

## About CDF

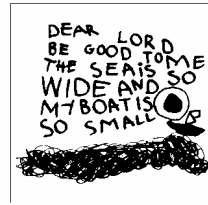
The mission of the Children's Defense Fund (CDF) is to Leave No Child Behind and to ensure every child a Healthy Start, a Head Start, a Fair Start, a Safe Start, and a Moral Start in life and successful passage into adulthood with the help of caring families and communities.



CDF provides a strong effective voice for all the children of America who cannot vote, lobby, or speak for themselves. We pay particular attention to the needs of poor and minority children and those with disabilities. CDF educates the nation about the needs of children and encourages preventative investment before they get sick or into trouble, drop out of school, or suffer family breakdown. CDF began in 1973 and is a private, nonprofit organization supported by foundations, corporation grants and individual donations. We have never taken government funds.

It's time for greatness -- not for greed. It's a time for idealism -- not ideology. It is a time not just for compassionate words, but compassionate action.

- Marian Wright Edelman



Children's Defense Fund®

Children's Defense Fund  
[www.childrensdefense.org](http://www.childrensdefense.org)  
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### National Office

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### CDF State Offices with SPROUT/SHOUT

CDF California, 510-663-3224, [www.cdfca.org](http://www.cdfca.org)  
CDF Louisiana, (225) 925-2659  
CDF Minnesota, (651) 855-1183, [www.cdf-mn.org](http://www.cdf-mn.org)  
CDF Mississippi, (601) 355-1213  
CDF New York, (212) 697-2323, [www.cdfny.org](http://www.cdfny.org)  
CDF Ohio, Columbus, (614) 221-2244, [www.cdfohio.org](http://www.cdfohio.org)  
CDF Ohio, Cincinnati, (513) 751-2332, [www.cdfcinti.org](http://www.cdfcinti.org)  
CDF Texas, Austin, (512) 480-0990, [www.cdf-texas.org](http://www.cdf-texas.org)  
CDF Texas, Rio Grande Valley, (956) 782-4000  
CDF Tennessee, (865) 457-6466, [www.haleyfarm.org](http://www.haleyfarm.org)

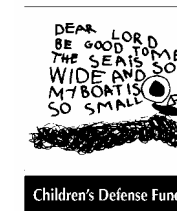
### Partnership with SPROUT

National Student Partnerships, (202) 289-1151  
[www.nspnet.org](http://www.nspnet.org)



Student Poverty Reduction Outreach Program

Working to  
improve the lives of  
children.



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800-CDF-1200  
[www.childrensdefense.org](http://www.childrensdefense.org)

## About SPROUT

### SPROUT:

- the **Student Poverty Reduction OUTreach** program is a student run program of the Children's Defense Fund that involves students in a national campaign to educate families about benefit programs that include EITC (Earned Income Tax Credit) and food stamps.

### Background:

SPROUT is modeled after, and builds on the success of CDF's SHOUT (Student Health Outreach) program. SHOUT originated in 1998 and involves students in a national campaign to educate families about the availability of free and low-cost health insurance and to help those who are eligible and uninsured enroll in the program. As an expansion of SHOUT, SPROUT organizes students to help families receive health insurance as well as other critical benefits that can lift families out of poverty. These benefit programs include CHIP (Children's Health Insurance Program), Medicaid, EITC (Earned Income Tax Credit), CTC Child Tax Credit, and food stamps.

### Why SPROUT?

Government benefits can provide important support to families and there is startling evidence that eligible low-income families are not taking advantage of these programs. Reasons for this include the following:

- Often families do not know about benefits and credits
- Families may not know that they are eligible for such benefits.
- Working families may not know how or where to apply to receive them, and/or cannot take hours away from work to apply.

### SPROUT in Action:

SPROUT participants work with partnering organizations and community members to flyer a community center or organize a free tax preparation day in a local church.

## Goals

- I. To alert and educate students, community members, and community-based organizations about the crisis of poverty in working families in the U.S.
- II. To inspire and mobilize students to reach out to impoverished children and families in their communities who are potentially eligible for government benefits, such as Food Stamps, the Children's Health Insurance Program, and the Child Tax Credit.
- III. To link eligible children and families to enrollment for government benefits which provide critical support for their everyday, basic needs.

## Top 5 Reasons To Become a SPROUT Volunteer

- 1) To get the word out to hard-to-reach families.
- 2) To lift families out of poverty.
- 3) To boost the local economy.
- 4) To be a leader in your community.
- 5) To make a difference in an outreach that reaps tangible results!

## How to start a SPROUT project

### Starting a SPROUT project is simple!

Contact CDF at 800-CDF-1200

or

[www.childrensdefense.org](http://www.childrensdefense.org)

for more information.

*Call and learn how to make a significant difference in your local community while developing skills to become an advocate and join CDF's Movement To Leave No Child Behind.*



## Quick Facts

- There are about 12 million children living in poverty in the United States today.
- Every 41 seconds a baby is born into poverty
- Every 59 seconds a baby is born without health insurance.
- There are approximately 9.2 million uninsured children in the United States today.

Source: An Action Guide: "What You Need to Know and Do to Truly Leave No Child Behind," 2003