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

Cover photo: At CDF Haley Farm the ark-shaped interfaith Riggio-Lynch chapel designed by Maya Lin symbolizes the safe haven every child needs and deserves to make a safe passage to adulthood. It was made possible by the generosity of Len and Louise Riggio. The 2012 CDF Freedom Schools® Servant Leader Interns stood in front of the beautiful ark on graduation day.

Cover photo: T.C. Perkins, Jr.
Inside photos: Lee Lannom, C. Smith, Peter Coleman and courtesy of Read Lead CDF Freedom Schools programs

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The Children’s Defense Fund has developed a dynamic and diverse infrastructure across the country that reflects significant capacity to continue serving children effectively. In addition to dedicated supporters active in every state, the map below includes three measures of this strength:

- State and Regional office presence
- CDF Freedom Schools® Program in 2013 (177 total in 94 cities and 29 states)
- Children’s Sabbath congregations in 2011 (48 states)
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

God to Hungry Child

Hungry child,
I didn’t make this world for you.
You didn’t buy any stock in my railroad.
You didn’t invest in my corporation.
Where are your shares in Standard Oil?
I made the world for the rich
And the will-be-rich
And the have-always-been rich.
Not for you,
Hungry child.
— Langston Hughes

The test of our progress is not whether we add more to the abundance of those who have much. It’s whether we provide enough for those who have too little.
— Franklin Delano Roosevelt

We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly.
— Martin Luther King, Jr.

This 2011-2012 report spans two extremely hopeful but challenging and turbulent political and economic years for our nation, our children, and for nonprofit groups like the Children’s Defense Fund. The slow climb out of the recession left the largest number of poor people in America in the last 54 years and child and family suffering was widespread. Political lions roared about deficit reduction and budget cuts as more children and families fell into poverty. Persistent unemployment, hunger and homelessness increased throughout the country. We pursued justice for children and the poor with urgency and persistence in the midst of budget battles that nearly paralyzed our nation, and never gave up and we never will. We worked tirelessly to protect children and the poor from budget cuts and protect the already tattered safety nets. The Occupy movement put the spotlight on record levels of income and wealth inequality as we highlighted the dangers of the Cradle to Prison Pipeline™ driven largely by chronic poverty and the growing racial disparities.

In the fall of 2011, the first Black president spoke at the dedication of the first national monument on the mall honoring a Black man, the Martin Luther King Jr. memorial. The thoughts I shared that day with the many thousands who came to honor Dr. King continue to inform our work as we prepare to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the March on Washington and celebrate our 40th anniversary year in 2013.

Let us honor Dr. King today—and for as long as it takes—with powerful, persistent, unrelenting nonviolent action to rescue his dream—America’s dream—from the clutches of materialism, militarism, racism and poverty he warned would be America’s undoing.

In his last Sunday sermon at Washington National Cathedral, Dr. King retold the parable of the rich man Dives who ignored the poor and sick man Lazarus who came every day seeking crumbs from Dives’ table. Dives went to hell, Dr. King said, not because he was rich but because he did not realize his wealth was his opportunity to bridge the gulf separating him from his brother and allowed Lazarus to become invisible. He warned this could happen to rich America, if we don’t use her vast resources to end poverty and make it possible for all of God’s children to have the basic necessities of life.

At his death in 1968, when he was calling with urgency for an end to poverty in our nation, there were 25.4 million poor Americans including 11 million poor children and our Gross Domestic Product (GDP) was $4.13 trillion. Today there are 46.2 million poor people including 16.1 million poor children and our GDP is three times larger. Twenty million of our neighbors are living in extreme poverty including 7.3 million children. Disgracefully children are the poorest age
group in America and the younger they are the poorer they are and one in four preschool children is poor. More than one in three Black children and one in three Latino children are poor. Children have suffered most since the recession began.

- The number of poor children—16.1 million—exceeds the entire combined populations of Haiti and Liberia, two of the poorest countries on earth.
- The number of extremely poor children—7.3 million—in our nation is greater than the population of Sierra Leone.
- The number of poor children under five—5 million—exceeds the entire population of the state of South Carolina or Louisiana or Alabama.

I have no doubt that Dr. King would be mounting a nonviolent poor people’s campaign to end rampant hunger, homelessness, and poverty today.

Let’s honor Dr. King by our committed action to end child poverty and close the morally obscene gulf between rich and poor in our nation where the 400 highest income earners made as much as the combined tax revenues of 22 state governments with 42 million citizens in 2008, and the wealthiest top 1 percent hold more net wealth than the bottom 90 percent combined. Instead of another tax break for the rich, let us close the unfair subsidies, loopholes and bailouts to feed and house and educate our children and employ their parents.

Let’s honor and follow Dr. King by naming and changing the continuing racial disparities, undergirded by poverty, that place one in three Black and one in six Hispanic boys born in 2001 at risk of prison in their lifetimes. Incarceration is the new American apartheid. Let’s reroute our children into a pipeline to college and productive work to compete with children from China and India.

Let’s honor and follow Dr. King by speaking truth to power and demanding justice for poor and vulnerable children with urgency and persistence and effective nonviolent direct actions to break our nation back from the brink of self destruction fueled by the unbridled greed of the few and a military budget that dwarfs our early childhood development budget where the real security of our nation lies.

Let’s honor and follow Dr. King by stopping the resurgence of racial and income segregation in our schools, unfair treatment of children of color with zero tolerance school discipline and special education practices that push them out of school and towards prison, and efforts to undermine the hard earned right to vote. Let’s not return to Jim Crow shenanigans that strangled our democracy far too long.

