

April 18, 2013

Reverend David Cousins

Senior Pastor

Anglican Church of the Holy Trinity

171 East 10th Avenue

New York, NY 10003

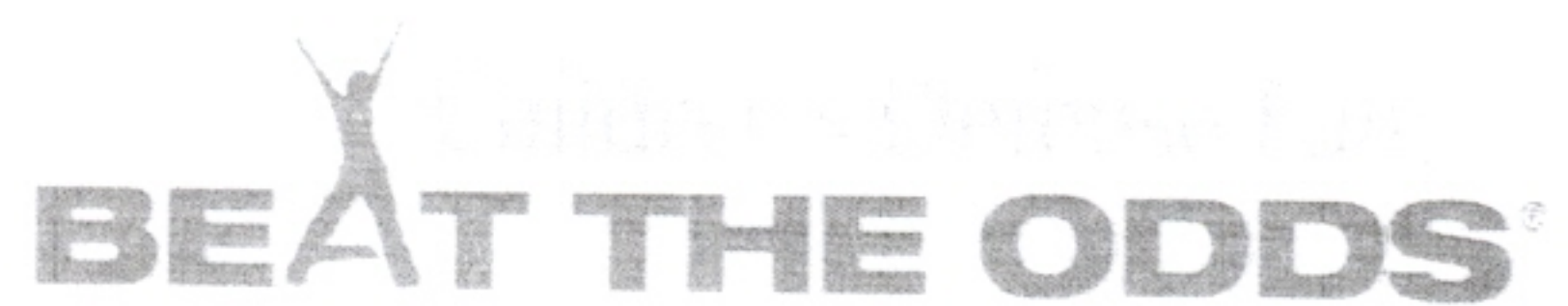
Dear Senior Pastor Cousins,

The Children's Defense Fund – New York (CDF-NY) is writing to solicit applications for the **2013 Beat the Odds® Scholarship**. CDF-NY will select five high school students who have overcome tremendous odds to become personally and academically successful and award each of them a \$10,000 scholarship for college and public recognition at an event in late **fall 2013**. Current high school juniors who are on track to graduate by **June 2014** are eligible to apply.

This scholarship was developed to celebrate and underscore the positive potential of our nation's youth. Tremendous obstacles stand in the way of even the smallest achievements for so many young people, and too seldom do we hear about those who are "beating the odds" despite the daunting conditions in which they live. The multiple challenges overcome by our past winners include family violence, foster care, poverty, hunger, homelessness, and loss of a parent. Yet, these remarkable young people succeeded by graduating from high school and attending college.

Please review the enclosed guidelines to assist in your selection. Our guidelines, application and list of Frequently Asked Questions can also be found on our website www.cdfny.org by following the hyperlink for Beat the Odds. We encourage you to nominate as many students as you believe represent the spirit of the scholarship and meet the eligible criteria. Applications (cover sheet, personal statement, school transcript and two recommendations letters) will only be accepted online and must be completed by **5:00 p.m. on Friday, June 14, 2013**. We understand that in some instances, it may not be possible to submit a transcript online and therefore will accept **the transcript only** either by mail or online. **NO FAXES PLEASE**. We are unable to accept late or incomplete applications, so please assist your nominees in assembling and returning their materials in a timely manner. An application will not be considered complete until it is submitted online and we have the student's transcript in hand. **Please note that our selection committee will choose the finalists by end of summer or early fall, and those students selected will need to be available for interviews in September or October.**

Thank you for your participation in this exciting awards program. If you have any questions or require more details, please email bto@cdfny.org. We look forward to receiving your nominations.



GUIDELINES

Children's Defense Fund – New York Beat the Odds® Scholarship

The Application Deadline is Friday, June 14, 2013

If you have any questions, please see our Frequently Asked Questions or email bto@cdfny.org.

ELIGIBILITY

Nominees for the CDF Beat the Odds Scholarship must meet the following criteria:

- Enrolled as a senior in the New York City public school system as of September 2013;
- Will graduate by June 2014;
- Following graduation, will attend college/university;
- Has overcome significant obstacles such as, but not limited to, poverty, disability, homelessness or abuse;
- Has achieved/maintained a grade point average showing marked effort, improvement or success;
- Participated in activities helpful to others such as volunteerism, or other forms of community involvement; and
- Will be available for meetings, photo shoots, interviews, and award ceremony if selected to receive the scholarship.

STUDENT STATEMENT

Each applicant must submit a personal statement explaining how he or she has overcome obstacles to succeed. The statement should also clearly indicate that the student meets the eligibility criteria listed above. **The student statement should be no less than one page and no more than two pages, typed in 12-point font and single-spaced.** Please assist your nominee in proof-reading his or her essay to ensure there are no typos or spelling or grammatical errors.

LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

Each applicant must submit **two** letters of recommendation that set forth how the student has overcome the obstacles in his or her life and succeeded; the length of time the writer has known the student; how the student has demonstrated leadership skills; and any additional personal achievements the student has attained. **Letters of recommendation should be no less than one page and no more than two pages in length, typed in 12-point font and single spaced.**

*One recommendation **must** be from a teacher, guidance counselor or other educator who can speak about the student both personally and academically.*

Educator Recommendation

If you are an educator yourself but do not feel you know the student well enough to write a detailed letter, please help the student choose another person at the school who is better suited. In addition to the items set forth in the previous paragraph, the educator recommendation should also discuss the student's academic record, noting, for example, if the student has shown significant effort or improvement or has consistently excelled despite obstacles to his or her education.

BEAT THE ODDS

CHILDREN'S DEFENSE FUND
NEW YORK

Children's Defense Fund
NEW YORK

15 Maiden Lane, Suite 1200 New York, NY 10038

212 697-2310

212 697-2366

Additional Recommendation

The second letter of recommendation should also be from a person who knows the student well. It may be from a teacher or from any other individual the student chooses—for example, a coach, mentor, internship supervisor, clergy member or friend. Applicants may **not** submit letters of recommendation written by family members or relatives.

SCHOOL TRANSCRIPTS

Each applicant must submit a copy of a **complete** transcript from every high school attended, up to and including the most recent semester completed.