



## ESTATE TAX – Call your Senators and Thank Them!

Please call Senators Schumer and Clinton to thank them for voting "NO" on H.R. 5970, which would have slashed the estate tax by \$750 billion over 10 years.

Tell them:

"Thank you for voting NO on H.R. 5790, the cynical ploy to slash the estate tax. Please continue to fight for a vote on a minimum wage. America's lowest-income working families who have not had an increase in their wages since 1997 are long overdue for a raise."

Senator Schumer: (202) 224-6542

Senator Clinton: (202) 224-4451

## Children's Defense Fund Freedom Schools<sup>SM</sup> Students Share Their Summer's Work

This summer, more than 850 youth in the New York area participated in the *CDF Freedom Schools* Summer Program.

CDF Freedom Schools is a partnership between the Children's Defense Fund and local community organizations, churches, universities and schools to provide literacy-rich summer and after-school programs.



The *CDF Freedom Schools* summer program serves children 5 to 18 years old for five to eight weeks, and integrates reading, conflict resolution and social action in an activity-based curriculum that promotes social, cultural and historical awareness. In summer 2006, there were *CDF Freedom Schools* programs in 49 cities and 25 states serving approximately 7,000 children.

*CDF Freedom Schools* program is proudly rooted in the American Civil Rights Movement. Reborn in 1993, today's *CDF Freedom Schools* model draws on the experience of the "Mississippi Freedom Summer Project" of 1964.

*CDF Freedom Schools* programs are staffed primarily by college-age adults who are committed to making life better for

children. They serve as positive role models for the participants. This year, there were 12 Freedom School sites in and around New York City which served scholars from first grade to high school.



Each site worked tirelessly to connect their respective communities as well as the parents of the scholars to the literacy component of the program through inviting parents and community

members to serve as read-aloud guests and Freedom School volunteers. *Say Yes To Education at Teacher's College*,

sponsored five elementary level Freedom School sites in East and West Harlem. *United Way of New York* funded *CASES* and *Uth Turn* to conduct three sites which served middle and high school scholars.



St. Ann's Church in the Bronx and Grace Baptist Church in Mt. Vernon sponsored elementary to high school level sites. And *Inwood House's Youth for Real* after-school and summer program sponsored two sites in the Bronx that served youth ranging in ages from 6 to 16.

On Wednesday, August 9, 2006, the *Say Yes to Education* CDF Freedom School Site at P.S. 57 in East Harlem showcased all of the hard work they did this summer in a finale presentation for family members and the community. The program allowed the scholars to display the different talents they cultivated during the afternoon activities portion of their summer program through the sharing of music, athletic accomplishments,



Aztec dance, salsa, the visual arts and an opera. Students were excited to speak about the books they read over the past five weeks and shared their dreams for the future.

This program is a shining example of the special work that summer programs and after-school programs do to enrich the education that they get at school every day and expand their horizons. On

Thursday, the United Way of New York City's three sites held their finale celebration jointly at Washington Irving High School. It too was an inspiring evening where the youth scholars performed step, dance, skits, poetry, video, song and displayed their summer work. They shared each site's social action projects that focused on topics important to the older scholars, such as how the Community Prep High School scholars have experienced the "cradle to prison pipeline" and want to end it. The theme of PS 371's "Fatherless but not Hopeless" after surveying their participants and discovering that 93 percent were being raised by a single parent; and the theme of MS 172 project also focused on the "cradle to prison pipeline" and the importance of "investing in education instead of incarceration."

---

## CDF-NY Intern Featured in *Crain's New York Business*



Ripa Ajmera, an intern at CDF-NY, was featured in *Crain's New York Business*, in an article entitled "Internships Get Serious; Posts Now as Vital as Course Work and Grades". Ajmera had previously interned at an equity and fixed-income research dot-com on Wall Street, and upset with her

experience, she sought out CDF-NY this summer to learn about nonprofit work. She hopes to apply her business skills to make a difference. "This will give me the means to get me where I want to go," said Ajmera. The article further discussed the importance of an internship for those individual's who are attending college.

---

## NEW RESOURCE: Brief on State Variations in the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Program

Considerable differences in state TANF programs are summarized in "Getting on, Staying On, and Getting Off Welfare: The Complexity of State-by-State Policy Choices" written by Gretchen Rowe and Linda Giannarelli and released by the Urban Institute. Among state variations summarized, some of the areas discussed include: minimum hourly work requirements, the obligation of looking for a job while applying to TANF and how benefits can be affected if TANF rules are not met. To read the brief in full, please go to: <http://www.urban.org/publications/311349.html>.

---

## SAVE THE DATE

---

### How Can We Afford to Educate Our Kids? – A Workshop

**When:** Tuesday, August 15, 2006, 6-9 p.m.

**Where:** 220 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor between 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> Streets

**What:** A Workshop designed to teach parents, educators and

community residents to make effective presentations on the present system of funding out schools – so that we can all be more effective advocates for reform. Far too many students in our area – urban, rural and suburban – attend aging schools with large classes, or that don't have the up-to-date books, science labs, libraries, and computers necessary to help kids prepare for 21<sup>st</sup> century jobs. The Legislature and the Governor have not complied with the Campaign for Fiscal Equity court decision, which has the potential to result in billion of additional dollars for schools statewide. To win, we need to become effective messengers for reform. No charge for the workshop, refreshments served. To register, contact April Humphrey at (718) 222-1089 or at [nycinfo@aqeny.org](mailto:nycinfo@aqeny.org).

### Annual Baby Justice Day held by UpRose Youth Justice

**When:** August 16, 2006

**Where:** UpRose; 166A 22<sup>nd</sup> Street, Brooklyn (between 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Avenues)

**What:** Storytelling, face painting, arts & crafts, movies, games and gentle lessons about peace and justice for children ages 4 through 9! Also, children will be able to paint seedlings and contribute to the peace mural. **Call to Register:** (718) 492-9307 - Space is limited!

### Free Gates Millennium Scholars Preparatory Clinic

**Where:** New York Marriott Marquis, NYC

**When:** September 6, 2006, 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

**Application Deadline:** Register by August 25, 2006

**What:** Free preparation for TRIO program staff to learn how to help students apply for the Gates Millennium Scholarship. Register at <http://fs3.formsite.com/coecoecoeco/form701044956/index.html?982718045>. Separate registration is necessary for each participant.

### 5th Annual Youth Views Institute

**Where:** Project Reach in New York City

**When:** November 3-5, 2006

**Application Deadline:** September 1, 2006, 5 p.m.

**What:** The Youth Views Institute will bring together 20 young community leaders, ages 16-20, from around the country to offer training in how to integrate independent documentaries with their community work, and create a rare chance to network with other young people working in their communities. The Youth Views Institute uses non-fiction storytelling as a tool for creating positive social change, focuses on emerging and young leaders and will feature workshops on critical thinking and media literacy skills pertaining to independent and commercial media, diversity training and community organizing, including crafting a vision for working with media, outreach methods and event planning and promotion. Applications, a fact sheet and feedback from past participants are available at [www.pov.org/youthviews](http://www.pov.org/youthviews). Young people from all communities can apply. The deadline is September 1, 2006, 5 p.m. to Irene Villaseñor, Youth Views Manager P.O.V./American Documentary, Inc.