



children's
defense fund
Leave No Child Behind®

LOCAL PROGRAM

IMPACT REPORT

2021-2022



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A Special Thank You to CDF Staff

OUR STORY

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 has provided summer and after-school programs since 1995 and currently supports CDF Freedom Schools® (FS) programs in 28 states and the District of Columbia. Through the program model, CDF Freedom Schools sites empower youth to excel and believe in their ability to make a difference in themselves, their families, communities, country, and world, with hope, education, and action. The program strives to boost children's motivation to read and improve their attitudes toward learning by exposing them to a research-based curriculum featuring culturally relevant books. The program focuses on enriching the whole child by supporting children and families through five essential components:

1. High quality academic enrichment through a research-based, multicultural, social justice, and conflict resolution curriculum (Integrated Reading Curriculum)
2. Parent and family development through weekly parent meetings, frequent family check-ins, and engagement opportunities
3. Civic engagement through lessons about social action and participation in civic events
4. Intergenerational servant leadership development (rooted in the Mississippi Summer Freedom Project of 1964); and
5. Nutrition and physical and mental health by sharing resources for accessing food, mental health care and other basic needs.

The communities that CDF Freedom Schools sites serve are often located in food deserts, where access to grocery stores and high-quality produce are not as accessible. During the six-week summer program, students receive two nutritious meals and a snack daily. In addition, students receive a book each week to build their home libraries.

The CDF Freedom Schools program has operated in the DC area since 2011, sponsored by a variety of organizations, including Howard University, the National Center for Children and Families, and United Planning Organization. Since 2017, CDF has directly operated year-round Freedom Schools programs in Washington, utilizing 21st Century Community Learning Center funding provided through the Office of the State Superintendent of Education. Our direct experience in operating CDF Freedom Schools sites gives us insight into the opportunities and challenges facing site sponsors across the country, lets us test new curricula and learning methods, and brings the summer CDF Freedom Schools program's core concepts into year-round, out-of-school time programming.

**“THERE'S NO SCHOOL LIKE
FREEDOM SCHOOL!”**

CDF Freedom Schools Sites in the DC Metro Area

CDF Freedom Schools sites have operated in the DC area since 2011. In 2022, the DC programs were sponsored by Children's Defense Fund and National Center for Children and Families. Previous DC sponsors include United Planning Organization (2011–16), Maya Angelou See Forever Foundation (2011–12), Shiloh Family Life Center (2011), and the George Ferris, Jr. Boys and Girls Clubhouse #6 (2012–2013). Local Maryland sponsors include Community Builders Inc. in Oxon Hill/Fort Washington (2014, 2016–19), Mt. Jezreel Baptist Church in Silver Spring (2011–2019), Sowing Empowerment & Economic Development, Inc. (SEED) serving Landover and Riverdale (2011–2016, 2019), and Howard University (2015–2019). The CDF Freedom Schools program has not had a sponsor from Northern Virginia since 2011.

CDF Sponsored Program

In 2017, CDF secured 21st Century Community Learning Program funding (administered through the DC Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE)), to operate year-round CDF Freedom Schools programs at two school sites, as well as funding to operate year-round CDF Freedom Schools programs in South Carolina (administered through the South Carolina Department of Education).



OUR TEAM CHILD AVOCATES



Program Staff

On behalf of the DC area CDF Freedom Schools sites, thank you for helping us promote the 2021–2022 CDF Freedom Schools program's afterschool and summer job opportunities for college students and recent graduates. Today, we celebrate a roster of 21 college-aged youth who helped make a difference in DC year-round. From Southeast DC to Maryland, Virginia, Georgia, Alabama, and California, this year's cohort represents nine colleges and universities:

- Spelman College
- Bowie State University
- Howard University
- George Washington University
- University of Maryland Global Campus
- Virginia State University
- University of District of Columbia
- Louisiana State University
- Oberlin College

We are happy to report we welcomed back our very own 2019 Beat The Odds® (BTO) program participant, Dajanae Dennis, and former DC-based CDF Freedom Schools scholar, Michael Pugh. Dajanae is a second-year SLI serving Level I (K–2); Michael served as a first-year SLI in 2021 and later as an enrichment instructor serving Level III (6th–8th).

