



Children's Defense Fund

FAX COVER SHEET

CDF DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

TO: Rosalyn Miller

FROM: MT Murphy

NUMBER OF PAGES (including this page): 2

FAX # SENT TO: 450-2878

DATE: 4/15/94

TIME: 3:50

COMMENTS: _____

CDF Development Office Fax Number • (202) 662-3570
For Transmittal Problems, Please Contact (202) 662-3683

MEMORANDUM

TO: Rosalyn Miller

FR: M.J. Murphy

DT: April 15, 1994

RE: Beat The Odds Honorees and guests attending the luncheon on the 21st

NAME

BIRTHDATE

✓ Lonnie Crowder

✓ Carmen L. Dixon (Lonnie's mother)

✓ LaToya Ann Davis

✓ Evelyne Clark (LaToya's grandmother)

✓ Sean Fleming

✓ Anne R. Harding (Sean's English teacher)

✓ Christina Green

✓ Robert Green (Christina's father)

✓ Shaquita Parker (unable to contact, in Michigan)

Fernando Pereira ✓

David Domenici ✓

P6/b(6)

When you have a chance please give a call to let me know where these people should report on Thursday. My phone number is 662-3531. Thanks.

✓ M.J. Murphy
 ✓ Bitsey Folger > CDF

✓ Elene Watkins David Watkins ✓

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Shagunta Parker

P6/b(6)

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 15, 1994

MEMORANDUM FOR DPC PROGRAM STAFF

FROM: Rosalyn Miller *RAM*
SUBJECT: Reception Invitation

The DPC will host a reception honoring the six kids who were recently recognized by the Children's Defense Fund at the "Beat the Odds" Luncheon. You are invited to attend this reception to be held on Thursday, April 21, 1:15-2:15p.m. in OEOB 211.

For your information, a bio for each of these kids is attached.

Please RSVP by calling x62216 or 3-mail MILLER_RA.

Thanks.

Group Honors Six D.C. Teens Who Had to Grow Up Early

Tough Neighborhoods, Addicted Parents Were Among Obstacles

By DeNeen L. Brown
Washington Post Staff Writer

They were children without a childhood, carrying the burdens of adults: cooking, cleaning, rearing younger siblings and growing up fast, too fast.

"At the age of 5, I took care of myself. I literally learned how to cook and clean and change diapers before I learned my ABCs," said Lonnie Crowder, 17, a senior at Cardozo Senior High School.

"I've been turned out of my home . . . no clothes . . . no food . . . no school. I had to move in with a mentor because of the problems my mother was facing: alcoholism and drug addiction. At the age of 14, I had to get a job."

"No child should have to do that."

But Crowder and five other D.C. high school seniors did what most children don't have to do. And despite the odds, they survived.

Yesterday, they were honored by the Children's Defense Fund's D.C. office, which began its Beat the Odds award program in 1990. Each was awarded a \$1,000 scholarship, a personal computer, a \$200 shopping trip and a summer job. The winners were chosen from nominations by guidance counselors at each D.C. public high school.

"No child in the District of Columbia should be left behind," said Marian Wright Edelman, founder and president of the Children's Defense Fund, a national nonprofit advocacy group. "It is our pleasure to reward ourselves that most young people do want to make it. Most young people do want to beat the odds."

During the two-hour tribute, the students' stories were told to the luncheon crowd at the Capital Hilton downtown.

By the time she was 17, LaToya Davis had battled and won against poverty, homelessness, neglect and crime on the street.

"First," said the small girl with a head full of long curls, "my mother was a drug addict. We had financial challenges. Sometimes I had to go to school with dirty clothes. Sometimes my brother and I didn't eat."

Then she said, "That was the easy part. Because as I got older, I needed support and I didn't get it."

Davis, who said her family was homeless for four months, said she knew her only way out was to go to school.

She still lives with her mother in the Stanton Terrace apartment in Southeast Washington, and she has a grade-point average of 3.3 out of 4.0 in her senior year at Anacostia High School.

Shaquita Parker, 17, now a senior at McKinley-Peab Senior High School, said that only when she was at school could she act as a child.

When she was 10, her mother was found to have a rare heart disease that was triggered by a drug addiction.

"I had to take care and raise my brother, sister and myself," she said. "From 10 to 13, I cooked, cleaned, washed clothes, did their hair. . . . A lot of my friends didn't have to deal with what I had to do."

She has been taken in by a mentor and has not lived with her mother for six years. "But," she said, "I love her anyway."

