

October 1, 2008

Dear Community Leader:

As someone who works with youth experiencing overwhelming obstacles, the Children's Defense Fund-California invites you to participate in our Los Angeles Beat the Odds® Scholarship Program, by participating in the nomination process for the 2009 scholarship recipients.

The Children's Defense Fund (CDF) is a non-profit child advocacy organization that has worked relentlessly for 35 years 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.

Since 1990, CDF has awarded *Beat the Odds* scholarships to young people across the country that work hard to overcome tremendous obstacles in their personal lives, demonstrate academic excellence, and give back to their communities.

High school juniors must be nominated by a teacher, counselor, caseworker, coach, 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 late January or early February 2009. 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, case management services, career and college counseling assistance, access to CDF's internship, service and job opportunities, leadership training courses, college visits, and other goods and services that will provide the finalists academic and personal support.
- Five semi-finalists will each receive a \$1000 scholarship, limited SAT preparation, college counseling services, and access to CDF's network of internship, service and job opportunities.

*Please note that all services are offered in the Greater Los Angeles area.

The five finalists will also be honored at CDF's annual *Beat the Odds* Gala Award Dinner in the fall of 2009. Professional videos of their stories will be produced and shared at the dinner. These stories may also be shared with the media, sponsors, supporters and the broader public and may also be posted on www.cdfca.org.

The following nomination packet must be completed and received or postmarked by 5:00pm on Friday November 21, 2008.

Thank you for your assistance and interest in the *Beat the Odds* Scholarship Program. If you have any questions regarding the nomination process, please call Jennifer Kim at (213) 355-8787.

Student Nominee Requirements

For consideration in the CDF 2009 Los Angeles *Beat the Odds* Scholarship Program, nominees must:

1. Be a current high school junior;
2. Reside and/or attend school in Los Angeles County (students who live in the Greater Los Angeles area or attend a Los Angeles Unified School District High School are strongly encouraged to apply);
3. Demonstrate academic achievement/improvement and potential for post-secondary success. There is no GPA requirement;
4. Have limited family support and/or limited income;
5. Be willing to share his/her story publicly and in the media for the benefit of other young people who are struggling to overcome similar obstacles;
6. Write a personal statement/autobiographical essay that highlights the life experiences and challenges that he/she has overcome to “beat the odds.” Essays should be **no more** than 750 words and should address the following:
 - Describe the major obstacles and challenges in your life. How have you managed to overcome them?
 - Describe your past and current family, financial, educational, and emotional support systems.
 - How have you 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, faith or community-based service activities, or taking on major home or work responsibilities.

Nominees selected as finalists must be able to:

7. Take off a partial or full day of school to prepare for and participate in a 1 hour interview with our *Beat the Odds* Selection Committee, a panel of 10 community leaders. We anticipate that these interviews will be held in late January or early February 2009.
8. Dedicate approximately 8 weekday evenings and 8 Saturdays to *Beat the Odds* related activities and events (college counseling, college visits, communications training, etc) between January-November 2009;
9. Be highly accessible via telephone and email during the months preceding November 2009 leading up to Gala Award Dinner (cell phone provided to student if necessary);
10. **Commit to giving a 5 minute speech at the Gala Award Dinner in Beverly Hills in November 2009 in front of 500 guests;**
11. Take a day off of school in November 2009 to prepare for and attend the Gala Award Dinner.

Nominator Requirements:

1. **Select a student(s)** that meets the criteria. (Note: there is no limit on the number of nominees per nominator.)
2. Write a 1 page **nomination letter** on behalf of your nominee(s) which addresses the following:
 - Why is this student a good candidate for the *Beat the Odds* award?
 - Describe his/her character and why he/she stands out compared to other students.
 - Discuss his/her demonstrated academic achievement and potential for post-secondary/college success despite overwhelming personal challenges.
3. Work with the student(s) to **submit the application packet:**
 - **Complete Application form**
 - **Detailed Nomination Letter**
 - **Student essay (no more than 750 words)**
 - **Nominee's Current Unofficial High School Transcript**
 - ***Beat the Odds* Story, Photo and Press Release Form**
 - * *A student's resume is requested but not required – a resume template is provided.*
4. Commit to **act as a liaison** to help facilitate communication with your nominee(s).

Please mail, fax, or deliver completed application packets to:

Jennifer Kim

Children's Defense Fund- California, Los Angeles Office

1625 W. Olympic Blvd., Suite 701

Los Angeles, CA 90015

Phone: 213-355-8787

Fax: 213-355-8795

Note: Microsoft Word version of this application packet is available at www.cdfca.org.