Each hire is considered part-time, temporary.

CDF Staff

Joy Masha, DC Administrative and Instructions Supervisor

Andrew Jamie, Grant Accountant

48%

**STAFF REPORTED
UNEMPLOYED
BEFORE APPLYING
TO CDF**

51%

**STAFF REPORTED
NO LEADERSHIP
DEVELOPMENT
PRIOR TO CDF
FREEDOM
SCHOOLS**

2021-22

PARTNERS

CDF Freedom Schools sites are offered at no- cost to the scholars and families enrolled. As a result, the DC programs are always seeking partnerships, in-kind donations, and volunteers to help achieve program goals.

**Office of State Superintendent of Education
Office of Out of School Time Grants and Youth Outcomes (DC
Government)
Freddie Mac Foundation
Washington Youth Garden - National Arboretum
Howard University
Lawrence E. Boone Elementary
Plummer Elementary
Social Justice School
DC Dream Center - Southeast White House
R.E.S.E.T. (Raising Excitement for Science, Engineering, and
Technology
Fresh Energy Wellness
Kreativ Vibz
Taste Bud Box, Inc
The National Institutes of Health (NIH)
Traditional Expressions
Chase Bank
Whole Kids
Gro More Good Grassroots
Freedom Families - Parent Committee**

...AND A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO ALL VOLUNTEERS!



6

freshly painted,
soiled, and planted
garden beds

OUTDOOR LEARNING

In April of 2022, we built an outdoor learning space for scholars and students at Plummer Elementary. This project was funded by Whole Kids Foundation and Gro More Good.



This project was led by our second year SLI, Kirā G.



2021-22 AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM

SNAPSHOT

The DC CDF Freedom Schools program operates year-round, providing tutoring, homework assistance, and enrichment after hours, Monday–Thursday, 3:00–6:00 p.m.



SCHOOLS:

Plummer Elementary
(Ward 7)
Lawrence E. Boone
Elementary (Ward 8)



PEOPLE:

Staff: Eight young adults
Scholars: 70 (K-5)

HIGHLIGHTS:

PARENT CONTRIBUTIONS

- Coat and Uniform Drive
- COVID preparedness and safety kits
- Daily snacks

SCHOLAR FAVORITES

- RESET (STEM activities/experiments)
- Fresh Energy Wellness (fitness and nutrition)

HOWARD UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF DIVINITY

- First Annual "Books and Pajamas" Giveaway

BOOKS READ

25





AFTER-SCHOOL
IMPACT

2022

SUMMER PROGRAM

SNAPSHOT

We moved!

The DC CDF Freedom Schools summer programs are now located at the DC Dream Center - Southeast White House (SEWH) and the Social Justice School (SJS).

At the Southeast White House, we delivered a high-quality community model that centers scholars, families, and partners in southeast for place-based liberation and community engagement.

At the Social Justice School, we delivered a co-facilitation model, centering the servant leader and a full-time ELA teacher in the CDF Freedom Schools classroom after receiving local training from the new CDF Freedom Schools Ella Baker Child Policy Teacher Training Institute.