Parker, who wants one day to be a partner in a law firm, has a grade-point average of 4.8 on a scale of 4.0 and is commander of the Unarmed Drill Team and third in command of the Naval Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps unit at her school.

Sean Fleming, 17, a captain at McKinley who is the student government president and Cadet Corps Brigade Commander of the school's ROTC program, said his main challenge has been surviving his Anacostia neighborhood.

"I've seen a lot of violence," he said. "Most of my friends I grew up with are either dead or doing illegal things."

"I had a father, but I've never had a dad. I feel like I had to figure out a lot of things on my own about being a man."

Fleming wants to be a lawyer and the first black commander of the Marine Corps, and he carried a 4.25 grade-point average last quarter. As his mother looked on, he said in an interview that the difference between him and the boys on the streets is that "I had a mom who took care of me. I never had to fend for myself. She told me I had a lot to offer; I should always be proud."

Fernando Pereira, 18, a senior at Bell Multicultural High School, came to the United States from El Salvador when he was 14. For a short while, he lived with his sister, nephew and two other people in a two-bedroom apartment.

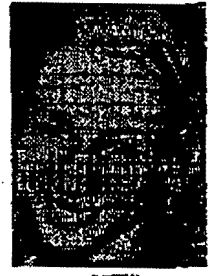
By age 15, Pereira was on his own. To live, he worked 40 hours a week clearing restaurant tables and washing dishes. After working until 1 or 2 in the morning, he did his homework before catching a few hours of sleep.

He no longer has to work and now maintains an A average.

Ten years ago, Christina Green's father was sent to prison, and Christina was sent to live with her grandparents in Delaware.



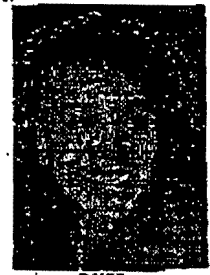
CROWDER



GREEN



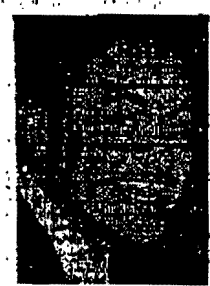
PARKER



DAVIS



FLEMING



PEREIRA

At age 12, she decided to move back to the District and find her mother. "I wanted to be with my mother. I think every child wants to be with their mother," she said yesterday.

With her mother, Green ended up living in shelters for the homeless, then in the basement of a crack house on Quackenbos Street NW. "That's where we lived," she said matter-of-factly.

Green said she has seen her mother battered; she has seen men and women abuse drugs. "I've seen how they act when they can't get it," she said. "A child should not have to go through that."

"I've been very down. Then one day, I woke up and I said I don't want to be like them. I was determined to make something of my life," said Green, now 18 and a senior at Spingarn High School. Among those in the audience was her father.

She said that when she gets older, she wants to be an elementary school teacher and open a shelter for children.

6 kids + 6
Deene, Mrs. Miriam of CDF, Cheryl
+ David Watkins

JAN-27-1994 03:46 FROM

TO

94562878 P.03

Lonnie Lopraie Crowder

Age 17

Cardozo Senior High School

Lonnie's Home Address

P6/b(6)

**Nominated by: Ms. Carolyn Milam
Counselor, Cardozo Senior High School
202/673-7383**

Lonnie Crowder is a young man who is not afraid to confront life's trials and tribulations. He remembers himself as an unsociable child with no sense of hope for the future. He remembers teachers and friends telling him he would never make it, saying he would probably become another statistic, dead of drug abuse or suicide. As Lonnie grew up, he rarely felt any love, affection, care or kindness from the adults in his life. His parents both struggled with their own challenges and Lonnie was forced to learn how to cook, clean, and change a baby before he could even say the alphabet. There were many days when Lonnie just felt like giving up on life, many days where the bad seemed to outweigh the good in his world.

Instead of giving into his feelings of hopelessness, Lonnie pushed himself to build towards the future. He now has a resume filled with accolades, honors, achievement awards and exciting activities. In 1992, Lonnie traveled to Israel as part of the Youth Ambassador Program. He received recognition for his outstanding academics and is a member of Cardoza's Computer club, Drama club and English club. Lonnie was recognized at Cardoza High School when classmates overwhelmingly elected him to become their senior class president. Lonnie has proven that he has what it takes to beat the odds and remain on top.

