

February 28, 2011

Dear Community Leader:

The Children's Defense Fund-California invites you to participate in the Los Angeles Beat the Odds® Scholarship Program by nominating a 2011 scholarship recipient.

The Children's Defense Fund (CDF) is a non-profit child advocacy organization that has worked relentlessly to ensure a level playing field for all children. We champion policies and programs that lift children out of poverty; protect them from abuse and neglect; and ensure their access to health care, quality education, and a moral and spiritual foundation.

The *Beat the Odds* scholarship is granted to high school students that are working hard to overcome tremendous obstacles in their personal lives, demonstrate academic excellence, and give back to their communities.

High school sophomores must be nominated for the Los Angeles *Beat the Odds* Scholarship Program by a teacher, counselor, caseworker, or other adult in a student's life who can speak to his/her character, academic success, community service, and the tremendous odds he/she beats every day. Ten students will be selected from the nomination pool for interviews scheduled during May 2011. Based on the interviews, the *Beat the Odds* Selection Committee will determine the five finalists and five semi-finalists who will receive the following:

- Five finalists will each receive a \$10,000 scholarship, intensive SAT preparation, one-on-one college counseling assistance, leadership and public speaking training, college tours, career counseling and other services that will provide the finalists academic and personal support through the college or post-secondary education matriculation process.
- Five semi-finalists will each receive a \$1,000 scholarship, intensive SAT preparation, college counseling, and access to CDF's network of opportunities.

***Please note that all services are offered in the city of Los Angeles. Students are responsible for their own transportation to and from program related events.**

The five finalists will be honored at the 22nd Annual *Beat the Odds* Awards dinner, in the winter of 2012. Professional, autobiographical films of each finalist's story will be produced and shown at the dinner. These films may also be shared with the media, sponsors, supporters and the broader public as well as posted on our website. You can find videos of the 2010 *Beat the Odds* Honorees on www.cdfca.org.

The following nomination packet must be completed by both the nominator and the scholarship applicant.

Applications must be received by **5p.m. on Friday, April 1st** in order to qualify. Mailing information is included in the application.

Thank you for your assistance and interest in the Los Angeles *Beat the Odds* Scholarship Program. If you have any questions regarding the nomination process, please contact Saira G. Soto at 213.355.8793 or ssoto@childrensdefense.org.

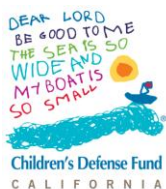
Student Nominee Requirements

For consideration in the 2011 Los Angeles *Beat the Odds* Scholarship Program, nominees must:

1. Be a current high school sophomore who resides in or attends school in the Los Angeles area. There is no GPA requirement.
2. Demonstrate academic achievement or improvement and potential for post-secondary success.
4. Have limited family support and/or limited income.
5. Write a personal statement that highlights the life experiences and challenges that he/she has overcome or is overcoming. Essays must be **no more** than 750 words.
6. Complete and submit the Nominee Information Form provided in this nomination packet along with a resume (template provided). **Note: If selected as a top 10 finalist the student must be able to provide a Social Security or Tax Identification number in order to be eligible for the *Beat the Odds* Scholarship Program.**
7. Sign and return the media release form provided in this nomination packet and be willing to share their story publicly and in the media for the benefit of other young people who are struggling to overcome similar obstacles.

Nominees selected as Finalists must be able to:

8. Take off a partial or full day of school to prepare for and participate in a one hour interview with our *Beat the Odds* Selection Committee — a panel of community leaders. We anticipate that these interviews will be held on May 10-11, 2011 in Los Angeles.
9. Dedicate a minimum of 20 **weekday evenings** AND a minimum of 20 **weekend days**, to *Beat the Odds* related activities and events (college counseling, college visits, communications training, etc) from May 2011 - December 2012.
10. Be highly accessible via telephone and email from May 2011-December 2012.
11. **Commit to giving a 5 minute speech at the 22nd Annual *Beat the Odds* Awards ceremony in front of 500 guests (communications training and speech preparation provided) in December 2012.**
12. Take one day off of school in December 2012 to prepare for and attend the 22nd Annual *Beat the Odds* Awards.
13. Agree to be filmed by a large camera crew that will interview you and follow you to school and after school activities for about 3-5 days in addition to the time commitments mentioned above.



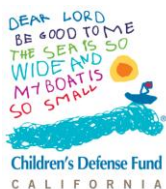
Nominator Requirements

1. **Select a student(s)** that meets the above criteria. (Note: there is no limit on the number of nominees per nominator).
2. Complete the enclosed Recommendation Form or submit a letter of recommendation, stating specific examples of nominee qualifications where necessary;
3. Provide the nominated student's parent/guardian with a copy of the enclosed letter.
4. Work with the student(s) to **submit the nomination packet**:
 - **Complete Application Form**
 - **Recommendation Form**
 - **Student Essay (no more than 750 words)**
 - **Nominee's Current Unofficial High School Transcript (*including calculated cumulative unweighted GPA*)**
 - **Signed CDF Media Release Form**
 - **Student Resume (template provided)**
5. Commit to act as a liaison to help facilitate communication with your nominee(s).

