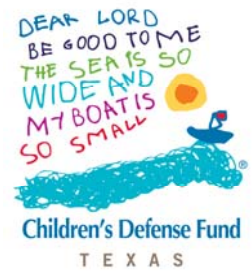


**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

October 13, 2009

Contact: Carolyn DeVaughn at (713) 664-4080



**Thousands of Congregations to Participate in Children's Defense Fund's National Observance of Children's Sabbaths® Celebration**

*Events Nationwide Focus on Getting All Children Enrolled in Health Coverage*

HOUSTON, TX — Throughout the month of October, diverse faith communities will be taking part in the Children's Defense Fund's (CDF) 18<sup>th</sup> annual National Observance of Children's Sabbaths® Celebration. **A local celebration will be held in Houston on Sunday, October 18, 2009, at 3:30 p.m. at Trinity East United Methodist Church, 2418 McGowen. The public is invited to attend this free event.**

The Houston event will feature special performances by youth singers, dancers and spoken word artists with a play written by Ashley Prince and story weaver, Sister Mama Sonia/3sisters in the spirit Theatre Ministry, entitled, "A Change is Gonna Come." The play, featuring the prayers and meditations of CDF President Marian Wright Edelman, addresses the plight of millions of children living in poverty, lacking basic health care and the social issues that funnel millions of children into a "pipeline to prison." The service will conclude with an opportunity for families with uninsured children to register for affordable health coverage through the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) or Children's Medicaid.

**WHO: Children's Defense Fund - Texas**

**WHAT: A city-wide Children's Sabbath celebration featuring special youth performances and a play by local playwright Ashley Prince and story weaver Sister Mama Sonia**

**Opportunity for families with uninsured children to register for CHIP or Children's Medicaid**

**WHEN: Sunday, October 18, 2009  
3:30 p.m.**

**WHERE: Trinity East United Methodist Church  
2418 McGowen Street**

**What to bring to register for CHIP or Children's Medicaid:**

- Proof of Household Income (copy of a recent paycheck stub **or** most recent income tax forms)
- Copy of Child's Birth Certificate and Social Security Number
- Proof of Expenses for Child Care or Disabled Adult Care (copies of receipts or invoices)

For questions about this event, please contact Carolyn DeVaughn at (713) 664-4080. To learn more about the Children's Defense Fund National Observance of Children's Sabbaths® annual celebration, visit: [www.childrensdefense.org/faith](http://www.childrensdefense.org/faith).

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The Children's Defense Fund is a national non-profit child advocacy organization whose Leave No Child Behind® mission is 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.