

2009 BEAT THE ODDS® AWARDS DINNER

A Celebration of Five Extraordinary Young People

Tuesday, November 10, 2009

W Hotel • Washington, D.C.

Pre-Dinner Reception • 6:30 p.m.

Dinner Program • 7:30 p.m.

The Children's Defense Fund (CDF) began the Beat the Odds® program in 1990 to highlight the positive potential of young people. Too often we hear about teens getting into trouble, dropping out of school, becoming involved with drugs, crime or gangs, or becoming parents too soon. Rarely recognized are the many young people who do well despite facing overwhelming obstacles, such as poverty, violence, homelessness, family break-up or substance abuse, that can stand in the way of even the smallest achievements.

CDF works with local education advocates to select and honor students like Natasha Bridge, a 2006 award recipient, who despite a traumatic childhood of abuse and neglect has “no regrets” but instead continues to demonstrate academic excellence and the strength and determination to “beat the odds.” These outstanding young people have been honored locally for personal achievements to improve their own lives as well as the lives of others. At special awards ceremonies, CDF celebrates their remarkable lives and the families, friends, teachers and counselors who helped them find the strength within themselves to succeed. Each student is presented with a scholarship and other prizes in recognition of his or her accomplishments.

Beat the Odds celebrations inspire community leaders and citizens who want to help children struggling to overcome adversity. The program has fostered additional successes by serving as a catalyst for community efforts on behalf of children, as in the case of Kyle Corfman, a 2007 award recipient who found a “valuable mentor” in his lacrosse coach as he persevered through a heartbreaking childhood involving his father's chronic illness and the death of his mother. These award events convey several important messages. First, society becomes more aware of the difficult reality and obstacles some children must face and overcome in their daily lives. By telling a personal story about the effects of the grim



2008 Washington, D.C., Beat the Odds® Recipients
Front left to right – Michael A. Dejene, Rose Stefany Quispe,
CDF President Marian Wright Edelman, Jin Shin
Rear left to right - Keagoé Stith, Kristopher Stith

circumstances in which these children live, the program can help spur community-wide action to improve the lives of those in similar situations.

In addition, *Beat the Odds* events demonstrate that behind each successful child is at least one caring adult. It could be a parent or other relative, a coach or a teacher, a school counselor or neighbor—someone who took the time to believe in that child and help him or her along the way. By recognizing the student's accomplishments and noting the assistance they received, a clear and powerful message comes through—every adult can do something to help more children thrive and succeed.

Finally, publicly honoring young people who have persevered through tremendous adversity provides positive role models for youths in similar situations. They feel, sometimes appropriately, that no one appreciates their pain or recognizes what they have had to overcome to reach even the most modest of goals. These events send a clear signal that someone does care, and that someone does understand what it took to stay in school and do well.

Sponsor Reply Form

2009 CHILDREN'S DEFENSE FUND BEAT THE ODDS® AWARDS DINNER

Tuesday, November 10, 2009

W Hotel
515 15th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20004

I/We would like to participate in the 2009 Children's Defense Fund Beat the Odds® Awards Dinner by making a contribution at the level indicated on the sponsorship page.

I/We cannot attend but enclose a tax-deductible contribution in the amount of \$ _____ to support the work of the Children's Defense Fund.

Please list my/our name(s) or organization as follows:

Please provide the following information:

Name

Title

Company/Affiliation

Address

City

State

Zip

Contact Person

Phone

Fax

E-mail

(By providing us with your e-mail address, you are agreeing to receive communications from the Children's Defense Fund.)

Please make checks payable to "Children's Defense Fund" or provide credit card information.

Name on Card

Credit Card #

Expiration Date

Please fax or mail your response to:
Julliet Boye
Children's Defense Fund
25 E Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001
Tel: (202) 662-3585 Fax: (202) 662-3580
E-mail: beattheodds@childrensdefense.org

*The Children's Defense Fund is a 501(c)3 charitable organization.
FEIN 52-0895622*

Sponsorship Levels

Please check the sponsorship level at which you would like to contribute.

- Platinum Sponsor \$50,000**
 - 20 tickets to the reception and dinner (2 tables)
 - Organization logo on the formal invitation and event signage
 - Organization listing in CDF e-vites and e-newsletters
 - Full-page ad in the program journal
 - Listing in event advertisements
 - Announcement in event press releases
 - Organization logo on *Beat the Odds* web pages

- Gold Sponsor \$25,000**
 - 10 tickets to the reception and dinner (1 table)
 - Organization logo on the invitation and event signage
 - Organization listing in CDF e-vites and e-newsletters
 - Half-page ad in the program journal
 - Listing in event advertisements
 - Announcement in event press releases
 - Organization listing on *Beat the Odds* web pages

- Silver Sponsor \$10,000**
 - 10 tickets to the reception and dinner (1 table)
 - Organization logo on event signage
 - Quarter-page ad in the program journal
 - Listing in event advertisements

- Bronze Sponsor \$5,000**
 - 10 tickets to the reception and dinner (1 table)
 - Listing in the program journal
 - Listing in event advertisements

- Sponsor \$2,500**
 - Four tickets to the reception and dinner
 - Listing in the program journal

- Dinner Committee \$1,000**
 - Two tickets to the reception and dinner
 - Listing in the program journal

- Individual \$300**
 - One ticket to the reception and dinner



Actress Rene Zellweger was a presenter at the 2006 Beat the Odds® Awards Dinner honoring five outstanding young people from the Washington, D.C., area.



James Denton of ABC's popular television show, "Desperate House Wives," presented the awards at the 2007 Beat the Odds® event in Washington, D.C.



George Stephanopoulos and Ali Wentworth have been co-hosts and generous sponsors of the Beat the Odds® program and events since 2006.

CDF'S MISSION

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

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

CDF began in 1973 and is a private, nonprofit organization supported by foundation and corporate grants and individual donations. We have never taken government funds.

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