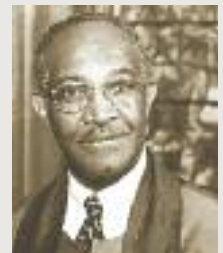
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The ark-shaped interfaith Riggio-Lynch chapel designed by Maya Lin symbolizes the safe haven every child deserves. This beautiful, simple, functional, and inspiring space is alive with great music and great preaching, prayer and worship, discussion and debate. It was made possible by the generosity of Len and Louise Riggio.

President's Message

Everything our nation and all of us need to know about life can be learned from Noah's Ark according to an anonymous writer.

Lesson One: Don't miss the boat. The United States is going to miss the boat to lead and compete in our globalizing world because we are not preparing the majority of our children for the future. The greatest threat to America's national security comes from no enemy without but from our failure to invest in and educate all of our nation's children. Yet, every 11 seconds of the school day a child drops out. A majority of children in all racial and income groups and over 80 percent of Black and Latino children cannot read or do math at grade level in fourth, eighth, or 12th grade—if they have not already dropped out. Any nation that is failing to prepare all of its children for productive work and life is jeopardizing everything and needs to correct course—now. And all of us—parents, educators, community and religious and political leaders—need to be part of the solution and not part of the problem. God did not make two classes of children. Every single one deserves a quality education.

Lesson Two: We are all in the same boat. Many Americans may not like or think they have any self interest in assuring a fair playing field for other people's children—especially poor and minority children, but Black, Latino and other minority children will constitute a majority in 2019. Isn't it better to have them supporting the Social Security and Medicare systems and make sure a productive workforce is in place, rather than for us to be supporting them in costly ineffective prisons? Our country and our states are spending three times more on average per prisoner than per public school student. I can't think of a dumber investment policy, and we've got to change it.

Lesson Three: Plan ahead. It wasn't raining when Noah built the Ark. Tomorrow is today and children have only one childhood. They need to be healthy now. They need quality, early childhood experiences now. They need first-rate schools with first-rate teach-



CDF President Marian Wright Edelman

ers and stimulating high quality out of school time programs. And they need to know that there is a good-paying job after college in their future. We must plan ahead and resist this quick fix, quarterly profit driven culture. It's gotten us into trouble.

Lesson Four: Don't listen to the critics and naysayers. Just get on with the job that needs to be done to educate our children. And if you don't want to be criticized, don't say anything, don't do anything, don't be anything, and don't say anything. Stand up and fight for our children, all of them.

Lesson Five: For safety's sake, travel in pairs. Better still, travel with your brothers and sisters and community leaders. We have got to turn back those who hijack Dr. Martin Luther King's words but subvert his call to end poverty, excessive militarism and excessive individualism that's killing our children. We must, particularly right now, make sure that we end those massive tax giveaways to the richest two percent, when 15.5 million children are languishing in poverty.

Lesson Six: Remember that the Ark was built by amateurs; the Titanic by professionals. Use your citizen power, your vote to wrest our ship of state from that small group of experts and powerful and greedy corporate pirates who recklessly jeopardized all of our lives for personal gain. Feel your own power. Use your own power. Don't rely on the experts.

Final Lesson: Build your future, build our children's future and our nation's future on high ground. Let's leave our nation and world better than we found it – more just, more hopeful, more peaceful, more productive, and more unified. This may be the first time in our history when our children and grandchildren will be worse off than their parents and grandparents unless we correct course with urgency, and do whatever is necessary to get them to safe harbor.

Let me end with a brief prayer. God, we have pushed so many of our children into the tumultuous sea of life in small and leaky boats without survival gear and compass. Please forgive us and help our children to forgive us. And help us now to build that transforming movement, to give all of your children

the anchors of faith and love, the rudder of hope, the sails of health and education, and the paddles of family and community, to keep them safe and strong when life's seas get rough.

2010 was a year of long, slow progress in recovery from the recession for much of the country, but not for our nation's children. A record number of our children were living in poverty, and children were the poorest age group in the country.

For them there is no time to wait for adults to get their financial house in order. Even as we celebrated the accomplishments and anniversaries of 2010, it was a year of urgency for the Children's Defense Fund to redouble our efforts and our commitment to changing the odds for *all* children.



Marian Wright Edelman





Children's Defense Fund 2010 Key Achievements

Launching the Second Phase Black Community Crusade for Children

On December 14-16, 2010, at CDF-Haley Farm, Geoffrey Canada, CDF Board Chair, and Angela Glover Blackwell, CDF Board Vice Chair, and Marian Wright Edelman convened 140 Black leaders across generations to launch the second phase of the Black Community Crusade for Children (BCCC). We had three purposes: (1) to wake up the Black community and the nation to the ominous clouds encircling Black children and youths whose life chances are less positive than their parents and White peers; (2) to commit to replacing the Cradle to Prison Pipeline with a pipeline to college, productive work, and successful adulthood for all Black children; and (3) to launch the second phase of the BCCC on the 20th anniversary of the launch of the first BCCC that CDF co-convened with Dr. John Hope Franklin and Dr. Dorothy Height at the Rockefeller Foundation's Conference Center in Bellagio, Italy, in December 1990. We discussed the urgent need for every sector of the Black community to focus on and act to overcome the toxic cocktail of poverty, illiteracy, racial disparities, violence and massive incarceration that is sentencing millions of our children to dead end, powerless and hopeless lives and threatens to undermine the past half century of racial and social progress.

The first 20 years of the crusade quietly spawned new leaders and a range of community building models we seek to move to scale and into policy. They include the CDF Freedom Schools® Program, which we seek to at least double to 300 over five years; the Harlem Children's Zone, headed by Geoffrey Canada, which is now being replicated by the Obama Administration around the country; PolicyLink, founded by Angela Glover Blackwell which focuses on place-based remedies; CDF's Southern Rural Black Women's Initiative

for economic empowerment in 77 southern Delta counties and successful SPARK program; intergenerational servant leadership training programs that have touched nearly 20,000 leaders; and the purchase of the beautiful Alex Haley Farm as our home for spiritual renewal, interdisciplinary, intergenerational, interfaith, and interracial discourse, and building the children's movement.