Let’s honor and follow Dr. King by building a beloved community in America where all have enough to eat, a place to sleep, enough work at decent wages to support a family, buy a home, raise children, and send them to public schools that empower children with hope, confidence and skills for the future.

Let’s truly honor Dr. King by transforming our education system that sentences millions of children to social and economic death by failing to prepare them and our country for the future. The fact that a majority of all children in all income and racial groups and seventy-six percent of Black and Hispanic children cannot read or compute at grade level in fourth and eighth grades is a threat to America’s future economic and military strength.

Let’s honor Dr. King by ensuring every child’s safety and right to live by ending the epidemic gun violence in our nation that has snuffed out more than 1.3 million American lives since he and Robert Kennedy were killed by guns in 1968—including the lives of approximately 148,000 children and teens. That is 7,400 classrooms of 20 children. Let’s honor Dr. King by standing up and doing whatever is required for as long as needed to break the political grip of the National Rifle Association (NRA) and their allies who seek to add more guns to the approximately 300 million in circulation and to continue production and sales of assault weapons and high volume ammunition magazines that should not be in the hands of civilians.

The day after Dr. King was shot, I went into riot torn Washington, D.C. neighborhoods and schools urging children not to loot, get arrested and ruin their futures. A young Black boy about 12 looked me squarely in the eyes and said, “Lady, what future? I ain’t got no future. I ain’t got nothing to lose.” Let us follow Dr. King by proving that boy’s truth wrong in our militarily powerful, materially rich, but too spiritually poor nation.

Dr. King is not coming back. It’s up to us to redeem the soul of America. He told us what to do. Let’s do it.

Marian Wright Edelman
Children’s Defense Fund
2011-2012 Key Achievements

At the National Press Club in January 2011, CDF released three powerful new reports detailing one of the worst crises facing Black children since slavery to build public support for the second phase of the Black Community Crusade for Children (BCCC). A Black boy born in 2001 has a 1 in 3 chance of going to prison in his lifetime; a Latino boy a 1 in 6 chance of the same fate. This Cradle to Prison Pipeline™ is a toxic cocktail of poverty, illiteracy, racial disparities, violence and massive incarceration. It is sentencing millions of children of color to dead-end, powerless and hopeless lives. Dismantling the pipeline to prison and replacing it with a pipeline to college, work and productive adulthood is the overarching goal of CDF.

CDF commissioned Peter Hart Research Associates to hold a series of focus groups and conduct a poll of Black adults and children for a new report, The State of Black Children & Families. The 2011 report shows the vast majority of America’s Black community, 7 in 10 adults, view these as tough or very bad times for Black children and many see poor Black youth falling further behind.

The goal of the second phase of the BCCC is to bring to scale programs that work created during the first 20 years, including the CDF Freedom Schools program; the Harlem Children’s Zone, hatched at CDF Haley Farm and headed by CDF Board Chair Geoffrey Canada, which is now being replicated by the Obama Administration around the country through the Promise Neighborhoods program; the Beat the Odds® program, which has enabled more than 700 high school seniors to attend college; the Southern Rural Black Women’s Initiative for economic empowerment in 77 rural southern Delta counties coordinated by CDF’s Southern Regional Office; intergenerational leadership training programs which have touched nearly 20,000 leaders; and the mounting of a strong new intergenerational leadership voice and non-violent direct action movement to build a level playing field for all children.
New research CDF commissioned from 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. The CDF report *Portrait of Inequality 2011* captured the dire statistics for Black children and shows how far they have fallen behind their White peers.

CDF Board Chair Geoffrey Canada and CDF President Marian Wright Edelman released those findings with other key Black leaders representing many millions of Black stakeholders at the press conference and announced goals for organized change through the BCCC. Over 300 groups of people and some individuals from across the country watched a live web stream of the event, and CDF state offices gathered hundreds of members of the Black community in their states to watch the press conference and discuss how to dismantle the Cradle to Prison Pipeline® crisis in their communities.

In 2011 and 2012, CDF held 32 BCCC convenings across the country reaching more than 6,500 community and faith leaders, policy makers, educators, parents, and young people. We co-convened briefings with the Skillman Foundation in Detroit, the Memphis Urban League, and in Cincinnati, Cleveland, Columbus, Dallas, Kansas City, Knoxville, Las Vegas, and Little Rock.

We co-convened a parenting research conference at the Harvard Kennedy School with Dr. Ron Ferguson, Director of Harvard University’s Achievement Gap Initiative, to harvest insights from the latest research on how to help parents improve child and youth outcomes and reduce disparities.

We joined the Harvard Institute for School Leadership to train 125 superintendents and school administrators including 25 principals and supervisors from Soweto, South Africa on the *Freedom Schools* model.

In June 2011, we co-convened with the Educational Testing Service (ETS) the first symposium in a four-part series to highlight the specific challenges Black boys and men face and programs that work to create a pipeline to college and career readiness rather than prison. The first symposium at the National Press Club focused on Black boys ages 0-8. More than 350 people participated, and it garnered substantial Black media. The second convening on Black boys ages 9-13 took place in July 2012 at CDF’s national conference in Cincinnati with 3,200 community and policy leaders from 48 states.
CDF is on track to reach its goal of doubling the number of Freedom Schools sites from 150 to 300 by 2015. We also seek to extend a quarter of them to include after-school learning time during the school year. In 2012, 1,225 college students were trained in the Freedom Schools program to deliver high-quality summer literacy programs for more than 11,000 PreK–12th grade children at 170 program sites in 25 states and 82 cities. Freedom Schools sites in Charlotte-Mecklenburg, North Carolina show the program staunching summer learning loss among more than 90 percent of the children and increasing summer reading gains among 60 percent. Charlotte-Mecklenburg had 25 Freedom Schools sites in 2012 and a community business plan to serve 5,000 children by 2015. Our two-year preschool pilot program in rural South Carolina showed positive strides for children in getting ready for school.

