



McDonald's® 365Black Awards 2007 Recipients Bios

Marian Wright Edelman, Founder and President, Children's Defense Fund



Marian Wright Edelman, Founder and President of the Children's Defense Fund (CDF), has been an advocate for disadvantaged Americans throughout her professional career.

Edelman founded CDF in 1973, an extension of her stellar career in public interest law. The CDF Freedom Schools™ program is the 2007 Essence Music Festival charity of choice and builds confidence and hope in children, youth and young adults left behind in lives interrupted by crises of poverty and disaster across the nation. In 2006, CDF Freedom Schools served over 7,000 children in 49 cities and 23 states, including over 1,000 children in Louisiana and Mississippi affected by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

Under Edelman's leadership, CDF has become the nation's strongest voice for children and families. Her contributions make her a legendary leader.

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