In the second phase of the Black Community Crusade for Children, we seek to bring to scale these and other successful models and make sure a stronger, more effective and persistent voice is heard from every race, age and faith to ensure we truly Leave No Child Behind® and give 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. Key Black leaders representing tens of millions of Black stakeholders have taken up the challenge, including nine major Black faith denominations and over a hundred other organizations. We will continue to recruit others to action to save the Black child and strengthen the Black family as part of our overall crusade for all children.



Geoffrey Canada, CDF Board Chair



Angela Glover Blackwell, CDF Board Vice Chair



Michelle Alexander, author of *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness*.

At the December meeting, Black leaders heard from distinguished scholars, advocates and activists including the Hon. Patricia Martin, a judge with the State of Illinois Circuit Court and now president of the National Council of Juvenile Court Judges; Judith Browne-Dianis, co-director of the Advancement Project; James Forbes Jr., senior minister emeritus of The Riverside Church in New York; Steven Horsford, Nevada State Senate majority leader; and Michelle Alexander, legal scholar and author of *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Color-blindness*. She described how systematic incarceration of poor people of color is tantamount to a new caste system: “A Black child born today has less of a chance of being raised by both parents than a child born during slavery. This is due in large part to the mass incarceration of Black men.”

The intergenerational leaders included young Black leaders who had earlier engaged in a range of CDF leadership training programs over the last 20 years, including CDF Cradle to Prison Pipeline® summits, CDF’s Young Advocate Leadership Training (YALT®) program, Beat the Odds® program, and CDF Freedom Schools® program.



Rev. Dr. Ray Hammond and Roy Martin of Boston, Mass.



Young leaders participating in BCCC planning



2010 Houston Beat the Odds® recipients with Marian Wright Edelman, CDF president, and Lan Bentsen, CDF Board Vice Chair.

Celebrating 20 Years of Beat the Odds®

In 2010, CDF celebrated 20 years of our inspirational *Beat the Odds* program which grew out of the first phase of the BCCC. It has honored over 600 outstanding high school students who have overcome tremendous adversity, demonstrated academic excellence and given back to their communities and able to attend college. So many are now doctors, lawyers, teachers, journalists, Peace Corps volunteers, and responsible parents and citizens giving back to their communities. They are living proof that *no one should ever give up on a child*. The seven annual awards events in Los Angeles, New York City, Dallas, Houston, Minneapolis-St. Paul, New Orleans, and Washington, D.C., send a clear signal that someone cares and how just one or a few caring adults can change a young person's life trajectory. In this report, we share a few of their stories. *Beat the Odds* program began in 1990, in Los Angeles with the help of Black entertainment and media executives. Marino Angulo was one of the first scholarship winners.

THEN: Marino was born into poverty in Durango, Mexico. He came to the United States when he was six years old with his parents who risked their lives hoping to provide a brighter future for their children. But life here was hard. Besides having to adjust to a new land and language, Marino found himself struggling to keep his family together. With an unemployed, alcoholic father and an often absent mother arrested for drug possession, Marino eventually took on all the parenting responsibilities for his 10 siblings. As a student at Montbello High School, he worked part time seven days a week to help provide for his family while still managing to maintain a 3.38 GPA, a perfect attendance record, and play varsity basketball and baseball. After graduating from high school, Marino attended Whittier College.

NOW: After graduation from Whittier, he earned a master's degree in education, and returned to his alma mater, Montbello High School, to teach Advanced Placement history and coach varsity basketball. He says, "I can't imagine a more rewarding profession. I want to give back to my community."

I want to be just like all the teachers, coaches, and community members who inspired me to never give up and to dream about going on to college. I want to be like my fourth grade teacher who told my mom that I could be anything I dreamed of; like my sixth grade coach who took time in fixing my jump shot and who also gave me an old pair of used basketball shoes that I loved so much; and like my high school teacher and coach who taught me that there is so much more to life than winning.” Marino believes this was all possible because of the *Beat the Odds* program, which not only gave him a scholarship but the

confidence and encouragement to dream of a better future and seize it. He continues to change the odds for other children. For the last five years Marino has served on the California *Beat the Odds* Selection Committee.



Ensuring Every Child a Healthy Start

- **8.3 million children are uninsured, almost 30 percent of them under the age of five.**
- **Two-thirds of uninsured children are eligible for the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) or Medicaid but are not enrolled due to bureaucratic state barriers.**
- **More than half of all uninsured children are Black or Latino, but the largest number of uninsured children are White.**

THEN: Arianna McQuillen was born into poverty and suffered from chronic asthma her whole life. Her father was mostly absent. Her mother and grandparents struggled to raise her and keep her healthy. Her aunt says Arianna was near death many times. While still quite young, both of her grandparents died after prolonged illnesses. When she was in sixth grade, her mother attempted suicide and survived but continued to suffer from depression. When Arianna was bullied in school for being bi-racial, poor, and smart, with little support at home, she began missing school and crying out for help. She was removed from her home and placed in an alternative residential treatment program. Arianna moved into foster care, and with adult support, began to thrive in school. She became a gifted student who



excelled in science and math and whose paintings, photography, and jewelry were featured in shows across the region when in high school. She joined the Science Olympiad team, maintained a 3.9 grade point average in her mostly Advanced Placement courses, and planned to study engineering in college. In 2010 Arianna won CDF’s *Beat the Odds* scholarship in Washington, D.C.

NOW: Arianna, a National Merit Scholar, graduated from Lake Braddock High School in Burke, Va., near the top of her class. Despite all she has been through, she approaches life with extraordinary energy, enthusiasm, and grace: “I guess a lot of the people [around me] ... I could be disappointed in them, you know, that they didn’t do everything that they were supposed to do. But I would much rather be proud of them for what they did do.” Arianna’s hard work has paid off: she was accepted by Harvard, Dartmouth, Cornell, Johns Hopkins, University of Virginia, Virginia Tech, Carnegie Mellon and her dream school, MIT, where she is now a freshman. Most of these universities offered her full scholarships. She says the *Beat the Odds* scholarship



Arianna McQuillen, 2010 *Beat the Odds* honoree, in Washington, D.C.

supported her college-going efforts and gave her “the faith that I will be able to overcome the next great odds that stand in my way.”