The Freedom Schools program is becoming a promising minority teacher feeder pipeline. Only 7 percent of public school teachers today are Black and 7 percent are Latino, and less than 4 percent are Black or Latino males. At a time when 1 million teachers will retire over the next three to four years, we have an opportunity to influence public education and child outcomes by targeting our efforts to expand Freedom Schools to reach many more children and propel more young teachers of color into education.

CDF offices exist in states with a majority of all children, all poor children, and children of color. Freedom Schools not only serve the most vulnerable child populations but are a major part of CDF’s ongoing child movement-building efforts college students or recent graduates conduct. CDF-Ohio’s Laura Young, organizer and a United Methodist minister, increased sites in Ohio from three to 22 in two years.

Expanding CDF Freedom Schools® to Close the Achievement Gaps by Staunching Summer Learning Loss and Recruiting More Young People of Color, Especially Males, Into the Teaching Profession

“I have been to hundreds and hundreds and hundreds of schools around the country, and I will tell you my visits to Freedom Schools have been amongst my most inspiring and the most memorable. But when I see success, I just want more students to have those kinds of opportunities, and what I consistently see there is remarkable for children and, as importantly for me, is the young people who are teaching and mentoring in those schools. I am increasingly worried that our teachers, our administrators don’t reflect the great diversity of our nation’s students, and that is a real problem, and if we are serious about having more of our young men of color be successful, we need a heck of a lot more men of color in our classrooms, and Freedom Schools are helping to create that pipeline.”

— U.S. Secretary of Education, Arne Duncan, March 2011

Freedom Schools provide summer and after-school enrichment to close the racial and economic achievement gaps. They have five basic components: an integrated literacy curriculum, parent involvement, child service and civic engagement, intergenerational leadership development, and nutrition, health and mental health supports. Our partners include community-based organizations, faith institutions, public schools, colleges, universities, homeless shelters and juvenile detention centers. Freedom Schools are child-centered programs that boost student capacity and motivation to read, and connect the needs of children and families to resources in their communities.
Mainstream Universities and Historically Black Colleges and Universities: In order to put college instead of prison into our children's sight we have expanded to mainstream colleges including Duke University, Coker College, Davidson College, and the University of North Carolina-Charlotte. We also seek to establish Freedom Schools on every Historically Black College and University (HBCU) campus to build a pool of future applicants. Alcorn State University and Jackson State University in Mississippi, Johnson C. Smith University in Charlotte, and Claflin University in South Carolina have operated Freedom Schools.

Faith Networks: About one-third of the programs are in faith congregations. The National Conference of Black Churches adopted the Freedom Schools program as their leading educational goal. Dr. Franklyn Richardson, its Chair, operated a Mt. Vernon program for 600 children in 2012. We also are working with mainstream denominations to open programs. In Charlotte, the first Jewish-sponsored Freedom School adopted a public school to serve low-income children in the summer of 2011. In 2012, the Stephen Wise Temple in Los Angeles became the second Jewish community sponsor.

Public Schools: Intensive outreach is underway with public school systems to extend programs year round. In November 2011 Ron Fairchild, former head of John Hopkins’ Center for Summer Learning, joined CDF to host a two-and-a-half day Finance and Sustainability Institute at Haley Farm attended by representatives from seven states (Minnesota, Mississippi, New York, Louisiana, Ohio, South Carolina, and Texas). The hands-on training included how to research prospects, prepare budgets and proposals, request funding, prepare for funder meetings, and provide stewardship for donors. They also received a step-by-step outline for how to partner with school districts to
access Title I and Title II funds. Ron Fairchild is also providing technical assistance to key Freedom Schools partners to help increase the capacity of current and new sites to tap into more stable and long-range funding streams. Continuity for children is critical to ensure cumulative reading gains and children need to trust the programs will be there for them over time.

Juvenile Detention Centers: Chicago Judge Patricia Martin, who chairs the BCCC’s juvenile justice-education committee, sees the Freedom Schools as a major alternative to juvenile detention and to empower incarcerated youth as a stepping stone to re-entry back into the school system and community. Four Freedom Schools operated in juvenile detention centers in 2011 and 2012, in Maryland, Minnesota, New York and Texas. Detention staff reported solid benefits for youth:

- Decreased violence and behavioral problems
- Decreased recidivism rates
- Increased self-confidence
- Reduced out-of-school learning loss, earned course credits, eased re-entry
- First opportunity to read a novel
- Positive recognition for coursework and civic accomplishments

Harris County, Texas probation staff reported dramatic changes among youths including no fights despite high levels of gang affiliation in this 70 percent Latino facility. In 2012, Freedom Schools scholars in the Harris County juvenile detention center decided to focus on steps to prevent youth violence after reading Give a Boy a Gun by Todd Strasser. They wrote to President Barack Obama asking what he is doing to prevent gun violence in their district. They received a response and autographed photos of the First Family along with materials on career paths to holding government office. Harris County probation staff is exploring ways to include Freedom Schools in all their youth detention facilities.