Please e-mail scanned and completed application packets to:
cdfca@childrensdefense.org

Or mail completed applications to:
Saira G. Soto
Children's Defense Fund-California
3333 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 550
Los Angeles, California 90010-4123

Or fax to:
213-355-8795



Recommendation Form

Name of Nominee: _____

Name of Nominator: _____ Relationship to Nominee: _____

Telephone: _____ Best Time to Call: _____

E-mail Address: _____ Fax: _____

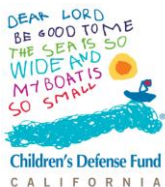
How long have you known nominee? _____

On a scale of 1 to 10, rate how well you know nominee? ("10" means "extremely well"). _____

In order for the selection committee to best understand the qualities and attributes which make your nominee a candidate for this program, it is crucial for the committee to have a comprehensive understanding of the student. Please offer your full insight into this nominee, your thoroughness in answering the following questions will provide critical information that will be used throughout the decision-making process.

OUTSTANDING= top 5% ABOVE AVERAGE= top 25%
AVERAGE= in the middle BELOW AVERAGE= less prepared than most

	Outstanding	Above Average	Average	Below Average	Unknown
Dependability: accepts responsibility, follows through on commitments, arrives on time and prepared, trustworthy					
Leadership Skills: expresses opinions diplomatically, provides positive direction and motivates others					
Academic Commitment: has demonstrated potential for post-graduate education, recognized for achievements					
Judgment: makes good decisions, understands how his/her choices and actions impact others					
Communication Skills: listens and speaks well, expresses thoughts clearly, participates and shows insight					
Relationship with Peers: relates well to others; accepts differences in opinion; is open to feedback					
Attitude: respect for people and things; optimistic; willing to extend comfort zone; open to new experiences					
Community Awareness: cognizant of world around him/her; knowledgeable about local needs and personal responsibility					



Please provide answers on a separate sheet and attach your responses to this form if necessary.

On a scale of 1 to 10, rate the nominee's current and future potential for college or post-secondary success. _____ please provide at least two examples of this nominee's potential as demonstrated through your relationship.

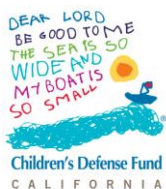
On a scale of 1 to 10, please rate this nominee's need for financial support. _____ please provide information which supports this rating (i.e.: Ward of the State, family hardship, immigration issues, etc).

On a scale of 1 to 10, please rate this nominee's readiness for the challenges and ability to lead self and others. _____ please provide at least two examples of this young person's readiness as demonstrated throughout your relationship.

Thank you for completing this recommendation form. **Please return this form along with rest of the final nomination packet. The completed packet (and all required signatures) must be received no later than 5p.m. on Friday, April 1, 2011.**

Nominator's Signature

Date



To the Los Angeles **Beat The Odds** Scholarship Nominee and Family:

Congratulations! You have been recognized as an outstanding high school sophomore who courageously beats tremendous odds every day. **A teacher, counselor, caseworker, or other adult in your life has nominated you to apply for the Children's Defense Fund-California, Los Angeles *Beat the Odds* Scholarship Program.**

The Children's Defense Fund (CDF) is a non-profit child advocacy organization that has worked relentlessly to ensure a level playing field for all children. We champion policies and programs that lift children out of poverty; protect them from abuse and neglect; and ensure their access to health care, quality education, and a moral and spiritual foundation.

The *Beat the Odds* scholarship is a \$10,000 scholarship awarded to young people that work hard to overcome tremendous obstacles in their personal lives, demonstrate academic excellence, and give back to their communities.

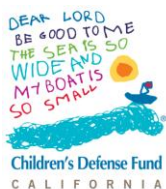
You have been identified as a potential *Beat the Odds* scholar. In order to complete the scholarship application process, please fill out the "nominee" portion of the enclosed nomination packet. Please be sure to provide all of the requested information and materials to complete the nomination process and remain eligible for the scholarship. This includes a **personal statement/autobiographical essay** that highlights the life experiences and challenges you've faced and how you are "beating the odds" everyday. Essays should be **no more than 750 typed words** and should:

- Describe the major obstacles and challenges in your life and how you have overcome them.
- Describe your past and current family, financial, educational, and emotional support systems.
- Describe how you have been able to achieve academic success or show marked improvement in academics, despite your hardships.
- Describe your commitment to serving others, for example; involvement in school, community-based service, or taking on major home or work responsibilities.

Completed applications and all required signatures must be received no later than 5p.m., Friday, April 1st, 2011.

(Please see Nominee Information Form for mailing instructions)

We look forward to receiving your complete nomination packet. You can access a Microsoft Word version of the nomination packet via CDF-CA's website: www.cdfca.org. If you have any questions regarding the application process or the scholarship program please contact Ms. Saira G. Soto at 213.355.8793 or email at cdfca@childrensdefense.org.