Changing the Odds for Children’s Health

- **The CDF-led All Healthy Children campaign was endorsed by 1,200 national, state and local organizations who helped ensure that 95 percent of all children will have access to health care under the Affordable Care Act, the new health reform law.** CDF persisted throughout the debate in calling for comprehensive, accessible and affordable coverage for all children and prevented the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) from being eliminated. Under the law, thousands of children and parents also will benefit from quality home visiting programs that promote school readiness and prevent child abuse and neglect.
- **CDF joined U.S. Department of Education Secretary Arne Duncan and U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius in the Connecting Kids to Coverage challenge to enroll five million uninsured children in health coverage in the next five years.** We trained more than 300 CHIP and Medicaid policy

officials on best practices in child health outreach and enrollment and developed 50-state child health enrollment toolkits.

- **CDF launched a collaboration with the 13,000-member American Association of School Administrators and the U.S. Conference of Mayors to expand our school based child health outreach campaign nationwide.** We are building on CDF-Texas’ partnership with school districts to identify uninsured students by adding health insurance questions to school enrollment forms. Over the past 10 years, CDF-Texas has reached more than 850,000 students through school districts that share information about CHIP and Children’s Medicaid with families.
- **CDF state offices continued to remove barriers to health enrollment.** CDF-California and its allies worked to make California a national leader on health care reform implementation and the first state in the nation to pass legislation to establish a health benefits exchange to expand coverage to 4.7 million uninsured Californians. CDF-New York eliminated barriers to enrollment by removing face-to-face interview requirements, allowing enrollment in the school meals program to serve as proof of income for children’s health coverage and expediting coverage for children who fled the earthquake in Haiti.
- **CDF was actively engaged in ensuring that regulations and guidance proposed by the Department of Health and Human Services to implement the new health reform law protected the unique needs of children.** We prepared formal comments singly and in collaboration with other children’s advocacy organizations in response to numerous proposed rules issued by the department following passage of the Affordable Care Act. Administrative advocacy and ongoing monitoring of federal and state implementation of the new law is essential to truly benefit children.

Ensuring Every Child a Head Start

- Only three percent of children eligible for Early Head Start and 43 percent of children eligible for Head Start are enrolled in the programs.
- More than 60 percent of all students in fourth, eighth, and 12th grades in public schools are unable to read or do math at grade level; for Black and Latino students in these grades, 79 percent or more are performing below grade level in reading and math.

THEN: For years, Marquita Davis suffered extreme abuse and neglect in a foster home. As she struggled to survive, she also tried to watch out and care for her younger sister, Joy, who has cerebral palsy. Authorities finally placed Marquita in a supportive and nurturing foster home. Despite her challenges, Marquita maintained top grades and was a member of the high school track team, student government, the photography club, and the yearbook staff. “I hope that by sharing my story, I will have given the next person the strength and courage to beat the odds,” she said after receiving her *Beat the Odds* scholarship award in New York City in 2003.

NOW: Since winning the *Beat the Odds* award, a lot has changed in Marquita’s life. She has a job with a financial services firm in Manhattan and lives in a home of her own in the Bronx. She fought for and won guardianship of her sister Joy, now 14. “It has been tough, and I know there will be more tough days ahead, but now Joy and I can get through them together,” she says. Besides working and taking care of her sister, Marquita is a student at John Jay College of Criminal Justice with a 3.0 grade point average and volunteers with a church in her neighborhood to help feed the hungry in her community.



“Winning the *Beat the Odds* award opened new chapters in my life,” Marquita says. “I am more confident in myself and my abilities as a person. I am able to stand up, let my voice be heard, and, most importantly, fight for what is right.” She dreams of starting a nonprofit organization to connect vulnerable people with city and state support services.

Changing the Odds for Early Childhood Development

- In August 2010, CDF hosted state teams from South Carolina, Mississippi and Oklahoma at Haley Farm to help them strengthen their early childhood data systems so that they can make better policy and program decisions for millions of young children. We brought together nationally recognized early care and education data quality experts and coaches to work with the state teams for an additional six months. Similar work will take place with additional states to strengthen early childhood development systems in 2011 and 2012.
- CDF-Southern Regional Office’s Supporting Partnerships to Assure Ready Kids (SPARK) program ensured school readiness and academic success for more than 900 three to eight year old children in Mississippi. Our first cohort of children, now in fourth grade, outperformed a comparison group in both mathematics and language arts on the 2008–2009 Mississippi Curriculum Test. This success has led the W.K. Kellogg Foundation to expand this project to five additional Mississippi districts, bringing the number of CDF SPARK school districts from five to 10.
- CDF-Louisiana’s New Orleans Early Education Support Initiative helped more than 1,200 pre-K-3rd grade children perform at grade level and



Southern Regional Office's Supporting Partnerships to Assure Ready Kids (SPARK) program

guided families through the fractured New Orleans school system through wrap around services at eight New Orleans charter schools.

- **CDF-Minnesota launched a *Children Ages 0 – 3: Research to Policy* campaign** to incorporate what researchers are learning about the importance of early childhood brain development into state early childhood, education and child welfare policies.
- **Recognizing the importance of pre-K through third grade experiences for young children, CDF focused on what is a missing step for too many children—full-day kindergarten.** We called attention to the fact that only 10 states require all school districts to offer full-day kindergarten despite its proven benefits to children’s healthy development and education achievement.
- **CDF promoted clear priorities for the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) intended to ensure a quality education for all of our nation’s most vulnerable children.** To make ESEA/No Child Left Behind an engine of equality rather than inequity, we sought to eliminate funding inequities that disproportionately hurt poor

children—especially children of color—among schools, districts and states along with supporting full-day kindergarten and preventive measures for children most at risk of dropping out with special attention given to children and youth in juvenile detention facilities and foster care.



Southern Regional Office's Supporting Partnerships to Assure Ready Kids (SPARK) program

Ensuring Every Child a Fair Start

- Every fifth child in America is poor (\$22,050 for a family of four). Two out of five poor children live in extreme poverty (half the poverty level or below).
- Black and Hispanic children are about three times as likely to be poor as White, non-Hispanic children.
- The poorest children are preschool children of color living in female-headed families.