Los Angeles County has the largest population of juveniles in detention or on probation in the country. Los Angeles County Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas and Los Angeles county educational leaders are partnering with CDF-California to test Freedom Schools as a re-entry program in 2013. Ridley-Thomas has sponsored five Freedom Schools in his district and serves on the BCCC steering committee.
In 2012 CDF opened a Freedom School for 50 children ages 5 to 12 at the largest homeless shelter for children and families in our nation’s capital, the DC General Emergency Family Shelter. It was underwritten by the Educational Testing Service and expanded year round with funding from the D.C. government. The positive impact was immediate according to Jamila Larson, who runs the Homeless Children’s Playtime Project at the shelter: “Children were 100 percent engaged, safe and learning. For six weeks, it’s as if parts of the shelter have been transformed into a school, bringing rich learning opportunities, right where they live….I passed by an orderly line of happy children who were following their Servant Leader to the cafeteria for lunch, as if it were the most natural thing in the world. I had to pause for a moment and pinch myself, because again, it looked like a typical scene in a great school…yet these are the hallways of a shelter, the scene of so much pain, now transformed and taken over as a Freedom School.”
In addition to establishing 300 Freedom Schools, the goal of the BCCC is to train 5,000 new young servant leaders of color, half Black and Latino males, by 2015. CDF believes the next great movement for children must be led by the next generation of servant leaders. We have been preparing them with the Young Advocate Leadership Training (YALT®) program, an action-oriented training series to empower young leaders to take national, state, and local action for just policies for children. They seek to reroute children from the Cradle to Prison Pipeline to college, work, community service, and successful adulthood. We equipped young leaders with intensive and specialized training on nonviolent direct action, community organizing, coalition building, media strategies, and how to effectively make one’s case for children.

In 2011, CDF partnered with City Year to hold a Cradle to Prison Pipeline youth summit for all 140 corps members in Boston. In July, 100 youth leaders were trained at CDF Haley Farm and 125 HBCU student government presidents and vice presidents gathered at Haley for intensive training at the end of October. CDF-Southern Regional Office’s annual Unita Blackwell Young Women’s Leadership Institute trained 125 young women at Tougaloo College and 80 young people received Beat the Odds scholarships and joined our youth leadership ladder.

In 2012, 1,500 student and adult leaders—young teachers, social workers, community organizers, activists, health professionals, and lawyers—participated in our Cincinnati national conference. They included Dream Act leaders who helped facilitate and train YALT trainers and addressed a plenary session.

The result is a service cadre of front-line activists who have organized marches for children’s health, challenged zero tolerance school discipline policies, confronted “Stop and Frisk” policies in New York, held voter education and registration drives, built relationships with elected officials, and run for office themselves.

YALT Advanced Trainers at CDF Haley Farm.
Moments in America

Every 1½ seconds during the school year a public school student receives an out-of-school suspension.*
Every 8 seconds during the school year a public high school student drops out.*
Every 19 seconds a child is arrested.
Every 19 seconds a baby is born to an unmarried mother.
Every 30 seconds during the school year a public school student is corporally punished.*
Every 32 seconds a child is born into poverty.
Every 47 seconds a child is abused or neglected.
Every 72 seconds a baby is born without health insurance.
Every 82 seconds a baby is born to a teen mother.
Every 3 minutes a child is arrested for a drug offense.
Every 7 minutes a child is arrested for a violent offense.
Every 20 minutes a baby dies before his or her first birthday.
Every hour a child dies from an accident.
Every 3 hours and 15 minutes a child or teen is killed by a gun.
Every 6 hours a child commits suicide.
Every 7 hours a child is killed by abuse or neglect.
Every 9 hours a baby’s mother dies due to complications from pregnancy or childbirth.

* Based on 180 school days of seven hours each. The calculation for suspensions is based on data that show that 2,923,895 students received one or more out-of-school suspensions in 2009 but that do not show the exact number of suspensions each student received. As a result, we are underreporting the actual suspension rate. The rate for corporal punishment is underreported for the same reason.

Educating on Zero Tolerance School Discipline Policies

In Massachusetts, CDF partnered with the Harvard Kennedy School to research the state’s 60,000 school expulsions and suspensions during the 2009–2010 school year. Of those, about 30,000 were “unassigned offenses”—non-violent, noncriminal offenses which included minor behavioral issues such as swearing, talking back to a teacher, and truancy. About two-thirds of those students received out-of-school suspensions, resulting in 57,000 lost days of school.

At the Harvard Graduate School of Education, CDF organized a training on restorative justice for 130 education graduate students, teachers, and community leaders as a first step in incorporating classroom management and restorative justice into schools of education in May 2012.

In November, the Charles Hamilton Houston Institute for Race and Justice at Harvard Law School co-convened with CDF a day-long summit on how to implement restorative justice and transformative practices.

In December 2012, CDF submitted a written statement for the hearing on Ending the School-to-Prison Pipeline before the Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights and Human Rights of the Senate Judiciary Committee.
CDF National Community and Youth Empowerment Conference:
*Pursuing Justice for Children and the Poor with Urgency and Persistence*

July 22–25, 2012 CDF convened a national Community and Youth Empowerment Conference for more than 3,200 leading interfaith, intergenerational, and interdisciplinary child advocates including 1,500 young leaders (18–30 years old) in Cincinnati, Ohio. It featured cutting-edge plenary sessions and workshops on the latest research, best practices, most effective policies, community building models, and community and youth empowerment strategies to close the gap between what we know works and what we actually do for our most vulnerable children and the poor.

America’s top experts, leading practitioners, and most committed activists presented and shaped a national conversation on economic, educational, and racial inequities and strategies to help catalyze systematic and effective action for children and the poor in 2012 and beyond.