JAN-27-1994 03:47 FROM

TO

94562878 P.04

LaToya Ann Davis**Age 17****Anacostia Senior High School****LaToya's Home Address**

P6/b(6)

**Nominated by: Juanita J. Jordan
Counselor, Anacostia Senior High School
202/767-7041**

LaToya has experienced more personal hardship at a young age than any person should experience over a lifetime: poverty, homelessness, and neglect. In addition to living in a family struggling with drug abuse, LaToya's family moved often which meant she attended no less than five schools between kindergarten and sixth grade. Periodically, LaToya lived with other relatives and her brother was sent to live in another state. She has little contact with her father.

Despite these difficult circumstances, seventeen-year-old LaToya is determined to attend college so she can study computers or health. An honor roll student at Anacostia Senior High School, she keeps busy as president of the Key Club, captain of the women's volleyball team, volunteer for Special Olympics, member of Project SOAR, tutor for elementary school students, and many other worthwhile projects.

JAN-27-1994 03:47 FROM

TO

94562878 P.05

Sean Fleming

Age 17

McKinley High School

Sean's Home Address

P6/b(6)

Nominated by: David Domenici
Director, DCWorks
202/663-6506

Sean is a remarkable young man. The McKinley High School senior is a leader inside and outside the classroom as Student Government President, track team member, Junior Fraternity/Sorority Vice-President and Cadet Corps Brigade Commander, an honor which makes him most proud. He is the highest ranking student officer in the city. Sean earned a 4.25 grade point average last quarter and looks forward to attending college. His goal is to become the first Black Commander of the United States Marine Corps as well as a corporate lawyer.

The violence and personal tragedies in Sean's life could have deterred him were it not for his courageous mother. He attributes his success for having something most people do not: A mother who is his driving force. According to Sean, "She instilled in me the first weapon that I would ever need to fight my way out: knowledge." Sean's chronically ill mother who is raising three children, keeps him moving onward and upward.

JAN-27-1994 03:47 FROM

TO

94562878 P.06

Christina Green

Age 18

Spingarn Senior High School

Christina's Home Address

P6/b(6)

Nominated by: Mrs. Carolyn R. Murray
Scholarship Coordinator, Spingarn Senior High School
202/724-4525

Although she has just reached the gateway of adulthood, Christina Green has already survived a nightmarish journey of despairing circumstances. When Christina was eight years old, her father was sent to prison. She was sent to live with her grandparents in Delaware, but life proved too difficult under their roof because her grandmother worked full-time and her grandfather needed constant care for his paralysis. Christina decided she had to escape the situation and set out to find her mother. After three years of separation, Christina found her mother living homeless in Washington, D.C. Even though she knew she would not have a home, Christina decided to move back to Washington D.C. to be with her mother.

After living in shelters, and even being forced to sleep in the basement of a crack house, Christina has finally found a stable home with her father who was released from prison two years ago. She has begun to put her life into the kind of order she always wanted. Now a senior at Spingarn High School, Christina serves as the corresponding secretary to the Student Government Association, and as the senior class representative on the Key Club. She explains that school has provided her with an extended family of nurturing friends. She's has forged a new path towards excellence on her journey and feels that finally, "the scars are healing."

Shaquita Parker

Age 17

McKinley High School

Shaquita's Home Address

P6/b(6)

Nominated by: David Domentici
Director, DCWorks
202/663-6506

Shaquita Parker has prevailed against many challenges in life to become a true leader. She moved to Washington D.C. when she was seven years old and describes the move as one of the most difficult times in her life. The children at her new school were extremely cruel and ruthless in their treatment of the new girl in town. When Shaquita was 10 years old, her drug-addicted mother was diagnosed with a severe form of heart disease. Shaquita felt abandoned and alone, but she managed to take charge of her younger siblings and began cooking, cleaning and raising the family.

Although she was over-burdened with responsibility at home, Shaquita still sought to develop her personal potential to the fullest. She is now the senior class Sergeant-at-Arms, Commander of the Unarmed Drill Team, and third in command of the Naval Junior Reserve Officer's Training Corps unit. She also works in McKinley High School's mentoring program and still makes time to participate in community projects including drives for food and clothes and collecting money for Children's Hospital. Shaquita loves to play sports, read novels and plays and write poetry as well as short stories. Shaquita has beaten the odds to become a college bound senior, and hopes one day to become a successful criminal attorney or the first female Commandant of the United States Marine Corps.