THEN: Ngan Ho's childhood was marked by fear, violence and extreme poverty. She grew up in an immigrant family of five sharing a tiny one-bedroom apartment. Her father drank and physically abused Ngan and her mother. Her mother was eventually forced to move the children from house to house in an effort to protect them. To avoid going home after school, Ngan immersed herself in Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC), which helped give her self-confidence. She worked after school to help her mother support the family while managing to dedicate long hours to the JROTC program, gaining a great sense of pride and responsibility. Ngan graduated from high school as the only Asian-American female to hold the rank of battalion commander. When she won the *Beat the Odds* award in Houston, Texas, she shared this favorite motto: "Love what you do and do what you love."

NOW: Ngan graduated with a degree in broadcast journalism from the University of Texas at Austin where she maintained a 3.0 grade point average and

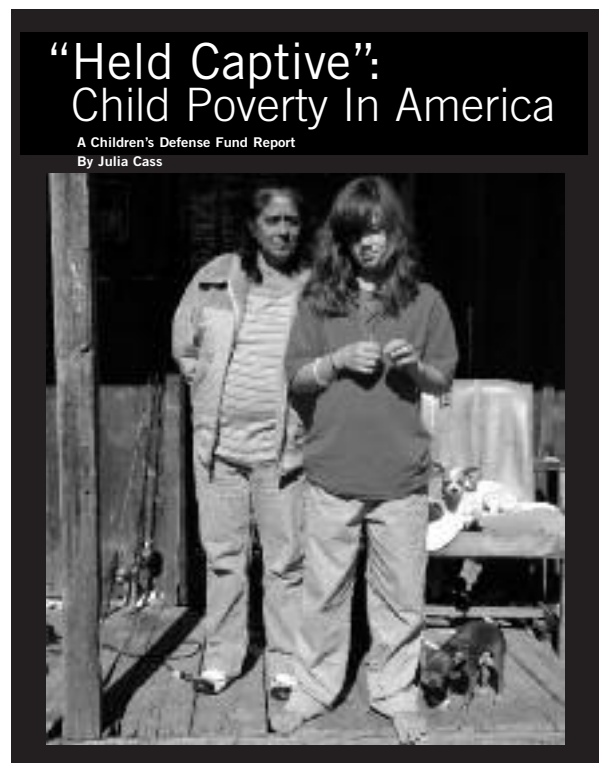


served as a reporter/anchor for Texas Student Television. She is a member of the university's Longhorn Scholars Program, a peer mentor to other students, and the recipient of a President's

Achievement Scholarship. Her goal is to build a career covering national and international news: "I have all this energy and I have all this passion, and I want to save the world—or at least help the world."

Changing the Odds by Ending Child Poverty

CDF published "*Held Captive: Child Poverty in America*." Award winning journalist Julia Cass, profiled for CDF the realities of deep child poverty and how it can poison and stunt children's lives. Cass' report introduces the reader to children and their families living in extreme poverty in Quitman County, Miss.; to those still struggling in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans; and to the new faces of poverty in Long Island, N.Y., where families are doing their best to counter the devastation of the recession. Cass found that the safety net protections are far from adequate to protect poor children adrift in a sea of poverty.



- **CDF-Minnesota’s Bridge to Benefits outreach program screened more than 15,000 families for public benefits programs including the Earned Income and Child Tax Credits (EITC) in Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Montana.**
 In Minnesota, nearly 100 community-based organizations are partnering with us in more than 200 locations throughout the state. CDF-Minnesota efforts expanded food stamps to 70,000 Minnesota residents and secured \$170 million in federal funding by eliminating the asset test and expanding income eligibility to 165 percent of the federal poverty level.
- **Mobilizing women for empowerment: CDF’s Southern Regional Office leads the Southern Rural Black Women’s Initiative for Economic and Social**

Justice (SRBWI) in 77 counties in the Black Belt of Alabama, Georgia, and Mississippi. Through the Unita Blackwell Young Women’s Leadership Institute at Tougaloo College north of Jackson, Miss., SRBWI provided intensive leadership training for 600 young women between 13 and 23 years old and has created SRBWI Human Rights Commissions in nine towns. **CDF-Ohio’s Women’s Advocacy Action Network (WAAN) mobilized 600 women across race, class, religion, and geography to educate policy makers, faith and business leaders, and the general community about the needs of and cost effectiveness of investing in children.**



Southern Rural Black Women’s Initiative for Economic and Social Justice (SRBWI) participants

Ensuring Every Child a Safe Start

- A child is abused or neglected every 42 seconds; 40 percent of abused and neglected children receive no treatment following the investigation of their maltreatment.
- 3,042 children and teens – eight every day – died from gunfire in 2007; almost six times as many suffered non-fatal gun injuries, which have serious physical and emotional consequences for victims and costs for tax payers.
- A Black boy born in 2001 has a one in three chance of being in prison during his lifetime: a Latino boy has a one-in-six chance of the same fate.

THEN: In 2000, violence permeated Anthony Williams' life. One uncle had been killed, another had been executed, a third was on death row, and his father was serving two life sentences for murder and armed robbery. The odds seemed completely stacked against Anthony but he credits his mother and father with helping him beat them. His mother was a storyteller who shared her childhood memories of a strong, moral family upbringing, giving Anthony a glimpse of what life could be. Through letters from jail, Anthony's father encouraged him to learn how to become a leader. Education and football gave Anthony direction and his football coach encouraged him to work with children in a youth program. He learned the most effective leaders are positive role models and decided to dedicate himself to being one for other young people. He received CDF-Minnesota's *Beat the Odds* scholarship, he was about to become the first member of his family to graduate from high school in decades.

NOW: Anthony continues to change the odds for other children and work to dismantle the cradle to prison pipeline through his work as a behavior specialist at a school in St. Paul, Minn. He graduated from the University of Minnesota in 2008 and said, "Winning the *Beat the Odds* scholarship gave me the opportunity to attend college and gave me the confidence of



knowing that people believed in me like I believe in myself." Through CDF's *Freedom Schools* program, Anthony became connected to and learned about the

Civil Rights Movement and is now the project director for one of CDF's Minneapolis summer Freedom Schools partners to close the achievement gap and keep children in a pipeline to college.