A specialized training track was held for 1,500 young leaders from across the country who experienced unprecedented immersion in and exposure to a peerless group of transformational civil rights leaders few have ever heard singly or together including:

- **Dr. Vincent Harding**, Chair, Veterans of Hope Project and author of *Martin Luther King: The Inconvenient Hero*;
- **Khalil Gibran Muhammad**, Director, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture and author of *The Condemnation of Blackness: Race, Crime, and the Making of Modern Urban America*;
- **Bernard Lafayette**, longtime civil rights activist, organizer, and leader in the 1960s Civil Rights Movement and current Board Chair of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference;

More than 80 DREAM Act leaders join other young advocate leaders at CDF’s National Conference. One said: *I realized that it takes the people that are affected by an issue not to be the victims, but to be the agents of change.*

- **James Lawson**, chief nonviolent strategist for the Nashville Civil Rights Movement and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.;
- **David Lawrence Jr.**, former publisher of the *Miami Herald* and key Florida children’s movement leader;
- **Elaine Jones**, former Director-Counsel of the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc.;
- **Ruby Bridges**, who, at the age of 6, walked through howling White mobs day after day to get a better education in New Orleans;
- **Dolores Huerta**, mother of 11 children, who joined Cesar Chavez to mobilize farmworkers to challenge unjust working conditions; and
- **Courageous DREAM Act student leaders** who risked deportation to fight for a college education and the right to live and work with dignity in the country that is their home.
The conference began with a multi-faith Children’s Sabbath Service, which included more than 200 faith leaders from diverse faiths to unite conference participants in prayer, song, and reflections, and to hear and heed the call of all great faiths to pursue justice for children and the poor. The Children’s Sabbath Service was followed by a concert featuring Sweet Honey in the Rock and Peter Yarrow of Peter, Paul and Mary and inspiring younger artists and poets to remember the vital role of music in movement building.

The opening plenary session laid out the perilous economic and budget realities facing children and the poor. Moderated by CDF Board Vice Chair and Founder and CEO of PolicyLink Angela Glover Blackwell, the plenary session guided participants through federal, state, and local investment and budget choices, the implications of pending proposals, and concrete action steps to protect children and the poor in the richest nation on earth.
Geoffrey Canada, President & CEO of the Harlem Children’s Zone, Inc. and CDF Board Chair, moderated a dynamic panel of national education leaders in a plenary session. It featured a video keynote address by Dr. Ben Bernanke, Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, focused on why investments in quality early childhood development and education were the best economic investments America could make right now. Dr. Bernanke’s remarks were widely reported by the national press.

The panel stressed the importance of high-quality early childhood support for every child ages 0-3; quality pre-kindergarten and full-day kindergarten to ensure school readiness and achievement of K-12 Common Core State Standards; and quality public schools where administrators and teachers hold high expectations for every child and where learning, thinking, and questioning are encouraged.

A town hall meeting and plenary session focused on ending the Cradle to Prison Pipeline crisis and mass incarceration was moderated by Charles Ogletree, Jesse Climenko Professor at Harvard Law School and Founder and Executive Director of Harvard’s Charles Hamilton Houston Institute for Race and Justice. This session looked at solutions to better ensure public safety through prevention and early intervention; develop fairer school discipline and law enforcement policies; examine mass incarceration as a continuing method of racial control and discrimination; and recommend measures to replace the Cradle to Prison Pipeline with one toward college and productive work.
The Reverend Dr. Otis Moss III, Pastor, Trinity United Church of Christ, Chicago, Illinois and the Reverend Janet Wolf, Director of Nonviolent Organizing and CDF-Haley Farm, co-moderated a moving National and Racial Healing Town Hall featuring stories of courageous people who have responded to racial strife, hate crimes, violent loss, and unjust incarceration by reaching beyond their pain and pursuing restorative justice rather than revenge. Participants included Trayvon Martin’s parents, Tracy Martin and Sybrina Fulton and Dr. Maya Angelou provided the opening keynote address and received CDF’s lifetime award for helping children Beat the Odds.

Dr. Maya Angelou recites her poem, “I’m a Rainbow in Somebody’s Cloud.”
A plenary session on the dangers of voter suppression addressed the threat to American democracy created in the aftermath of the Citizens United Supreme Court decision. Following the conference, this session was shown on dozens of public access channels around the country. The discussion of anti-voter laws, anti-immigrant laws, restrictions on the right to organize, the obstruction of judicial nominations and an all-out assault on our most basic rights as citizens was moderated by Wade Henderson, President and CEO of The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights.

CDF Board Member and former President of the Public Education Network Wendy Purifoy moderated a panel on building personal, public, and spiritual will to protect children. Speakers talked about how to organize and create effective partnerships and coalitions at the local, state and national level and why investing in reform and building political candidates from the streets is critical to building a powerful movement.

Hundreds of leading policy, program and communications experts contributed their time and shared best practices in more than 70 mini-plenary and workshop sessions allowing conference participants to dig deeper and gain nuts-and-bolts skills for more effective advocacy and to take promising practices back home.

The conference launched Children’s Action Teams (CATs) from across the country to take concrete action and bring promising models to scale with consistent quality and sustainability in schools, congregations, communities, cities and states. CATs received training on coalition building, messaging, communications and media strategies, and organizing in order to return home to build and sustain a powerful transforming movement for children now and in the years to come.

CDF will build on this momentum with a series of strategic convenings to mount a strong child advocacy movement to replace the Cradle to Prison Pipeline with a pipeline to college, productive work and successful adulthood throughout and beyond CDF’s 40th anniversary in 2013— a key inflection point in the child advocacy movement and an opportunity to shape the vision and agenda for children for the decade.
Ensure Every Child a Healthy Start

When fully implemented, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) will help achieve CDF’s long-standing goal of health coverage that is comprehensive, accessible and affordable for every child. The ACA will provide health coverage for 95 percent of all children and reduce health disparities. CDF repeatedly weighed in with state and federal officials. We:

• Reviewed and commented on more than a dozen sets of proposed ACA rules in 2011 and 2012 and joined with more than 70 advocates on an amicus brief for the U.S. Supreme Court that argued against the states’ claim that the Medicaid expansion in the ACA was unconstitutional coercive.
• CDF state offices worked to promote expanded health coverage for low-income parents through the ACA Medicaid improvements, anticipating its positive impact on health coverage for children.