JAN-27-1994 03:48 FROM

TO

94562878 P.08

Fernando Pereira

Age 18
Bell Multicultural High School

Fernando's Home Address

P6/b(6)

Nominated by: David Domenici
Director, DCWorks
202/663-6506

Israsoma Saccido
Asst. Principal, Bell Multicultural High School
202/673-7319

Fearing for his son's safety, Fernando's father sent him to the U.S. when he was only 14, believing he'd be safer in the District of Columbia than in his native homeland. During his first year in America, Fernando lived with his sister, nephew and two other adults in a one-bedroom apartment. When he was forced to move out a year later, Fernando paid for his rent, food and clothing by working over forty hours a week as a busboy while also managing to stay in school. Even though he struggled, Fernando did not drop out. While juggling these personal responsibilities, he also was a member of the school jazz band and soccer team.

Fernando no longer works full time and is able to devote more time to studying. As a result, his average has soared from below average to an "A" average. Fernando is a participant in DCWorks, a pre-college program for high schools students to help them achieve academic success. He hopes, someday, to attend college.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

FAX COVER SHEET

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT FOR DOMESTIC POLICY
SECOND FLOOR, WEST WING
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON, DC 20500
(202)456-2216 PHONE
(202)456-2878 FAX

TO: Andrew

FAX #: ~~6-3296~~ 632-1096

FROM: CAROL H. RASCO

DATE: 4/20/94

NUMBER OF PAGES (including cover sheet): _____

COMMENTS: _____

If you have any problems with the fax transmission, please call
at (202)456-2216.

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 8, 1994

TO: Eileen Watkins
FROM: Carol H. Rasco *CHR*
SUBJECT: Kids Luncheon - April 21, 1994

Attached are copies of the letters sent inviting the kids to have lunch here at the White House on April 21.

At your suggestion, Rosalyn is working with M.J. Murphy at the CDF to follow up on this invitation and will keep you updated.

I look forward to having you and David join us for both lunch and the reception!

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 8, 1994

TO: M.J. Murphy
FROM: Rosalyn Miller
SUBJECT: April 21 Luncheon

Per our conversation, I am attaching copies of the invitational letters, and I will look forward to hearing from you no later than Friday, April 15. I can be reached at 456-2216.

Thanks for all your help.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 8, 1994

Bitsey Folger, Director
Special Projects
Children's Defense Fund
25 E Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Bitsy:

I was honored to be present at the recent Beat the Odds luncheon, and am eager to visit further with the students. I have invited each student along with a guest of his/her choice to join me for lunch at the White House on Thursday, April 21 at noon and hope you will be able to join us as well. Following lunch we will have dessert with the Domestic Policy staff in the Old Executive Office Building.

Please respond to Rosalyn Miller in my office; she can be reached at 456-2216. If you are able to join us, Rosalyn will of course need to have clearance information.

I hope to see you the 21st!

Sincerely,



Carol H. Rasco
Assistant to the President for
Domestic Policy

CHR:ram

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 8, 1994

Fernando Pereira

P6/b(6)

Dear Fernando:

It was my honor to be present at the recent "Beat the Odds" luncheon where you were recognized. I was quite touched with the inspiring life story of each recipient and am eager for an opportunity to visit further with you. I invite you to join me for lunch at the White House on April 21, at 12:00 p.m. You are invited to bring one guest as well.

I hope you will be able to join me for lunch. After lunch with all the award winners, we will have dessert with the Domestic Policy staff. I anticipate you will be completed with the luncheon and dessert by 2:30 p.m.

Please call Rosalyn Miller at 456-2216 to respond; if you are able to attend, she will need to obtain clearance information which includes the name and birth date for both you and your guest.

I hope the spring semester is going well for you. I look forward to seeing you on April 21.

Best wishes,



Carol H. Rasco
Assistant to the President for
Domestic Policy

CHR:ram

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 8, 1994

Shaquita Parker

P6/b(6)

Dear Shaquita:

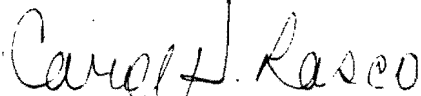
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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 8, 1994

Christina Green

P6/b(6)

Dear Christina:

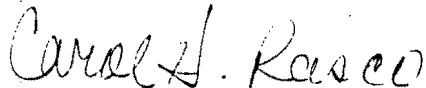
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Carol H. Rasco
Assistant to the President for
Domestic Policy

CHR:ram

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 8, 1994

Sean Fleming

P6/b(6)

Dear Sean:

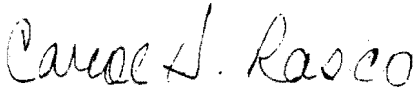
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Carol H. Rasco
Assistant to the President for
Domestic Policy