**Completed applications must be received or postmarked no later than 5 pm
Friday, November 21, 2008**

Beat the Odds® Story, Photo and Press Release

I, _____, am the parent or legal guardian of

And I hereby give the Children's Defense Fund, its successors and assignees, irrevocable right to publish my name and the names of my children as well as any information shared by me or my children with the Children's Defense Fund in personal interviews, written essays or other documentation submitted about myself and my family in connection with its *Beat the Odds* program. I further give the Children's Defense Fund, its successors and assignees, irrevocable right to use my voice recording and any recording, picture, portrait or photograph of myself and/or my child in all forms and in all media and in all manner, without restrictions as to changes or alterations for advertising, promotion, exhibition or any other lawful purpose. I waive any right to inspect or approve any such photograph or recording. I agree that the Children's Defense Fund owns the copyright in these photographs and recording and hereby waive any claims I may have based on any usage of any photograph, recording, or work derived there from. I have the legal authority to execute this release, and I have read and fully understand its contents.

Name of Parent or Guardian _____

Date _____

Signature of Parent or Guardian _____

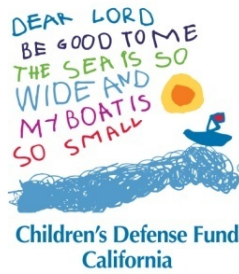
Consent for Participants Over 18

I _____, hereby give the Children's Defense Fund, its successors and assignees, irrevocable right to publish my name as well as any information shared by me with the Children's Defense Fund in personal interviews, written essays or other documentation submitted about myself and/or my family, in connection with its *Beat the Odds* program. I further give the Children's Defense Fund, its successors and assignees, irrevocable right to use my voice recording and any recording, picture, portrait or photograph of myself in all forms and in all media and in all manner, without restrictions as to changes or alterations for advertising, promotion, exhibition or any other lawful purpose. I waive any right to inspect or approve any such photograph or recording. I agree that the Children's Defense Fund owns the copyright in these photographs and recordings and I hereby waive any claims I may have based on any usage of any photograph, recording, or work derived there from. I am 18 years of age or older, have the legal authority to execute this release, and have read and fully understand its contents.

Name _____

Date _____

Signature _____



LOS ANGELES BEAT THE ODDS® NOMINEE APPLICATION FORM

Mail to: Children's Defense Fund- California Los Angeles Office, Attention: Jennifer Kim
1625 W. Olympic Blvd., Suite 701, Los Angeles, CA 90015

Fax to: Jennifer Kim at 213-355-8795

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY AND FILL OUT ALL INFORMATION

STUDENT'S NAME	GENDER	AGE	GRADE
STUDENT'S ADDRESS		ETHNICITY	
CITY	ZIP CODE	HOME PHONE	
TOTAL # IN FAMILY	TOTAL FAMILY INCOME FOR THE YEAR	STUDENT'S EMAIL ADDRESS	
HIGH SCHOOL ADDRESS	CITY	ZIP CODE	
SCHOOL PHONE #	SCHOOL FAX #		
CONTACT PERSON AT SCHOOL/ORGANIZATION	TITLE	PHONE #	
CONTACT PERSON'S E-MAIL ADDRESS			
PRINCIPAL'S/DIRECTOR'S SIGNATURE	NAME OF SCHOOL/ORGANIZATION	DATE	

**ALL INFORMATION WILL BE KEPT CONFIDENTIAL

Please Note the application packet is not complete without:

- Completed Application Form**
- Detailed Nomination Letter**
- Student Essay explaining why he/she meets the criteria (no more than 750 words)**
- Nominee's Current Unofficial High School Transcript**
- Signed *Beat the Odds* Story Photo and Press Release Form** (*signed by student and student's parent or legal guardian*)
- * Student's Resume is requested but not required** (A sample resume is provided as a guide with this application. Microsoft Word version is available at www.cdfca.org).

ALL NOMINATION MATERIALS MUST BE RECEIVED OR POSTMARKED NO LATER THAN 5pm, Friday November 21, 2008

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 2008
Mater Dale High School	Santa Ana, CA June 2004

Honors

Presidential Scholar
Ford Foundation Scholar

Work Experience

University of Southern California Leavey Library Customer Service Representative/Reserves Assistant	Los Angeles, CA Fall 2004
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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
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Activities

Yearbook Photo Editor	2003-2004
Sophomore Class Treasurer	2003-2004