CDF Continues to Bring What Works to Scale: Expanding School-Based Child Health Outreach Models

• CDF is partnering with the American Association of School Administrators (AASA) link uninsured children with health coverage through schools, which builds on the successful CDF-Texas school-based outreach model. We are working in 10 school districts in California, Georgia, Louisiana, and Mississippi to help districts develop individualized action plans to incorporate CHIP and Medicaid outreach into routine school operations by identifying uninsured children on school enrollment forms and assisting them with their health coverage applications. We held a Community of Practice Institute at CDF Haley Farm in March 2012 for school leaders and other key representatives from each district, keynoted by Donna Cohen Ross, Senior Policy Advisor, Centers for Medicaid and CHIP Services, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

We continue to work to ensure every child has the Healthy Start they need in life by making sure those eligible for coverage are enrolled. CDF’s successful school-based outreach model is being brought to scale through a partnership with the American Association of School Administrators (AASA).

Promoting Improved Child Outcomes Through Policy and Practice
Ensure Every Child a Fair Start

During deeply partisan budget battle and deficit reduction compromises in Congress, CDF worked to minimize the harm to children. The annual report State of America’s Children 2011 put the national spotlight on record-breaking levels of child poverty and the dire consequences for children and the country if their needs were not met, and garnered substantial and sustained national, regional and local press across all media platforms. A weekly blog on our website, the Children’s Budget Watch, focused on grave threats to crucial child supports. Children of Hard Times, a new web series prepared for CDF by Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Julia Cass, powerfully illustrated the real children and families behind the statistics.

With our long-term, award-winning pro bono media partner, Fallon Worldwide, CDF launched the.

CDF-Minnesota’s Bridge to Benefits outreach program screened more than 83,259 families for public benefits programs that lift families out of poverty including the Earned Income and Child Tax Credits in Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Montana. In Minnesota, nearly 320 community-based organizations partnered with CDF.

“Be Careful What You Cut” campaign at the 2012 national conference. It features three compelling advertisements with a strong economic message: Cutting children from the budget now will cost all of us more later. The campaign was recognized within the advertising world as best new print ads and garnered national media attention.

Children of Hard Times

Shoes tell the story of the McKee family’s descent into poverty. Those of Skyler, 10, and Zachery, 12, are falling apart. Their sister, Jordan, 14, wears the varsity coach’s shoes when she plays on her school’s volleyball team. Less visible is hunger. The children and their parents, Tonya and Ed McKee, of Dowagiac, Michigan, sometimes went without food this summer when Ed’s unemployment insurance ran out and the family was not yet receiving food stamps. Skyler said he gave the birthday money he got at church to his mom for groceries “and I told her she didn’t have to pay me back.” Skyler confided that sometimes his stomach has growled. “It’s hard not easy like it was before where we had money and could do stuff. Now we don’t’ go anywhere… Sometimes we don’t have food and we just don’t eat.”
Cutting him from the budget now costs all of us later.

When it comes to fixing the deficit, be careful what you cut. Eliminating early education investments now would increase his chances of going to prison later by up to 39 percent. And paying for that prison will cost us nearly three times more a year than it would have cost to provide him with a quality early learning experience. Learn more about the high costs of cutting at becarefulwhatyoucut.com.
Ensuring Every Child a Head Start
Promoting Quality Early Childhood Development and Learning

CDF has continued to support multiple pieces of the early childhood and learning continuum. With others on the Steering Committee of the Home Visiting Coalition, we pushed for the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program to be included in the ACA. The largest single source of funding for home visiting, it offers states $1.5 billion in guaranteed funding over five years for the development of voluntary in-home services for children ages 0–5 and their parents.

Given our long history with Head Start, we submitted formal comments to the Department of Health and Human Services on how to improve the quality of Head Start programs. This new approach, which established a recompetition process, strengthens program accountability and reinforces the importance of quality standards.

CDF launched a national public education campaign for full-day kindergarten as a pivotal grade for school readiness. Forty-six states and the District of Columbia have committed to implementing the K-12 Common Core State Standards that measure students’ progress, but in these states some children receive only two-and-a-half hours of daily instruction in kindergarten while others receive six hours. Only 10 states and the District of Columbia require by statute publicly funded full-day kindergarten. Other states are rolling back full-day kindergarten due to budget cuts.

Closing the Achievement Gap and Leveling the Education Playing Field

CDF reenergized its leadership in education in the 112th Congress as consideration was given to reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). Although no votes were taken, CDF used the opportunity to make a case for closing the achievement gap and leveling the education playing field by making changes to Title I of ESEA to better meet the needs of children in concentrated poverty and especially vulnerable groups of children, building on a goal CDF first supported 40 years ago.

To provide a more stable environment for children who enter foster care or move from placement to placement, we pushed reforms in 2011 that require education and child welfare agencies to help keep children in their school of origin, when in their best interest. In 2012, CDF successfully promoted the need for legislation granting child welfare agencies access to education records when the agency is legally responsible for a child’s care and protection. In both 2011 and 2012, CDF successfully supported the Department of Education in its implementation of regulations to curb for-profit colleges’ abusive practices. The so-called “gainful employment” regulation aims to ensure that higher education institutions meet a minimum standard of success in preparing students for the workforce.
Ensuring Every Child a Safe Start

CDF continued to work to protect children from abuse and neglect. In 2011 and 2012 CDF took important steps to promote implementation of the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act, designed to promote permanent placements for children with relatives, and to make other improvements intended to get children safely out of foster care. The new Guardianship Assistance Program (GAP) offers certain children in family foster care the promise of permanent placements with relatives. CDF provided technical assistance to several states as they took advantage of this new federal funding option.