Changing the Odds for Child Safety

- All CDF state and regional offices completed *Cradle to Prison Pipeline* summits across the country which engaged many thousands of families, youths and community leaders and policy makers in examining factors driving children towards prison

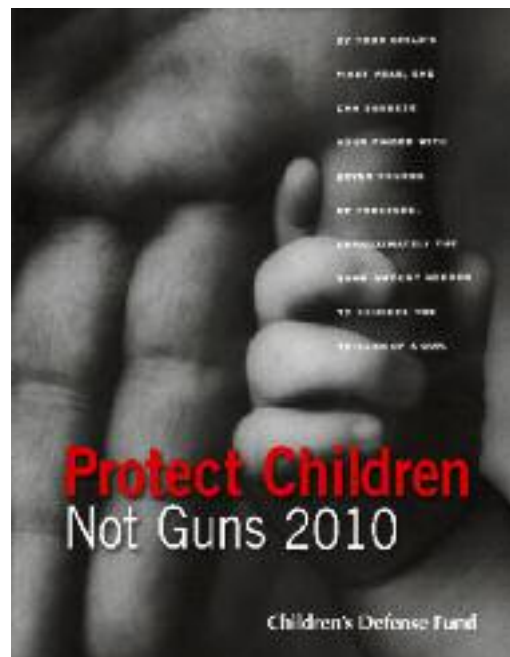


rather than college and productive work. Action strategies have been adopted to address specific pipeline impact points in each state such as inadequate mental health services, zero tolerance school discipline policies, and overburdened, costly, and ineffective child welfare and juvenile justice systems.

- **CDF-New York’s advocacy helped downsize eight extremely costly and ineffective youth prisons and secured \$5 million in new money for community-based alternatives to prison for young people in the state’s highest need neighborhoods.** New York State currently spends \$210,000 a year to jail a child—some as young as 10 years old—75 percent of whom are non-violent offenders. Their recidivism rate is 81 percent. Most New York City children are sent upstate to often abusive upstate youth prisons. These costly secure juvenile prisons are not fit places for children and are breeding grounds for the adult criminal system and decrease public safety.
- **CDF co-convoked a *Cradle to Prison Pipeline Summit at Harvard Law School in April 2010 for 300 community, faith and policy leaders to develop concrete recommendations to replace the prison pipeline with a pipeline to college and productive work.*** After the summit, Massachusetts community leaders focussed on the role of zero tolerance school discipline policies in funneling children into the prison pipeline, the top concern emerging from youths attending many of our state summits. Co-sponsors included: The Charles Hamilton Houston Institute for Race and Justice at Harvard Law School, the Program in Criminal Justice Policy and Management of the Malcolm Wiener Center for Social Policy at Harvard Kennedy School, the Rappaport Institute for Greater Boston, the Taubman Center for State and Local Government, and Roca and Bright Beginnings at Harvard Graduate School of Education.
- **CDF was Lead Partner for the Kinship Guardianship Network in Fosteringconnections.org to connect children in foster care to families.** We were instrumental in passing the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act in 2008

and are working now to ensure sound implementation. Close to half the states applied for guardianship assistance funding to support relatives as foster parents to raise children permanently outside of foster care.

- **CDF played a key leadership role in keeping children safely out of foster care and reduce their chances of entering the cradle to prison pipeline.** We coordinate with the Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP) a partnership of national organizations seeking to develop federal child welfare financing reforms to realign how federal dollars flow to states to protect children and strengthen families.
- **We promoted rehabilitative models for youths in custody and to reform ineffective and costly youth and adult criminal justice systems.** CDF-California juvenile justice staff partnered with Los Angeles County Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas to release a report with comprehensive recommendations to prevent recidivism among Los Angeles County youths whose juvenile probation population is the largest in the nation.
- **CDF published its 11th annual report *Protect Children, Not Guns*,** documenting the toll of gun violence on young lives and steps needed to stop child gun deaths.



THEN: In 1992, Rhondee Benjamin-Johnson was a high school student with tremendous promise. In her acceptance speech for her Washington, D.C., *Beat the Odds* award, she described the murder of her aunt when she was a child and its effect on her family which grew overnight from seven to 11 children. Her parents separated under the strain of additional mouths to feed and Rhondee assumed a lot of the responsibility for her siblings' and cousins' care. She prepared meals, monitored the children's homework, and supervised chores and baths. Through it all, she excelled in high school as a National Merit Commended Scholar and senior class president, volunteered at the Washington Hospital Center and



Howard University's Therapeutic Childlife Center, and participated in medical apprenticeships.

NOW: Dr. Rhondee Benjamin-Johnson, a graduate of Atlanta's Spelman College and Harvard Medical School, practices medicine in underserved communities in Baltimore. Her special interests are domestic and international HIV care, substance abuse, and the medical needs of prison inmates, especially incarcerated women. In addition to her undergraduate and medical degrees, she holds a master's degree in anthropology and development from the London School of Economics. In 2006, she was featured on a panel on young women's perspectives on health, education, and leadership at the Global Women's Action Network for Children Conference in Jordan, held at the Dead Sea Conference Center under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Rania Al-Abdullah. Part of a new generation of women leaders, she serves on the Washington, D.C., *Beat the Odds* Selection Committee.

Ensuring Every Child a Moral Start

THEN: In 2006, Michael James Downy overcame enormous challenges to win the Washington, D.C. *Beat the Odds* scholarship. His childhood was filled with poverty, insecurity, and hunger. During one "streak of bad luck" the family's house burned down, and for nearly a year they lived in a motel. His mother, who suffered from schizophrenia, often asked her children to perform bizarre tasks based solely on her hallucinations. His alcoholic and drug-abusing father avoided work and turned to illegal activities to support his habits. When Michael developed computer skills, his father exploited them, forcing Michael to choose between forging checks on the computer or going without food. After briefly going along with his father's demands, Michael eventually stood his ground and refused to continue. When the police finally caught his parents, Michael and his younger sister were removed from the home. With supportive legal guardians, Michael was able to thrive in school and

put his computer talents to positive use. He started the Key Club, a technology club, at his high school and became its webmaster.

NOW: Michael graduated in three years from the University of Mary Washington with a degree in economics, and is now pursuing his doctorate at George Mason University. In his free time, he tutors students and is active with the college chapter of Campus Crusade for Christ. Michael lives by this motto: "You can follow the destiny you were born into or you can carve your own path." He dreams of becoming a politician so he can change the odds for all children.



