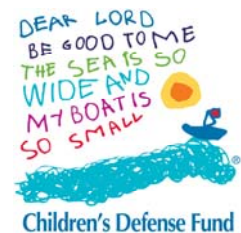


# Children's Defense Fund Freedom Schools® Program Description



Proudly rooted in the American Civil Rights Movement and the courageous efforts of college students to make a difference, the CDF Freedom Schools® program provides quality out-of-school time enrichment for children and youth ages 5-18 that boosts motivation to read, develops positive attitudes toward learning, cultivates self-esteem and connects the needs of families to local resources. Through partnerships with community-based organizations, schools, faith institutions and colleges and universities, we offer energetic learning environments with purpose and high expectations for six to eight weeks in the summer and year-round in targeted regions. A core belief of our instructional model is that all children are capable of achieving.

The *CDF Freedom Schools* Ella Baker Child Policy Training Institute prepares accomplished adults and exceptional college students and graduates to implement the five components of our model: high quality literacy enrichment, parent and family involvement, civic engagement and social action, intergenerational leadership development, and health, mental health and nutrition. Our award winning Integrated Reading Curriculum engages children in books and activities that celebrate a wide variety of cultures and focus on the theme, “*I Can Make a Difference in Myself and in My Family, Community, Country and World with Hope, Education and Action.*” CDF publishes summer and after-school curriculums each year after a committee of nationally recognized literacy and education professionals reads over 200 books and develops six weeks of lesson plans for approximately 80 titles so that stories, activities, field trips and games reinforce each other.

Servant leader interns use the Integrated Reading Curriculum to promote critical and analytical thinking and conflict resolution skills, and introduce children to a superb collection of books reflecting their own images. Afternoons allow children to pursue interests in music, the arts, community service, social action and other developmental activities. Each child takes a book home each week in the summer and each month in the after-school program for her or his family library.

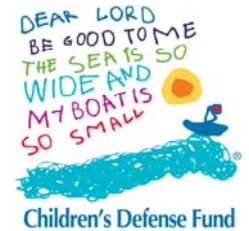
*CDF Freedom Schools* program sites are safe and restorative learning spaces where:

- Children are surrounded by caring adult site coordinators and college student servant leader interns from their community who share their enthusiasm for learning and commit to serving as authentic mentors (at an intern-to-child classroom ratio of 1:10);
- Children read high quality books and are engaged in learning activities that are appropriate to their developmental needs and interests;
- Each day begins with Harambee, a 30-minute self-and-group affirming celebration and preparation for the work ahead;
- Children receive two nutritious meals and a healthy snack every day in the summer program and nutritious snacks after-school;
- Parents are engaged as site volunteers and participate in regular workshops on children’s developmental needs, civic responsibility and other topics of interest;
- Children are supported to dream, set goals for themselves, and cultivate positive attitudes and high expectations;
- Youth and young adults whose lives have been interrupted and affected by crises receive consistent, daily service to better understand themselves, their situations, each other, and their potential; and
- Families dealing with complex change following crisis are afforded quality childcare.

In the summer of 2010, 102 *CDF Freedom Schools* sponsor organizations served over 9,600 children in 84 cities and 29 states (including Washington, D.C.). Since 1995, over 80,000 children have had a *CDF Freedom Schools* program experience and nearly 9,000 college students, and 2,000 adult site staff have been trained to deliver this empowering model. For more information, please visit [www.childrensdefense.org/freedomschools](http://www.childrensdefense.org/freedomschools) or call 202-662-3589.

# Children's Defense Fund Freedom Schools®

## 2010 Fact Sheet



### Sponsor Organizations:

Community-Based:	58%
Faith-Based:	32%
Schools:	5%
Colleges/Universities:	3%
Municipalities:	1%

### Program Data:

Children Served:	9,633
Servant Leader Interns:	1026
Program Sites:	142
Sponsor Organizations:	102
Cities:	84
States:	29

### % Increase, 2003-2010

Children Served:	124%
Servant Leader Interns:	120%
Program Sites:	137%
Sponsors Organizations:	137%
Cities:	190%
States:	61%

### Program Site Locations:

Birmingham, AL	Donaldsonville, LA	Rochester, NY
Elaine, AR	Ethel, LA	Cleveland, OH
Gould, AR	Eunice, LA	Dayton, OH
Mariana, AR	Lafayette, LA	Oklahoma City, OK
Marvell, AR	Marrero, LA	Tulsa, OK
Altadena, CA	New Orleans, LA	Philadelphia, PA
Culver City, CA	Opelousas, LA	Pittsburgh, PA
Long Beach, CA	Shreveport, LA	Bennettsville, SC
Los Angeles, CA	Baltimore, MD	Greenville, SC
Lynwood, CA	Laurel, MD	North Charleston, SC
Marin City, CA	Riverdale, MD	Sumter, SC
Oakland, CA	Silver Spring, MD	Knoxville, TN
San Francisco, CA	Battle Creek, MI	Memphis, TN
Bridgeport, CT	Kalamazoo, MI	Beaumont, TX
Washington, DC	Minneapolis, MN	Galveston, TX
Florida City, FL	St. Paul, MN	Houston, TX
Homestead, FL	Kansas City, MO	Norfolk, VA
Miami, FL	St. Louis, MO	Virginia Beach, VA
Miami Gardens, FL	Arcola, MS	Milwaukee, WI
Opa-Locka, FL	Greenville, MS	Wheeling, WV
Plantation, FL	Jackson, MS	
Sanford, FL	Brevard, NC	
Chicago, IL	Charlotte, NC	
Springfield, IL	Davidson, NC	
Gary, IN	Atlantic City, NJ	
Jeffersonville, IN	Newark, NJ	
Kansas City, KS	Paterson, NJ	
Topeka, KS	Trenton, NJ	
Louisville, KY	Las Vegas, NV	
Alexandria, LA	Bronx, NY	
Baton Rouge, LA	Brooklyn, NY	
Bossier City, LA	Mt. Vernon, NY	