LOCATIONS

Southeast White House
(Ward 7)
Social Justice School
(Ward 5)



PEOPLE

Staff: four young adults,
four full-time teachers
Scholars: 70 (K-5)

2022

SUMMER PROGRAM (CONTINUED)



National Day of Social Action

- "My Plate, My Choice"
- Food Justice is Environmental Justice
- City Hall Takeover
- CDF x National Center for Children and Families
- 100+ Scholars



"Freedom Schools offer a summer of possibilities for the next generation"
(click to read)



Watch the scholars' music video here: "Peace and Justice"

10

community-based/Black-owned enrichment service providers (cooking, sewing, music, art, African dance, African drumming, STEM, gardening, and cosmetology)



More than 80 books read across the summer

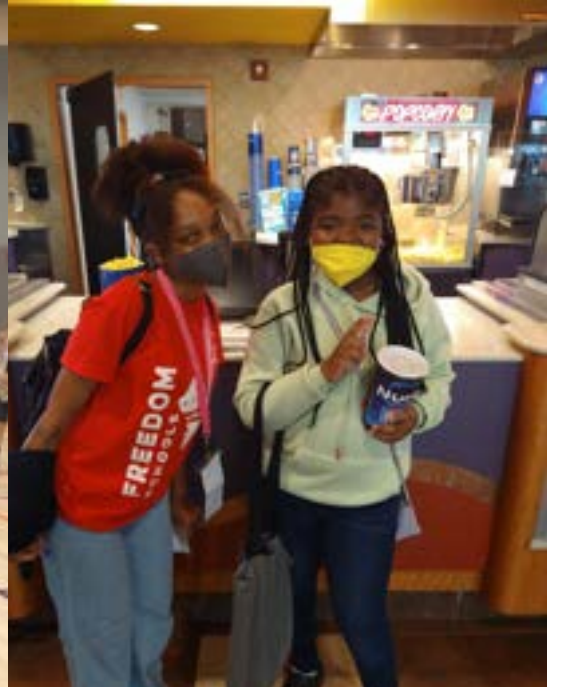


Washington Youth Garden weekly donation of fresh produce for CDF Freedom Schools families

FINALE CELEBRATION

Southeast White House: "Bright, Brilliant, and Bold, Our Future is Gold"


Social Justice School: "Wakanda Forever"





NATIONAL DAY OF SOCIAL ACTION


NATIONAL DAY OF SOCIAL ACTION




FOOD *Justice*

CDF Freedom Schools in the District of Columbia will assemble at Pershing Park for a day of social action. We envision equitable food access and food choice at every corner in the district by offering a balanced diet for children, families, and those experiencing a health crisis, because food justice is environmental justice.

MY PLATE, MY CHOICE.

