

TENNESSEE COMMISSION ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH
Children's Advocacy Days '07

LOOKING FORWARD...



... TO A NEW FUTURE

The Class of '25

March 13-14, 2007
War Memorial Auditorium
Nashville, Tennessee

ABOUT Children's Advocacy Days '07

Many children born during 2007 should graduate from high school in 2025. Therefore, the theme of Children's Advocacy Days 2007 is "Class of 2025: Looking Forward to a New Future." Tennessee Children's Advocacy Days 2007 will provide a forum for those working with, and on behalf of, children and families across the state to gain new information that will facilitate their efforts to improve the health and well-being of children and families in their communities. The conference, through key speakers and networking, is intended to:

- ◆ Promote greater knowledge and understanding of current issues confronting children and their families in Tennessee.
- ◆ Provide an opportunity for participants to become more effective advocates for children both in the public policy arena and in their communities.
- ◆ Provide an opportunity for participants to interact with Tennessee legislators on critical children's issues.
- ◆ Provide an opportunity to hear perspectives on children's issues and financing children's services.

DISTINGUISHED Speakers



Governor Phil Bredesen took office as Tennessee's 48th governor on January 18, 2003. Bredesen begins his second term as Governor with a focus on raising high school and college graduation rates, boosting the economies of Tennessee's smaller and mid-sized communities, strengthening public education at every level and promoting access to health care and healthier lifestyles for all citizens, especially young Tennesseans.

Bredesen set clear priorities for the state, beginning with Tennessee's number one priority - education. He raised teacher pay above the Southeastern average and expanded the state's pilot Pre-K initiative into a program for four year olds across the state. He also created the Governor's Books from Birth Foundation, a statewide expansion of Dolly Parton's Imagination Library that offers children free books monthly in all 95 counties.



Marian Wright Edelman, Founder and President of the Children's Defense Fund (CDF), has been an advocate for disadvantaged Americans for her entire professional life. Under her leadership, CDF has become the nation's strongest voice for children and families. The mission of the Children's Defense Fund 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 to adulthood with the help of caring families and communities.

Mrs. Edelman, a graduate of Spelman College and Yale Law School, began her career in the mid-60s when, as the first black woman admitted to the Mississippi Bar, she directed the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund office in Jackson, Mississippi. In 1968, she moved to Washington, D.C., as counsel for the Poor People's Campaign that Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. began organizing before his death. She founded the Washington Research Project, a public interest law firm and the parent body of the Children's Defense Fund. For two years she served as the Director of the Center for Law and Education at Harvard University and in 1973 began CDF.



Harold Ford, Jr. was elected to Congress in 1996. He was re-elected four times by an average of 80% of the vote and enjoys a reputation as a consensus builder. In 1998, Ford was 28 years old when he cast his vote for the first federal balanced budget- the first time America's budget had been balanced since 1969. He has played pivotal roles in advancing legislation to reform the nation's campaign finance laws, to crack down on corporate cheaters by strengthening corporate governance laws, to encourage more Americans to serve their country and to raise standards in public education.



Reverend Edwin Sanders is the Senior Servant and Founder of the Metropolitan Interdenominational Church, a congregation that has attracted a broad cross-section of people. Metropolitan has outreach ministries in the areas of substance abuse, advocacy for children, sexual violence, and harm reduction, in addition to providing services to persons infected with, and affected by, HIV/AIDS through the First Response Center, which Rev. Sanders founded in 1992.

Rev. Sanders received the Bachelor of Arts Degree in Anthropology from Wesleyan University in Middletown, Connecticut. He has done graduate study at Yale University Divinity School and as a special student at Vanderbilt University Divinity School. The opportunity to travel extensively throughout Europe and Africa was afforded Rev. Sanders as one of the first fellows of the Thomas J. Watson Foundation.

TUESDAY March 13

- 9:00-10:30 a.m. **Registration**
- 10:30 a.m. **Welcome and Opening Remarks**
Cindy Durham, TCCY Chair
- 10:45 a.m. **Challenge to Participants**
Reverend Edwin Sanders
Metropolitan Interdenominational Church - Nashville, TN
- 11:15 a.m. **Advocacy 101 and Legislative Update**
Linda O'Neal, TCCY Executive Director
- 11:30 a.m. **Luncheon and Advocacy Opportunities**
- 1:00 p.m. **State Child-Serving Department Updates - Invited**
Commissioner Viola Miller, Department of Children's Services
Commissioner Virginia Lodge, Department of Human Services
Dr. Andrea Willis, CoverKids
Assistant Commissioner Theresa Lindsey, Department of Health
Connie Givens, Department of Education - Coordinated School Health
Assistant Commissioner Dr. Frieda Outlaw, Department of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities
Deputy Commissioner Tom Catron, Governor's Office of Children's Care Coordination
- 3:45 p.m. **Harold Ford, Jr. (Invited)**

LEGISLATIVE Reception

- 5:00-7:00 p.m. **WAR MEMORIAL AUDITORIUM**
301 6th Avenue North
Nashville, Tennessee
Open to ALL Conference Participants

WEDNESDAY March 14

- 7:30 a.m. **Continental Breakfast and Networking**
- 8:30 a.m. **Reconvene and Opening Remarks**
Cindy Durham - TCCY Chair
- 9:00 a.m. **Governor Phil Bredesen**
- Presentation of Awards**
Jim Pryor Child Advocate of the Year
Youth Excellence Award
Making KIDS Count Media Awards
- 9:30 a.m. **Marian Wright Edelman**
Founder and President of the Children's Defense Fund
- 10:45 a.m. **Federal Advocacy Information**
- 12:00 p.m. **Adjourn**
- Advocacy Opportunities**
Visits with Legislators and Networking with other Councils
House of Representatives Floor Session
Senate Floor Session

Due to schedule conflicts and committee meetings, the schedule and speakers are subject to change.
All registered participants will receive a finalized agenda via email prior to the event. The finalized agenda will also be posted on our website
at www.tennessee.gov/tccy

REGISTRATION

Children's Advocacy Days 2007 is open to everyone and there is NO fee for the event.

However, in order to be eligible for meals and handouts, TCCY must receive the following completed registration form by Friday, March 9, 2007.

Name: _____ Title: _____

Organization: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Email Address: _____

Please check your attendance plans:

- I plan to attend on Tuesday, March 13, 2007.
- I plan to eat lunch on Tuesday, March 13, 2007
- I plan to attend on Wednesday, March 14, 2007.
- I plan to eat breakfast on Wednesday, March 14, 2007
- I plan to attend the Legislative Reception.

RETURN OR FAX REGISTRATION TO:

Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth
Andrew Johnson Tower, 9th Floor
710 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, Tennessee 37243-0800
615-741-2633
FAX: 615-741-5956

OR PROVIDE ALL OF THE ABOVE INFORMATION IN AN EMAIL TO:

norma.tolliver@state.tn.us

IMPORTANT NOTE

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DIRECTIONS

The War Memorial Building is located at 7th Avenue North and Charlotte Avenue adjacent to the capitol and Legislative Plaza in downtown Nashville. For additional directions contact TCCY at 615-741-2633 or 1-800-264-0904.

PARKING

Pay parking is available at the Nashville Public Library and a number of Central Parking Service surface lots on 6th, 7th and 8th Avenues North, and on Church Street. For additional downtown parking information please link to <http://www.tpac.org/visifing/directions.asp> and look under "other downtown parking."