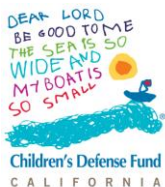
Los Angeles Beat the Odds® Scholarship Program Nominee Information Form

Please type or print clearly below and complete all sections. For a Microsoft Word version of this nomination packet visit www.cdfca.org.

STUDENT'S NAME	SEX	AGE	ETHNICITY	GRADE
STUDENT'S ADDRESS	CITY	ZIP CODE		
STUDENTS EMAIL ADDRESS	HOME PHONE	ALTERNATE PHONE		
TOTAL HOUSEHOLD INCOME	TOTAL # IN FAMILY	TOTAL ADULTS	TOTAL CHILDREN (including nominee)	
BRIEFLY LIST WHO YOU LIVE WITH (for example: Mom, dad, 1 brother, etc...)				
HIGH SCHOOL NAME	HIGH SCHOOL ADDRESS			
CITY	ZIP CODE	PRINCIPAL'S/DIRECTOR'S NAME		
SCHOOL PHONE #	SCHOOL FAX #			
CONTACT PERSON AT SCHOOL	TITLE	PHONE #	EMAIL ADDRESS	
CONTACT PERSON'S SIGNATURE	DATE	PRINCIPAL'S/DIRECTOR'S SIGNATURE	DATE	

Deadline, including required signatures, is: 5:00 p.m. Friday, April 1st, 2011.

**Please scan and email to: cdfca@childrensdefense.org,
or mail to: c/o Saira G. Soto, 3333 Wilshire Blvd., Suite #550, LA., CA 90010-4123
Or fax to 213-355-8795.**

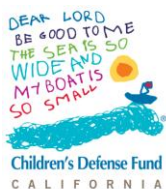


Nomination Packet Check List

Please Note that this nomination packet is *not* complete and will *not* be considered without:

- Completed Nominee Information Form**
- Completed Recommendation Form or Letter of Recommendation**
- Student Essay explaining why he/she meets the criteria (no more than 750 typed words)**
- Nominee's Current Unofficial High School Transcript (with Cumulative Unweighted GPA)**
- Signed Children's Defense Funds' Media Release Form** (signed by student and student's parent or legal guardian)
- Student Resume** (A sample resume is provided as a guide with this packet. Microsoft Word of this nomination packet is available at www.cdfca.org).

All completed nomination packets must be received no later than 5p.m., on Friday, April 1, 2011. For questions, please contact Saira G. Soto at ssoto@childrensdefense.org or call 213.355.8793



Sample Resume

Tommy Trojan
123 Trousdale Parkway
Los Angeles, California 90089
(213) 123-4567 trojan@usc.edu

Education

University of Southern California
Bachelor of Arts in Communication

Los Angeles, CA
May 2009

Crenshaw High School

Los Angeles, CA
June 2005

Honors

Presidential Scholar
Ford Foundation Scholar

Work Experience

University of Southern California Leavey Library

Customer Service Representative/Reserves Assistant

Los Angeles, CA
Fall 2004

- Facilitated faculty, staff and student research projects with a variety of multimedia resources
- Developed user friendly web content for reference librarian

Old Navy

Summer Cashier

- Provided customer service in high volume retail outlet
- Reported end of day sales and reconciled receipts

Athletics

Mater Del Men's Varsity Soccer
Captain (2003-2004)

2000-2004

Activities

Yearbook Photo Editor
Sophomore Class Treasurer

2003-2004



Release

Media Release Form

I hereby authorize and irrevocably grant to the Children's Defense Fund and its affiliates, licensees, agents and assigns the unrestricted right to use and publish any part of the information I have given to the Children's Defense Fund and the right to record my name, voice, appearance, likeness, and comments on film, videotape, audiotape, still photographs, print and any other media now known or hereafter invented. I acknowledge that the Children's Defense Fund shall own all right, title and interest in and to this media. I further agree that the Children's Defense Fund may cause all or parts of this media to be used for any and all publications, exhibitions, public displays, editorials, advertising or other purposes.

I waive any inspection or approval of the media or any advertising or publicity in which my name, voice, appearance, likeness, narrative or comments might appear. I expressly release and agree to hold harmless the Children's Defense Fund and its agents, employees, licensees and assigns from and against any and all claims including, but not limited to, invasion of privacy that I might ever have in any way relating to my interview or its use.

Date:

Signature:

Print name:

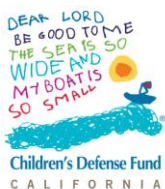
If a minor:

(Parent or Legal Guardian)

Address:

Phone Number:

Email:



Distribución de Prensa

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Fecha:

Firma:

En letra de molde:

Si es menor de edad:

(Padre o guardián legal)

Dirección:

Número de Teléfono:

Email:

