

ALEXANDRIA “BEAT THE ODDS” SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

520 King Street, Room 202
Alexandria, VA 22314
(703) 548-1106 (voice)
(703) 548-4292 (fax)

Dear Child Advocate:

Often we hear about teenagers getting into trouble, dropping out of school or becoming involved with drugs, crime or gangs. Seldom do we hear about young people who are “beating the odds” despite the daunting conditions in which so many of them live and the tremendous obstacles that frequently stand in the way of even their smallest achievements. “*Beat the Odds*,” a project initiated by the Children’s Defense Fund in 1990, focuses attention on the positive potential of young people who are faced with continued difficulties.

A coalition of Alexandria agencies and community groups, interested in focusing on the achievements of youth in Alexandria, has sponsored a “*Beat the Odds*” Awards program for four years. Local teens who have persevered and taken positive steps for their future, despite significant obstacles, are honored each year. **It is now time to nominate deserving young people for the 2008 Alexandria “*Beat the Odds*” Awards.**

Enclosed you will find application materials and selection guidelines for the awards. All applications must be received by **February 15, 2008** to be considered for this year’s awards. **Please note this earlier deadline** and mail or fax your nomination to the address below:

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A special awards ceremony will be held in **April** to celebrate the remarkable accomplishments of these young individuals. Each recipient will be presented with financial aid, a plaque, and other prizes in recognition of his or her accomplishments. We appreciate your help in identifying deserving youth in our community. If you have any questions, please contact us.

Sincerely yours,

Alexandria “Beat the Odds” Steering Committee