Changing the Odds by Mobilizing Faith Voices in the Community

- **Hundreds of faith and young leaders assembled at CDF Haley Farm in July 2010 for the 16th annual Samuel DeWitt Proctor Institute for Child Advocacy Ministry and Great Preachers Series.** The institute offers workshops, spiritual renewal, inspiring preaching about children's concerns, numerous opportunities for networking, and a range of skills building and the best practices workshops for faith leaders to apply in their communities. Participants mobilized their networks back home to contact their lawmakers urging extension of unemployment benefits. The measure passed providing a critical lifeline to children and families hit hardest by the recession.
- **The 2010 multi-faith Children's Sabbath National Observance and Celebrations united thousands of congregations in prayer, education and service for children across the country.**
The 2010 Children's Sabbath theme was *Blessed to Be a Blessing: Lifting up the Next Generation*. Each year CDF's Sabbath manual helps guide special worship services, educational programs, letter-writing campaigns to lawmakers and a variety of other activities focused on improving the lives of children.



- **Shannon Daley-Harris, CDF's longtime religious action director, now advisor, was ordained minister in word and sacrament for the Presbyterian Church U.S.A. for her child advocacy ministry at CDF.** Since 1990, Rev. Daley-Harris has dedicated herself to building a strong faith-based child advocacy movement, helping establish and plan the Proctor Institute for Child Advocacy Ministry. She has always worked in concert with other faith traditions, recognizing that all religions live up to a divine mandate to care for and protect children.



Freedom Schools children participated in the 2010 Samuel DeWitt Proctor institute for Child Advocacy Ministry. They performed for 500 adult participants in the Riggio-Lynch Chapel at Haley Farm.

Successful Passage to Adulthood: Training a New Generation of Servant Leaders

**CDF Freedom Schools Program, Young Advocate Leadership Training (YALT®)
Program and Beat the Odds® Scholarship Program**

THEN: In 2002, Donnie Belcher had vivid memories from when she was a preschooler: she would visit her mother in jail, talk to her on the telephone while her mother remained on the other side of the thick prison glass, and cry when she had to say good-bye. While her mother was in prison Donnie's grandmother cared for her, trying to keep her busy with activities like Girl Scouts and free summer camps. Donnie was reunited with her mother when she was eight, but the challenges kept coming as her mother continued to struggle with an addiction to crack cocaine. Despite the turmoil and instability in her life, Donnie decided that for her, "Failure is not an option." One strong positive influence in her life was the *CDF Freedom Schools* Program at Mount Pleasant Missionary Baptist Church in Kansas City, Mo. Donnie began attending the program when she was 12. For the first time, she met college students—"I actually put a face, a Black face, behind the idea of going to college." And she met Black male college students: "We talk about the impact of fatherlessness on black males, but not on females—and I still remember Lavelle, who was a Morehouse man. He served as the first positive Black male that I had ever seen in 12 years."

By age 13, Donnie was writing poetry; by 16, she was a star athlete and at the top of her class. She mentored younger students and helped raise funds so other children could visit their mothers in jail. When she was awarded the Minnesota *Beat the Odds* scholarship she was looking forward to becoming the first in her family to graduate from college, saying, "I want to start a new legacy in my family."



NOW: Donnie Belcher Smith is married and teaches high school English at the Whitney M. Young Magnet High School, a college preparatory school in Chicago with distinguished alumni like Michelle Obama. Donnie credits her *CDF Freedom Schools* experience with inspiring her to become a teacher. With a bachelor's degree and a master's degree in education from DePaul University, Donnie has realized her dream and intends to help change the odds for the 1.7 million children of incarcerated parents in America. Donnie Belcher Smith is one of the young BCCC servant leaders of the future.



Freedom Schools Partners in Charlotte, North Carolina

Changing the Odds Through Education

- Last year, 1,100 college servant-leaders were trained in the CDF *Freedom Schools* program to serve in high quality summer literacy programs for 9,600 pre-K – 12th grade children in 29 states and 84 cities. Evaluations of *CDF Freedom Schools* sites in Charlotte-Mecklenburg, N.C., by the University of North Carolina-Charlotte show them staunching summer learning loss among 90 percent of the children and significantly increasing reading gains among 60 percent of the children. Our two-year preschool pilot evaluation in rural South Carolina showed children made strong positive strides forward in getting ready for school.
- **The CDF Freedom Schools program is a teacher feeder pipeline. Education Secretary Arne Duncan visited CDF Freedom Schools sites in New Orleans and Jackson State University in Mississippi to meet former Black and Latino male Freedom Schools interns who have become teachers and educators as a result of their CDF Freedom Schools experience.** He highlighted the *CDF Freedom Schools* program in two CNN segments as a key strategy in recruiting more minority males into the teaching profession. Only eight percent of public school teachers are



Freedom Schools Partners in Charlotte, North Carolina

Black and only two percent are Black males. As a million teachers are expected to retire over the next four to six years, an opportunity to diversify and revitalize states public school teaching force and positive child outcomes is available.

- **Freedom Schools programs in juvenile detention centers in Houston, Minneapolis and Laurel, Md., attest to the model's flexibility and positive impact.** A Houston *CDF Freedom Schools* site funded by the Catholic Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston and the Juvenile Probation Department, was so



On May 7, 2010, Secretary of Education Arne Duncan met with Black and Latino male former *CDF Freedom Schools* interns who became teachers and principals to get their advice about how to get more males of color into teaching.

successful that the probation department will triple the number of children served from 50 to 150 in 2011. Harris County staff reported dramatic changes among youths involved: there were no fights despite high levels of gang affiliation; some students reported they had completed reading a book for the first time and requested recommendations for additional books to read; and parents asked how they could arrange to get their child enrolled in the “fun school.”

- **The Beat the Odds program** rewarded 38 students in 2010 who have persevered despite family breakdown, homelessness, parental incarceration, drug

and alcohol addiction, neglect and abuse with scholarships, mentorships, and support to make a successful transition from high school to college.

- **Over 250 young adult leaders, half of them Black and Latino males, were trained through the Young Advocate Leadership Training (YALT®) program to become effective organizers and strong and effective voices for children.** YALT is a critical component of our youth leadership work. Over the next five years, BCCC has committed to training 5,000 new young leaders of color, at least half of them Black males.