In collaboration with the American Bar Association’s Center on Children and the Law, Casey Family Programs, Child Focus, Child Trends, and Generations United, CDF surveyed child welfare staff and other stakeholders in the 30 states and the District of Columbia that had begun using new GAP funding. We also took the lead in preparing Making It Work: Using the Guardianship Assistance Program (GAP) to Close the Permanency Gap for Children in Foster Care, which is a useful tool for states that have not yet implemented the program and for those seeking to reach more children through GAP.

Through the Partnership to Protect Children and Strengthen Families, CDF with CLASP worked with nearly 40 national organizations and state and local child welfare directors to develop proposals for federal reforms in child welfare financing to promote increased investments in prevention and early intervention, specialized treatment, permanency and post-permanency supports, and enhanced accountability. These reforms will help federal and state dollars flow to support initiatives and strategies that we know work.

One of the early Black Community Crusade for Children actions was to commission a Peter Hart Associates national poll of Black adults and youths. 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 public education campaign on children and gun violence that 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. CDF/BCCC reached out to and convened grassroots leaders and networks addressing gun violence and collected and shared best practices and stories. The latest data from 2010 show that seven children a day died from gun violence.

In the second phase of the Black Community Crusade for Children, we seek to bring to scale and incorporate into policy successful models to reduce the epidemic of gun violence still raging in America. In March 2012 CDF President Marian Wright Edelman donned a hoodie to advocate for justice for Trayvon Martin, and CDF dedicated the Protect Children, Not Guns 2012 report to him.

In July, we highlighted the toll of gun violence by bringing Trayvon Martin’s parents and others who lost children to gun violence to CDF’s national conference and by lifting up the role of mayors in challenging the National Rifle Association. Philadelphia Mayor Michael Nutter, Chair of the U.S. Conference of Mayors, with whom CDF has partnered on this and other issues, shared what the group is doing to address the Black-on-Black crime issue and the role of guns in fueling community violence.
As the year ended, CDF’s commitment to give all children a safe start was challenged on December 14, 2012, as we learned about the horrendous massacre of 20 small children and 6 educators at Sandy Hook Elementary School. CDF immediately called for all Americans to stand up and protect children instead of guns. Marian Wright Edelman’s Child Watch® column, Dear God! When Will It Stop? captured the mood of the country on that dark day in December and showed the path forward. Here is an excerpt: I hope these shocking Connecticut child sacrifices in this holy season will force enough of us at last to stand up, speak out, and organize with urgency and persistence until the president, members of Congress, governors and state legislators put child safety ahead of political expediency. And we must aspire and act together to become the world leader in protecting children against gun violence rather than leading the world in child victims of guns. Every child’s life is sacred and it is long past time that we protect all our children. We ended the year determined to create a safer America for all children.

Our condolences to the families and community of Newtown, and to the families and communities of the thousands of children and teens killed by gun violence.
The Children’s Defense Fund (CDF) continues to pursue justice for children and the poor – with urgency and persistence – even as the nation’s ability to assist our most vulnerable has been challenged by economic volatility and partisan rancor. CDF continues to take the necessary steps to become a more effective and efficient institution by restructuring programmatic and support delivery systems, reducing and containing costs, and expanding and diversifying funding sources. In 2012, CDF reduced its supporting services (defined as fundraising, general and administrative costs) to 14.7 percent of total expenses compared to 2011’s 16.3 percent. In becoming an even more effective financial custodian, CDF was able to redirect more resources directly to communities and our core mission.

CDF enjoys the support of many multi-year grants which are recognized in the year granted while the expenses of implementing these grants may be incurred in a later year. This revenue recognition greatly affected CDF’s results for 2012.

Your support allows us to continue to provide an effective and independent voice for all children in America who cannot vote, lobby, or speak for themselves through our 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4) organizations. As we celebrate CDF’s 40th anniversary, we look forward to continuing to count on your generosity.