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 8, 1994

LaToya Ann Davis

P6/b(6)

Dear LaToya:

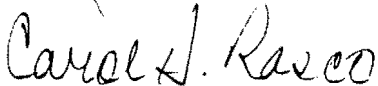
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Carol H. Rasco
Assistant to the President for
Domestic Policy

CHR:ram

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 8, 1994

Lonnie Lonraie Crowder

P6/b(6)

Dear Lonnie:

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 8, 1994

Bitsey Folger, Director
Special Projects
Children's Defense Fund
25 E Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001

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THE WHITE HOUSE

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April 8, 1994

Fernando Pereira

P6/b(6)

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 8, 1994

Shaquita Parker

P6/b(6)

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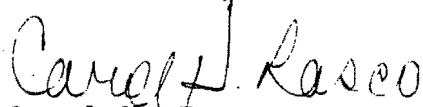
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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 8, 1994

Christina Green

P6/b(6)

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Carol H. Rasco
Assistant to the President for
Domestic Policy

CHR:ram

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 8, 1994

Sean Fleming

P6/b(6)

Dear Sean:

It was my honor to be present at the recent "Beat the Odds" luncheon where you were recognized. I was quite touched with the inspiring life story of each recipient and am eager for an opportunity to visit further with you. I invite you to join me for lunch at the White House on April 21, at 12:00 p.m. You are invited to bring one guest as well.

I hope you will be able to join me for lunch. After lunch with all the award winners, we will have dessert with the Domestic Policy staff. I anticipate you will be completed with the luncheon and dessert by 2:30 p.m.

Please call Rosalyn Miller at 456-2216 to respond; if you are able to attend, she will need to obtain clearance information which includes the name and birth date for both you and your guest.

I hope the spring semester is going well for you. I look forward to seeing you on April 21.

Best wishes,

Carol H. Rasco

Carol H. Rasco
Assistant to the President for
Domestic Policy

CHR:ram

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 8, 1994

LaToya Ann Davis

P6/b(6)

Dear LaToya:

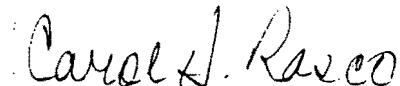
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Best wishes,



Carol H. Rasco
Assistant to the President for
Domestic Policy

CHR:ram

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 8, 1994

Lonnie Lopraie Crowder

P6/b(6)

Dear Lonnie:

It was my honor to be present at the recent "Beat the Odds" luncheon where you were recognized. I was quite touched with the inspiring life story of each recipient and am eager for an opportunity to visit further with you. I invite you to join me for lunch at the White House on April 21, at 12:00 p.m. You are invited to bring one guest as well.

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I hope the spring semester is going well for you. I look forward to seeing you on April 21.

Best wishes,



Carol H. Rasco
Assistant to the President for
Domestic Policy

CHR:ram

MEMORANDUM
OF CALL

Previous editions usable

TO: Roe

YOU WERE CALLED BY— YOU WERE VISITED BY—

Eileen Watkins
OF (Organization)

PLEASE PHONE ETS AUTOVON

P6/b(6)

WILL CALL AGAIN IS WAITING TO SEE YOU

RETURNED YOUR CALL WISHES AN APPOINTMENT

MESSAGE

Bitsy Folger's asst.
(M.J. Murphy)
(662-3531)

RECEIVED BY	DATE	TIME
<u>JR</u>	<u>3/25</u>	<u>1045</u>

Eileen Watkins

P6/b(6)

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

16-Mar-1994 10:31am

TO: Carol H. Rasco
FROM: Rosalyn A. Miller
Economic and Domestic Policy
SUBJECT: Luncheon for the kids

I spoke with Eileen again yesterday who had the following questions:

- 1) How important is it that Marian W. Edelman be at this luncheon. Eileen phoned her office and learned that her first available date is May 17 (we have other options after that date).
- 2) Could David attend the luncheon?
- 3) Could Bitsy Folger attend...she's the person who more or less has made it all happen for these kids.

Other thoughts from Eileen were that a letter of invite from you to each of these kids would be great, also thinks that a letter to CDF would be good for them to follow up.

Eileen did not know who Cheryl is, and wonders if her attendance is really necessary.

3-4 Cabinet?
Indian Treaty?

April 19-21

Brian Foucart - DPC #

676
CHR
Eileen
Cheryl
David