The 2010 Ella Baker Child Policy Training Institute trained 1,100 college students as servant leaders for almost 10,000 children in 29 states for CDF's *Freedom Schools* program.



THEN: “The first time I saw my father, he was chained,” Michael Tubbs told an audience at Stanford University. Michael’s mother was 16 years old when he was born, and his father was behind bars. “Gone was the mirage of the invincible man, the man who would protect me once I found him. At the age of 12, I finally saw my father—in an orange jumpsuit, looking weak and vulnerable. The conversation with this stranger was cordial, albeit distant.” During that first visit, his father told him, “Michael, the oppressor designs the world in a way so that prison is your destiny. From birth, you are set up to fail. I decided to comply and give ‘the man’ what he wants. You’re a black man in America, and it’s either prison or death.” But Michael decided to defy the odds his father and society had laid out for him.

NOW: Michael is a student at Stanford University pursuing a bachelor’s degree in comparative studies in race and ethnicity and a simultaneous master’s degree in policy, organization, and leadership studies from the School of Education. Michael founded and directs the Phoenix Project, which helps support low-income high school students during the college application process and has served as a White House intern. At Stanford, Michael has been the student government’s co-chair for diversity and tolerance, a Public Leadership Fellow for the Haas Center for Public Service, and co-coordinator of the annual Youth Empowerment Conference sponsored by the

Black Student Union. In April the Harry S. Truman Foundation named him a 2011 Truman Scholar. Michael plans to attend law school with hopes of returning to his native Stockton, Calif., to do government and educational policy work.

Looking Ahead: In early January 2011, Marian Wright Edelman and Geoffrey Canada held a press conference to announce the launch of the second phase of the Black Community Crusade for Children and release three reports detailing the crisis of the growing racial segregation and income inequality in America. *The State of Black Children & Families*, a poll and focus group of Black adults and youths produced for CDF by Peter Hart Research Associates shows the vast majority of America’s Black community, seven in 10 adults, view these as tough or very bad times for Black children and many see poor Black youth falling further behind. New research by Dr. Andrew Sum, director of the Center for Labor Market Studies at Northeastern University found the American dream and employment opportunities vanishing for Black young people. *Portrait of Inequality 2011* captures the statistics for Black children and how far they have fallen behind their White peers. CDF continues to mobilize Black leaders even as we prepare to launch a national Latino Community Crusade for Children to communicate the crisis facing children of color and build momentum to dismantle the cradle to prison pipeline and replace it with a cradle to college pipeline for *all* children.



2010 Financial Overview and Report

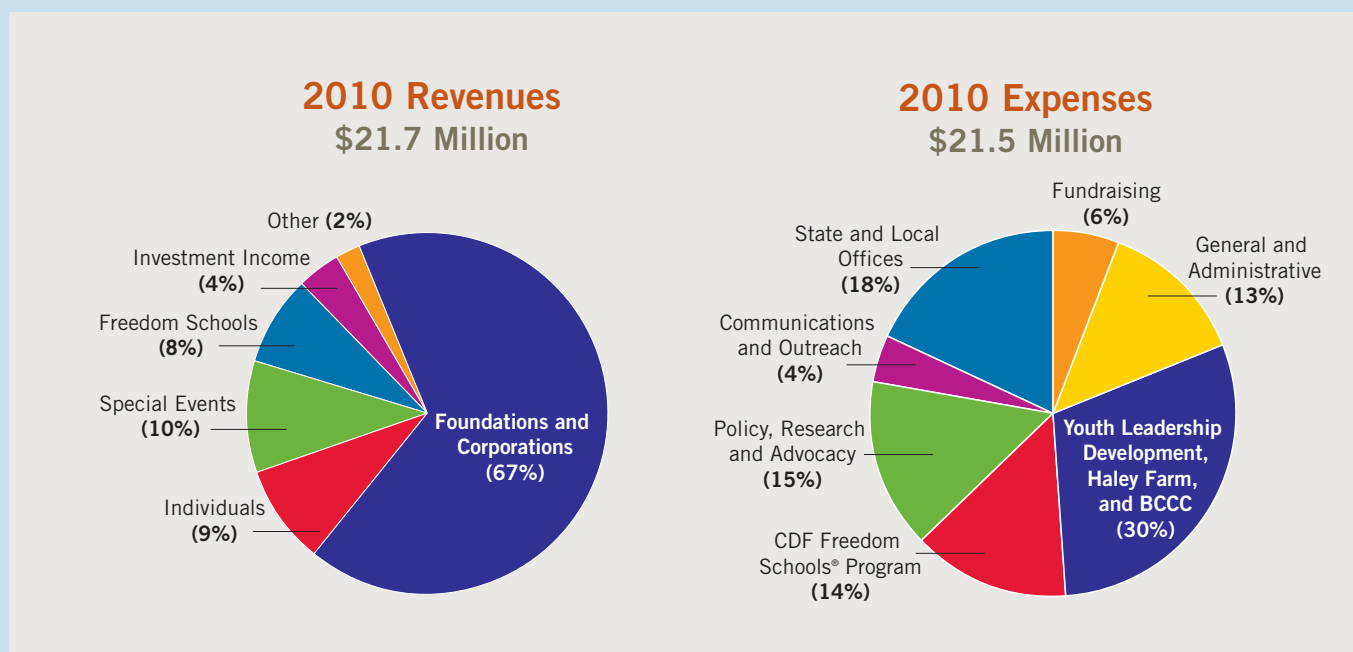
The Children's Defense Fund (CDF) continues its commitment to providing much needed research, public education, policy, advocacy, and programs and services for children and families at a time when the nation's ability to assist those in the most precarious situations has been severely undermined by continued economic volatility and uncertainty.

In 2009, CDF relied primarily on internal reserves to provide prompt response to increasing demands. By undertaking the necessary steps to become a more effective and efficient institution, by restructuring programmatic and support delivery systems, by diversifying funding sources, and by becoming a leaner and more effective financial steward, CDF was able to redirect more resources directly to communities and children in need.

CDF returned to financial stability and maintained its leadership role in making a difference for children and in 2010 our financial systems provided better information on a more timely basis giving us the flexibility to deploy resources and achieve impact.

