



Children's Defense Fund Milestones

1973

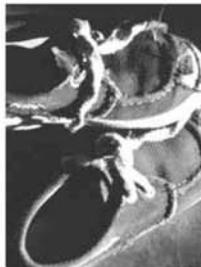
CDF founded in Washington, D.C., by civil rights leader and attorney Marian Wright Edelman.



1974

CDF files successful lawsuit to separate children from adults in South Carolina jails.

Children Out of School in America, a CDF publication, documents two million children not enrolled in school, including hundreds of thousands of disabled children.



CDF visits 447 jails and documents its findings, which contributes to passage of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act.

1975

CDF helps pass Education for All Handicapped Children Act (P.L. 94-142), creating the federal right to education; 5.5 million disabled children now attend school.



1977

\$150 million increase for Head Start passes with help from CDF, the largest increment since the program's founding; since then, Head Start funding has been increased to \$4.355 billion.



1978

The first safety and minimal quality standards are issued for child care centers with help from CDF.

1980

CDF helps pass Adoption Assistance and Child Welfare Act to protect more than 500,000 children in the child welfare system after publicizing their plight in a major report.



1981

The first annual *Children's Defense Fund Budget* challenges proposed federal budget cuts in key programs for children and families. CDF assists in defeating efforts to dismantle and put into block grants: Medicaid, Title I Elementary and Secondary Education Act, foster care, and other crucial children's programs.



1982

The first CDF non-partisan voting record for Members of Congress is released.

1984

CDF pushes for the first steps in Medicaid expansions, which eventually cover all children and pregnant women below the poverty line.

The first major child support enforcement amendment passes with assistance from CDF.

1986

CDF advocates for a tax reform bill to include essential relief for millions of poor working families with children.

1990

Congress passes \$30 billion over five years for new child care, Head Start, health and other child investments—all supported by CDF.

1991

CDF launches its Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Campaign in 14 states.

1993

CDF helps pass the Vaccines for Children program to immunize all children against childhood diseases.

CDF's Black Community Crusade for Children (BCCC) starts the CDF Freedom Schools® program, offering children enrichment through a reading curriculum that seeks to foster a love of learning and to empower children to make a difference in their families, communities and nation.

1994

CDF assists in convincing Congress to pass a crime bill that includes a ban on assault weapons and key crime prevention initiatives.

CDF launches 18 *CDF Freedom Schools* sites across the country, serving more than 1,600 children.

CDF purchases the former farm of the late Alex Haley to use as a site for inspiration, fellowship, networking, technical assistance and training for leaders of all ages and races across the country.

1995

CDF leads effort to defeat Contract with America proposals to block grant eight major children's income, health, foster care and nutrition programs.



1996

CDF organizes Stand for Children—the largest mass demonstration for children in U.S. history—assembling 300,000 people at the Lincoln Memorial.



1997

CDF convenes Child Health Now! Coalition and sparks more than 700 local Stand for Healthy Children Day events in support of the bipartisan Hatch-Kennedy child health bill, which is partially funded by tobacco taxes. The bill is eventually included in the final budget law. As a result, five million uninsured children will receive health coverage when it is fully implemented.



1998

CDF launches Child Care Now! Campaign to improve the quality and affordability of child care and after-school care for America's preschool and school-age children. A Stand for Quality Child Care Day is held on June 1, 1998, in local communities across the nation.

More than 228 college-age adults are trained at CDF Haley Farm to serve more than 2,300 students at over 34 *CDF Freedom Schools* sites.



2000

Marian Wright Edelman, founder and president of CDF, is awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President Bill Clinton and First Lady Hillary Clinton for her tireless advocacy on behalf of children.



CDF organizes its ninth annual National Observance of Children's Sabbaths® celebration, which provides churches, mosques, synagogues and temples nationwide with a venue to focus on the many needs of children and to further their commitment to Leave No Child Behind.

2001

CDF launches a five-year campaign to make children a national priority. At its core is the landmark Act to Leave No Child Behind, which Senator Chris Dodd and Representative George Miller introduce in Congress and is co-sponsored by 95 of their House and Senate colleagues. This comprehensive bill will help ensure all children in America get what they need to thrive and grow up safe, healthy and educated.



CDF launches Wednesdays in Washington® and Wednesdays at Home® to mobilize concerned citizens at the grassroots level to hold elected officials accountable for their actions.

2002

For the first time since Medicaid legislation was enacted in 1965, all children through age 18 living in families with incomes below the poverty level are eligible for health care coverage under Medicaid, due in part to efforts by CDF.

A CDF Action Council-led coalition persuades Congress to double the Child Tax Credit from \$500 to \$1,000, making it possible for more than 500,000 children to escape poverty during the next ten years.

2003

CDF marks its 30th anniversary by mobilizing hundreds of thousands of people from across the country to participate in a virtual Wednesday in Washington—jamming the Capitol switchboard to oppose the Bush Administration's tax and budget plan.

2004

CDF engages in a major voter mobilization effort, "Children Can't Vote, You Can," for the general election, registering more than 25,000 new voters around the nation and setting up a central command unit to mobilize people concerned about the future of children in America.

2007

CDF sponsors a two-day Cradle to Prison Pipeline® Summit in Washington, D.C., at which it launches its *Cradle to Prison Pipeline* Campaign and releases its *America's Cradle to Prison Pipeline*™ report.

CDF mobilizes more than 1,200 national, state and local organizations and leaders to support providing comprehensive health and mental health coverage for all nine million uninsured children in America through its Healthy Child Campaign.

2008 and Beyond

As it celebrates its 35th Anniversary, the Children's Defense Fund continues to lead the charge 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.

We hope you'll join us....