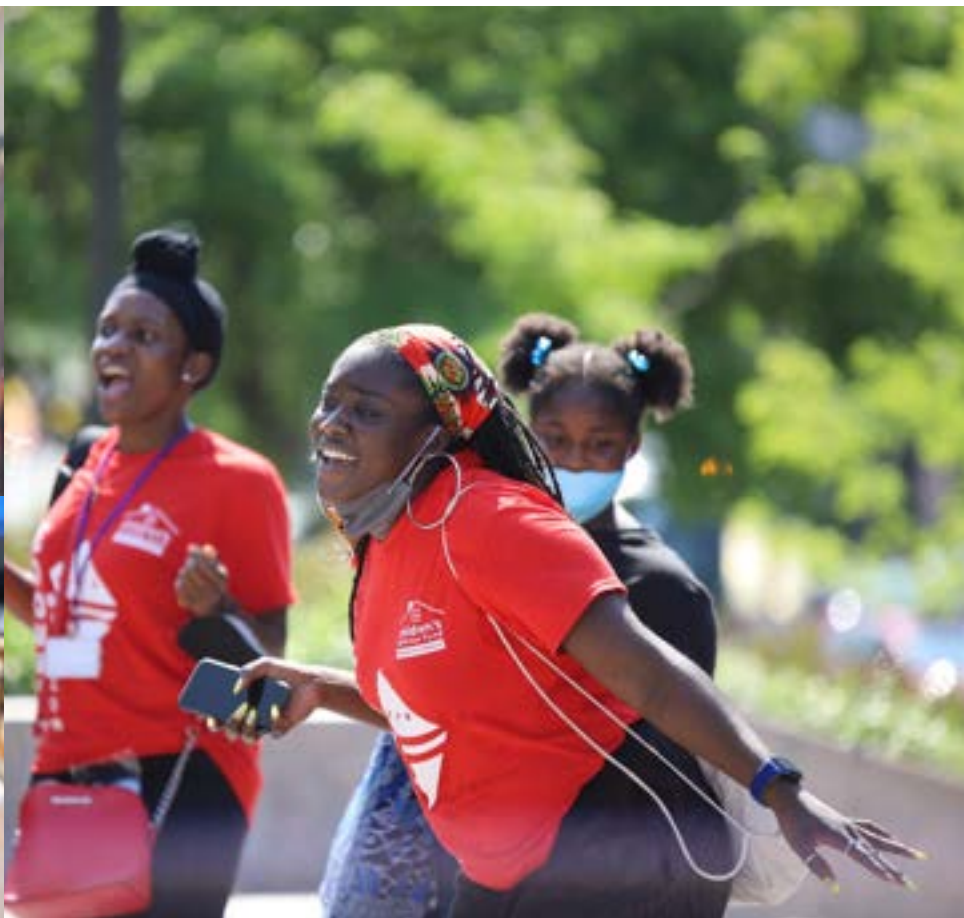


July 20, 2022
10am - 12pm



PERSHING PARK, WASHINGTON, DC 20045

Children's Defense Fund | National Center for Children and Families





WEEKLY DELIVERY FROM THE WASHINGTON YOUTH GARDEN





FINALE

CELEBRATION





PARENT & FAMILY

ENGAGEMENT

"Freedom Families"

Through our inaugural "Freedom Families" and Family Engagement services, we enhanced and uplifted whole families. We accompanied 70 scholars and their families through an empowering and culturally responsive curriculum. Organized around the theme, "I can make a difference," Freedom Families (crafted to honor the kinship care and villages that raise our scholars) were empowered to consider how caregivers, grandparents, mothers, uncles, and older siblings might support their scholars through literacy, social action, and a "Family Fun Day".

Building an Organizing Home

Throughout the Freedom Families campaign and programming, staff queried and supported families to name their gift and talents. Responses ranged from pride around family reading time and talking with neighbors to sharing information about the CDF Freedom Schools program. Staff documented each of these interests and intentionally provided opportunities for families to grow in leadership, including opportunities to speak publicly about the Child Tax Credit, apply for District of Columbia Boards and Commissions, and vote in the upcoming mayoral election. Each of these efforts work to establish CDF as an organizing home for Freedom Families.

15

average
meeting
attendance

100%

Family Fun Day
participation

50

Bookbags and
school supplies
donated to
families from
Freddie Mac





THANK YOU FOR BEING A VERY SPECIAL

READ ALOUD

GUEST & VOLUNTEER



Dr. Kristal Moore Clemons
Ciara Mackey-Hall
Andrew Jaime
Laura Trevino
Audrey Johnson

Bob Farrace
Loy Azalia
Dionne Wilson
Anna Masi
Lily Cuellarsola

Sheri Brady
Shamir Shahi
Keely Norris
Alessandra Yan
Eliana Rodriguez

La Tonja Ellis
Erica Fields
Dr. Yoonjung Park
Kindra Nicol
Beki San Martin



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to acknowledge the contributions of CDF staff, servant leaders, parents, partners, and national interns who worked tirelessly on the projects mentioned within.

Thank you: Rev. Dr. Starsky Wilson, Sheri Brady, Dr. Kristal Moore-Clemons, Kia Croom, Beatrice Dermer, Lori Washington, Julie Clover, Crystal Rucker, Andrew Jaime, Janet Canada, Pamela Branch, Michelle Henderson, La Tonja Ellis, and Divinity Pittman.

**District of Columbia
Children's Defense Fund
Freedom Schools Program
Contact: Joy Masha, Supervisor
jmasha@childrensdefense.org**

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF
CDF LOCAL PROGRAMS!**