



BEAT THE ODDS® AWARD ANNOUNCEMENT

In April 2003, the Children's Defense Fund will honor 5-6 graduating high school seniors who have beaten the odds and are creating successful lives. The accomplishments of these 6 graduates will be celebrated at the eighth annual **Beat The Odds® scholarship Luncheon**.

Last year's awardees received financial awards of more than **\$1000, plus other gifts and recognition**. Today, these outstanding young people are expanding their lives in exciting new directions.

Beat The Odds® is a national program started 11 years ago to celebrate the positive potential of our nation's youth. It is a celebration of the young people who are beating the odds despite daunting conditions and tremendous obstacles in the way of even small achievements.

Help us celebrate those who have beaten the odds by nominating students. Students should demonstrate the following:

- Academic excellence and personal achievement
- Improvement in their lives
- Strength and determination to accomplish their goals
- Involvement in improving the lives of others

Application forms are available online at www.cdfcinti.org. Please limit your recommendation to 2 students. **Applications are due DECEMBER 13, 2002**. Contact Susan Bolich at 513-751-2332 with any questions. Applications can be mailed to:

Children's Defense Fund
Student Selection Committee for Beat The Odds
Oak Professional Building
629 Oak St, Suite 400
Cincinnati, OH 45206

Thank you for your support and participation. We look forward to serving you and your students.

Sincerely,

Eileen Cooper Reed
Director/Advocate

Susan Bolich
Programs Associate

Beat The Odds® Scholarship Application

Children's Defense Fund Cincinnati

Deadline for Submission: Friday, December 13, 2002

A complete application **should** include:

Background cover sheet filled out in full (this sheet).

Signed Release/Media Release Form

Essay answering questions from the *How I Beat The Odds*® categories (activities, family, beating the odds, future, financial need). Limit length of each response to 2 paragraphs. Please be thorough and answer all questions to the best of your ability. Type or print legibly.

Memorandum of Understanding initialed

One page Letter of Recommendation from a school counselor, coach, principal, teacher, social worker, mentor, neighbor, or other adult nominating you for the award.

High School transcript

Please type or print the following:

Student Name

Social Security #

Home Address

Date of Birth

Sex

City, ST & Postal Code

Ethnicity

Home Phone and/or Email

Number in Family

School Name

School Address

School City, ST & Postal Code

G.P.A.

Nominator/School Contact and Title

School Phone

Principal's Signature

**Children's Defense Fund
Student Selection Committee for Beat The Odds®
Oak Professional Building
629 Oak Street, Suite 400
Cincinnati, Ohio 45206
Phone (513) 751-2332 Fax (513) 751-2003
www.cdfcinti.org**

Dear Student,

Over the next few weeks, we will be asked to present information on our Beat The Odds® celebration and the BTO recipients to various media sources. At this time, the Children's Defense Fund needs the bottom consent form to be signed by you. When signed, this consent form grants the Children's Defense Fund the right and authority to photograph, film, and/or record vocally all the recipients of the Beat The Odds® Scholarship/Award.

Signing this consent form allows the Children's Defense Fund the right to use the records (on photo, film, audio record, or written information) for promotional or publicity purposes and in mass media publications as well (meaning media sources such as The Cincinnati Enquirer, Kentucky Post, etc).

Of course, as with our Beat The Odds® videotaping, privacy will be highly regarded and respected. We assure you that the information provided to mass media sources will be sensitive and appropriate for the public to hear, read and see.

Thank you and good luck!

The Student Selection Committee

Release/Media Consent Form

I hereby grant to the Children's Defense Fund the right and authority to photograph, film, record vocally and/or use of written information submitted about:

_____ (student name)

These records and information may be used for promotional or publicity purposes and may be published in mass media publications, on Children's Defense Funds' Intranet or Internet sites, used in CDF promotions, or shown on television. The student's and family's name may be used. This release is effective until revoked in writing by the undersigned. Such revocation shall only be effective to prevent any expanded future use of the records.

Signed (student if 18, parent/guardian)

Witness (for authorization by phone)

Date

How I Beat the Odds®

Please limit your responses to 2 paragraphs for each category.

Activities: List your activities. In school? Out of school? Work? Community service or involvement?

Family: Describe your family background. Who do you live with? Do you have siblings?

Beating the Odds: Describe hardships that you have faced and/or a defining moment when you Beat the Odds. This can be a life-long situation or a one-time life changing occurrence.

Financial Need: Do you have financial needs? Please explain.

Future: What do you plan to do after high school?

Beat the Odds® Scholarship Application

Checklist

A complete application will be reviewed if the following items are included:

Student

- _____ Beat the Odds® Essay Questions answered
- _____ Beat the Odds® Media Release signed
- _____ Completed Application cover sheet
- _____ High School transcripts
- _____ Memorandum of Understanding points initialed (below)

Nominator

- _____ Letter of recommendation
- _____ Contact information

Memorandum of Understanding

Student: Please initial the bottom statements. By doing so, the Student Selection Committee and the Children's Defense Fund recognizes that you understand what the Beat the Odds® Scholarship is about and what we will ask of you if you are chosen to receive the Scholarship/Award. **Be sure to include this sheet with your application.**

_____ I understand that the Beat the Odds® Scholarship/Award is awarded to graduating High School Seniors (12th graders). I am a Senior, scheduled to graduate in 2003.

_____ I understand, in the tradition of the Beat the Odds® Celebration, that 'beating the odds' is to overcome such obstacles as homelessness, poverty, violence, substance abuse, abandonment and/or neglect.

_____ I understand, in the tradition of the Beat the Odds® Celebration, that 'beating the odds' is also to excel academically, personally and socially, to strengthen and determine goals for one's future and move toward those goals, and to be involved in the improvement of others' lives.

_____ Should I be awarded the Beat the Odds® Scholarship/Award, I understand that I will be asked to record my story of beating the odds on video tape, as provided by the Children's Defense Fund. I understand that this video will be presented at the Beat the Odds® Celebration. I also understand that parts of this video may be release to the media with or without my consent.

_____ Should I be awarded the Beat the Odds® Scholarship/Award, I understand that I'm required to attend the Beat the Odds® Celebration.