



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**December 3, 2013**

**Contact:** Beth Powers  
212-697-2323 Ext. 209/epowers@cdfny.org

## **PRESS ADVISORY**

**PRESS EVENT, 10 AM, December 5, 2013**

### **Juvenile Justice Reform Leaders to Discuss First Year Results: The Close to Home Initiative**

**New York, NY** – The Children's Defense Fund will hold a briefing at **10:00 a.m.** on **Thursday, December 5, 2013** to present critical feedback from juvenile justice advocates and government officials on the first year implementation of the massive restructuring of New York's juvenile justice system – The Close to Home Initiative. The event will be held at 25 W.18<sup>th</sup> Street New York, NY 10011 (SEIU 32 BJ) and is open to press and other interested organizations.

For many years, New York City youth- the majority of whom were children and teens of color -were sent far away from home to facilities in upstate New York where it was difficult and costly to remain connected with family members and where there was no guarantee that their academic credits would be counted when they returned home. These facilities were justly criticized for the poor treatment of youth and high recidivism rates of youth once they returned to the community. The Close to Home Initiative changed this reality for most NYC youth affected by the juvenile justice system. The majority of New York City youth are now housed within the city in small therapeutic home-like settings. On December 5th, juvenile justice experts will discuss how the Close to Home Initiative has affected young people and communities in New York City over the first year of implementation and expectations for the roll out of the next phase of implementation.

**When:** 10:00 a.m., Thursday, December 5, 2013

**Where:** 25 W. 18th Street New York, NY 10011 (SEIU 32 BJ), 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Auditorium Room D

**Who:** Featuring experts in juvenile justice

- **Beth Powers**, Children's Defense Fund – New York, Senior Juvenile Justice Policy Associate
- **Raye Barbieri**, NYC Administration for Children's Services Department of Youth and Family Justice, Deputy Commissioner
- **Tamara Steckler**, Legal Aid Society Juvenile Rights Practice, Attorney in Charge
- **Tim Lisante** Department of Education, Superintendent
- **Ruben Austria**, Community Connections for Youth, Founder and Executive Director
- **Denise Hinds**, Good Shepherd Services, Associate Executive Director

###