The charts below illustrate our revenue sources and our expense allocations for 2012. The following financial statements provide a summary of CDF’s consolidated financial position as of December 31, 2012 and 2011 and statements of activities for 2012 and 2011. For complete audited financial statements, please contact Richard Gollub (CDF’s CFO) at (202) 662-3622.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>December 31, 2012</th>
<th>December 31, 2011</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Assets</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Cash and cash equivalents</td>
<td>$2,136,555</td>
<td>$1,850,591</td>
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<td>Investments</td>
<td>$20,253,604</td>
<td>$20,961,119</td>
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<td>Pledges receivable, net</td>
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<td>Government contracts and grants receivable</td>
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<td>Property and equipment, net</td>
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<td>$10,428,369</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other assets</td>
<td>$333,987</td>
<td>$317,518</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total assets</strong></td>
<td>$36,157,933</td>
<td>$36,474,049</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Liabilities and Net Assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Liabilities</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Accounts payable and accrued expenses</td>
<td>$1,944,903</td>
<td>$1,362,772</td>
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<tr>
<td>Line of credit</td>
<td>7,500,000</td>
<td>4,000,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bonds payable</td>
<td>5,040,000</td>
<td>5,415,000</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total liabilities</strong></td>
<td>14,484,903</td>
<td>10,777,772</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Net assets</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Unrestricted</td>
<td>8,304,507</td>
<td>9,783,266</td>
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<tr>
<td>Temporarily restricted</td>
<td>6,261,923</td>
<td>8,806,411</td>
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<tr>
<td>Permanently restricted</td>
<td>7,106,600</td>
<td>7,106,600</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total net assets</strong></td>
<td>21,673,030</td>
<td>25,696,277</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total liabilities and net assets</strong></td>
<td>$36,157,933</td>
<td>$36,474,049</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Audited Consolidated Statements of Activities and Changes in Net Assets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2012 Total</th>
<th>2011 Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Revenue, gains and other support</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions and donations</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foundations and corporations</td>
<td>$ 8,882,378</td>
<td>$ 7,206,098</td>
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<tr>
<td>Individuals</td>
<td>1,598,350</td>
<td>1,235,906</td>
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<tr>
<td>Organizations and groups</td>
<td>488,709</td>
<td>429,324</td>
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<tr>
<td>In kind donations</td>
<td>62,669</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Special events</td>
<td>2,316,723</td>
<td>2,220,875</td>
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<tr>
<td>Training and Haley Farm fees</td>
<td>2,909,859</td>
<td>2,040,284</td>
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<tr>
<td>Federal grants</td>
<td>168,890</td>
<td>433,238</td>
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<tr>
<td>Service contracts</td>
<td>487,016</td>
<td>484,700</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rental income</td>
<td>312,625</td>
<td>247,073</td>
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<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous</td>
<td>263,377</td>
<td>250,759</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Investment income</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Endowment income (net)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest and dividends</td>
<td>272,005</td>
<td>367,120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Realized and unrealized gains, net of management fees</td>
<td>670,480</td>
<td>742,174</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operating interest and dividends</td>
<td>6,248</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total revenue, gains and other support</strong></td>
<td><strong>18,439,329</strong></td>
<td><strong>15,657,551</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| **Program services**      |                  |                  |
| Leadership development and state and community capacity building | 16,520,141 | 15,246,319 |
| Policy and program development and implementation | 1,094,995 | 1,454,345 |
| Public education, media campaigns, internet outreach and publications | 1,543,908 | 1,210,040 |
| **Total program services** | **19,159,044** | **17,910,704** |

| **Supporting services**   |                  |                  |
| General and administrative | 2,434,425        | 2,520,607        |
| Fundraising               | 869,107          | 960,029          |
| **Total supporting services** | **3,303,532** | **3,480,636** |

| **Total expenses**         | 22,462,576       | 21,391,340       |
| **Change in net assets**   | ( 4,023,247 )    | ( 5,733,789 )    |
| **Beginning net assets**   | 25,696,277       | 31,430,066       |
| **Ending net assets**      | $ 21,673,030     | $ 25,696,277     |
2011-2012 Publications

National Office

• Portrait of Inequality 2011 and 2012: Black Children in America
• Portrait of Inequality 2012: Hispanic Children in America
• State of America’s Children® 2011
• State of America’s Children® Handbook 2012
• The Impact of Rising Poverty on the Nation’s Young Families and Their Children, 2000 – 2010 (Commissioned from Dr. Andrew Sum, Director of the Center for Labor Market Studies at Northeastern University)
• The Continued Collapse of the Nation’s Teen Summer Job Market: Who Worked in the Summer of 2011? (Commissioned from Dr. Andrew Sum, Director of the Center for Labor Market Studies at Northeastern University)
• Changes in the Weekly and Annual Earnings of Young Adults from 1979-2010: Progress and Setbacks Amidst Widening Inequalities (Commissioned from Dr. Andrew Sum, Director of the Center for Labor Market Studies at Northeastern University)
• Trends in the Levels and Distribution of the Annual Incomes Among Young Families, 1973 to 2010: Deteriorating Real Incomes Amidst Steeply Rising Inequality (Commissioned from Dr. Andrew Sum, Director of the Center for Labor Market Studies at Northeastern University)
• 2011 National Observance of Children’s Sabbaths® Manual: Justice, Justice Shall You Pursue: Answering God’s Call to Protect Children
• 2012 National Observance of Children’s Sabbaths® Manual: Pursuing Justice for Children and the Poor with Urgency and Persistence
• Making It Work: Using the Guardianship Assistance Program (GAP) to Close the Permanency Gap for Children in Foster Care, October 2012 (A Collaborative Project of CDF, Child Trends, American Bar Association Center on Children and the Law, Casey Family Programs, Child Focus and Generations United)
• A Call to Action on Behalf of Maltreated Infants and Toddlers
• CDF Freedom Schools® Program Summer Integrated Reading Curriculum Guide: Volume 13 and Volume 14
• 2011 and 2012 CDF Freedom Schools® After-School Curriculum Guide
• Protect Children, Not Guns 2012
• 2012 Full-Day Kindergarten in the States: 50 States Factsheets
• 2012 CDF National Conference Program

Action Council

• 2010 and 2011 Children’s Defense Fund Action Council® Nonpartisan Congressional Scorecard

State Offices

Minnesota

• Zero to Three Research to Policy Project: Maternal Depression and Early Childhood 2011
• MN KIDS COUNT 2012: Children Across Minnesota
• Minnesota’s Invisible Children: Children in Families Receiving MFIP 2012

New York

• When There Is No Care: The Impact on NYC Children, Families and Economy When the Mayor Eliminates Child Care for 17,000 Children 2011

Ohio

• Ohio’s KIDS COUNT: 2010 and 2011 Data Books
• 2012 Achieving Educational Stability for Foster Youth in Ohio and the Impact of the Fostering Connections Legislation Issue Brief
• 2012 Issue Brief: Mental Health Screening in Juvenile Detention Facilities
• 2012 Issue Brief: Preventing Firearm Injuries and Fatalities Among Ohio’s Youth: The Need to Implement a Comprehensive and Effective Child Access Prevention Law in Ohio
• 2012 Issue Brief: Juvenile Detention Reform in Ohio Update

Texas

• 2011 Business Leaders Support Child Health: A Fiscally Responsible Investment for Texas