

November, 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 2012 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 sophomores that are working hard to overcome tremendous obstacles in their personal lives, demonstrate academic achievement, and give back to their communities.

High school sophomores must be nominated or seek nomination for the Los Angeles *Beat the Odds* Scholarship Program by/from a teacher, counselor, caseworker, or other adult in a student's life who can speak to his/her character, academic achievement, commitment to social justice issues/community, and the tremendous odds he/she beats every day. Ten students will be selected from the nomination pool for interviews scheduled during March 2012. 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, and five semi-finalist will receive a \$1,000 scholarship. Both finalists and semi-finalists will receive; intensive SAT preparation, one-on-one college counseling, leadership development, college tours, career counseling and other services that will provide academic and personal support through college or post-secondary education matriculation process.

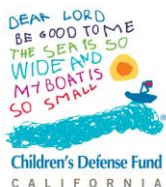
***Please note-all services are offered in the City of Los Angeles and are subject to change. Participation in all program related services and activities is mandatory. Not participating will jeopardize a recipient's ability to remain in the program. Students are responsible for their own transportation to and from program related events.**

The five finalists will be honored at the 23rd Annual *Beat the Odds* Awards, in the winter of 2013. 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. Nominee must agree to share their story on camera. 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, January 27th** in order to qualify. Mailing information is included in the application.

Thank you for your interest in the Los Angeles *Beat the Odds* Scholarship Program. In case of questions regarding the nomination process, please contact Youth Programs Associate, Joanna Flores at 213.355.8788 or jflores@childrensdefense.org.



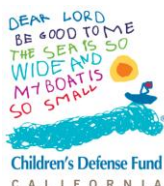
Student Nominee Requirements

For consideration in the 2012 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.
3. Demonstrate commitment to their community/social justice issues.
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 in March 2012 in Los Angeles.
9. Dedicate multiple **weekday evenings AND weekend days**, to *Beat the Odds* related activities and events (college counseling, college visits, communications training, etc) from March 2012 - July 2014.
10. Be highly accessible via telephone and email from March 2012-July 2014.
11. **Commit to giving a 5 minute speech at the 23rd Annual *Beat the Odds* Awards ceremony in front of 500 guests (communications training and speech preparation provided) in December 2013.**
12. Take one day off of school in December 2013 to prepare for and attend the 2^{3rd} 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 commitment 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) and ensure that he/she successfully completes the program.

Please mail, fax or email (scanned in pdf.) completed application packets to:

Children's Defense Fund-California
c/o: Joanna Flores
3333 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 550
Los Angeles, California 90010-4123
213-355-8795 fax
cdfca@childrensdefense.org



Recommendation Form

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.

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

EXCEPTIONAL= top 5% GOOD= top 25%
FAIR= in the middle POOR= less prepared than most

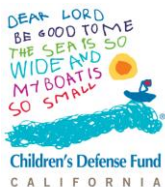
	Exceptional	Good	Fair	Poor	Unknown
Dependability: accepts responsibility, meets commitments, arrives on time and prepared, trustworthy					
Commitment to social justice: cognizant of issues affecting world around him/her; knowledgeable about local needs and engages/is involved					
Leadership Skills: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

Name of Nominee: _____

Name of Nominator: _____ Relationship to Nominee: _____

Office #: _____ Best Time to Call: _____ Evening #: _____

E-mail Add.: _____ Fax: _____ How long have you known nominee? _____



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.

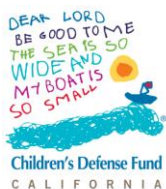
On a scale of 1 to 10, please rate this nominee's commitment/involvement in addressing social justice issues. _____ please provide information which supports this rating (i.e.: is involved in his community with organizations addressing social justice issues or is involved in a club at school that has a broader social justice mission).

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, January 27, 2012.**

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-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 Program honors young people for their personal hard work, academic potential, commitment to their community/involvement in social justice issues and perseverance despite the tremendous obstacles they face in their daily lives. To ensure the student's academic success the program includes strong academic support and mentoring, as well as a \$10,000 scholarship.

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 service clubs at 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, January 27, 2012.

(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 under the Programs (*Beat the Odds*).** If you have any questions regarding the application process or the scholarship program please contact Joanna Flores at 213.355.8788 or email at cdfca@childrensdefense.org

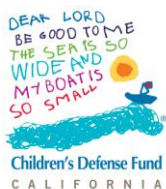
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7. Sign and return the media release form provided in this nomination packet and be willing to share their story publicly and in the media for the benefit of other young people who are struggling to overcome similar obstacles.
8. Sign and return the Liability Waiver Form

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 in March 2012 in Los Angeles.
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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 commitment mentioned above.



Los Angeles Beat the Odds® Scholarship Program Nominee Information Form

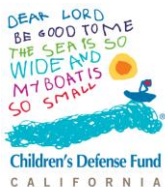
Please type or print clearly below and complete all sections. For a Microsoft Word version of this nomination packet visit www.cdfca.org.

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, January 27, 2012.

Please mail, fax or email (scanned in pdf.) to:

Children's Defense Fund-CA
 c/o: Joanna Flores
 3333 Wilshire Blvd., Suite #550
 LA., CA 90010-4123
 213-355-8795 (fax),
cdfca@childrensdefense.org



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

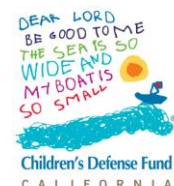
Mater Del Men's Varsity Soccer
Captain (2003-2004)

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:

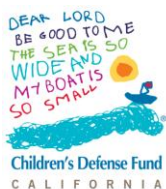
If a minor:

(Parent or Legal Guardian)

Address:

Phone Number:

Email:



Distribución de Prensa

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Fecha:

Firma:

En letra de molde:

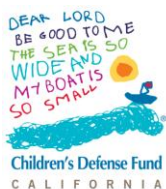
Si es menor de edad:

(Padre o guardián legal)

Dirección:

Número de Teléfono:

Email:



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, January 27, 2012**. For questions, please contact Joanna Flores at 213.355.8788 or cdfca@childrensdefense.org