Thank you for your continued support! With your help we continue to provide an effective and independent voice for all children in America who cannot speak, vote, or lobby for themselves through our nonprofit 501(c) (3) and 501(c) (4) organizations.

The following financial statements provide a summary of CDF's consolidated financial position for the year ended December 31, 2010. For complete audited financial statements, go to www.childrensdefense.org.



Children's Defense Fund and Children's Defense Fund Action Council
Audited Summary Consolidated Statement of Financial Position

	December 2010	December 2009
Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 333,602	\$ 1,838,364
Investments	20,095,190	19,713,641
Pledges receivable, net	8,778,896	7,276,637
Property and equipment, net	11,212,980	11,999,308
Other assets	989,457	949,333
Total assets	\$ 41,410,125	\$ 41,777,283
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	1,710,060	2,484,184
Note payable	2,500,000	1,900,000
Bonds payable	5,770,000	6,105,000
Total liabilities	9,980,060	10,489,184
Net assets		
Unrestricted		
Total Unrestricted	\$ 9,625,312	\$ 9,427,471
Temporarily restricted	14,698,154	14,754,029
Permanently restricted	7,106,600	7,106,600
Total net assets	31,430,066	31,288,100
Total liabilities and net assets	\$ 41,410,126	\$ 41,777,284

Children's Defense Fund and Children's Defense Fund Action Council
Audited Summary Consolidated Statements of Activities and Changes in Net Assets

	2010 Total	2009 Total
Revenue, gains and other support		
Contributions and donations		
Foundations and corporations	\$ 13,653,880	\$ 14,406,283
Individuals	2,033,118	2,534,405
Organization and groups	620,006	351,538
Other		
Sales of publications and merchandise	82,529	125,764
Special events	2,243,428	995,416
Training fees	1,837,925	1,559,331
Haley Farm fees	35,578	17,925
Miscellaneous	356,416	727,819
Investment income (loss)		
Endowment Income (net)		
Interest and dividends	534,060	367,057
Realized and unrealized losses, net of manager fees	285,384	(31,270)
Operating		10,462
Total revenue, gains and other support	\$ 21,682,324	\$ 21,064,730
Program services		
Leadership development and state and community capacity building	15,332,436	19,611,730
Policy and program development and implementation	1,289,388	1,948,465
Public education, media campaigns, internet outreach and publications	825,681	1,975,284
Total program services	\$ 17,447,505	\$ 23,535,479
Supporting services General and administrative	2,850,692	3,024,688
Fundraising	1,242,161	2,551,952
Total supporting services	4,092,853	5,576,640
Total expenses	21,540,358	29,112,119
Change in net assets	141,966	(8,047,389)
Beginning net assets	31,288,099	39,335,489
Ending net assets	\$ 31,430,065	\$ 31,288,100

2010 Publications

National Office

- Portrait of Inequality 2011
- The State of Black Children and Families 2011 (Hart Research report)
- Deteriorating Employment Rates and Incomes Threaten the Futures of Young Workers and Young Families 2011 (Andy Sum report)
- Held Captive: Child Poverty in America
- Protect Children, Not Guns 2010
- State of America's Children® 2010
- National Observance of Children's Sabbaths® Manual, volume 19: Blessed to Be a Blessing: Lifting Up the Next Generation (2010)
- Call to Action for Our Children (BCCC report)
- 2010 CDF Freedom Schools® Integrated Reading Curriculum Guide

Action Council

- 2009 Children's Defense Fund Action Council® Nonpartisan Congressional Scorecard

State Offices

California

CDF-California produced the following reports as a part of the 100% Campaign, a collaborative effort of The Children's Partnership, Children Now, and Children's Defense Fund-California. Since 1998, these three children's advocacy organizations have worked together for policies that ensure that all California's children have access to affordable, comprehensive health coverage.

- Every Child Is Eligible for Coverage: An End to Coverage Denials for Pre-Existing Conditions
- California Health Benefit Exchange & Children's Health Coverage
- Comments Regarding Exchange-Related Provisions of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act
- Comments on Preventive Services under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act
- Healthy Families Enrollment Drops When Families Need it Most

- Governor's May Revised Budget Proposes to Put Critical Health Care Services Out of Reach for Children and Families
- Premium Increases of Nearly 250 percent Over Last 18 Months Proposed for Low-Income Children in Healthy Families
- Making National Health Reform a Win for California Children
- Strong Dental Benefits: Cost-Effective and Critical to Children's Overall Health and Success
- Preserving California Children's Coverage: Health Care Reform's Maintenance of Effort
- Assembly Bill 2477 (Jones): Now is the Time to Cut Red Tape for Children, Families, and the State
- Health Care Reform: What It Means for California's Children
- Low-Income Children On Healthy Families Could See Premiums Increase at Twice the Rate of Anthem Blue Cross' Massive Premium Hikes
- Governor's Budget Proposals Attack Children's Health: At Least 200,000 Children Would Lose Health Coverage
- More Than One Million California Children Could Lose Health Coverage Under Governor's Budget Proposals

Minnesota

- Asset Limit Reform: Removing Barriers to Promote Self Sufficiency
- Public Work Support Programs: Addressing Barriers to Increase Access
- Every Kid Counts: A Closer Look at Children of Color and American Indian Children, annual KIDS COUNT data book
- Five Opportunities to Improve the Health of Children in Minnesota

Ohio

- Ohio's KIDS COUNT 2009 Data Book
- A Message to the Governor and 128th General Assembly: Dismantling the Cradle to Prison Pipeline® Campaign Issue Brief
- Rethinking Juvenile Detention in Ohio Issue Brief
- Juvenile Detention Reform in Ohio Fact Sheet

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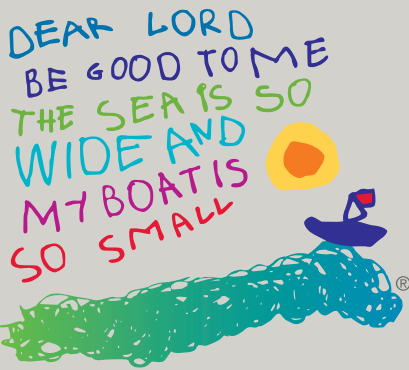
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Children's Defense Fund