



# FUNDING THE NEXT GENERATION

## A TRIBUTE TO MARIAN WRIGHT EDELMAN Children's Defense Fund Founder Steps into Emeritus Role

This September Marian Wright Edelman stepped down as President of the Children's Defense Fund which she founded in 1973. Edelman is recognized around the world as the leading American child advocate for the past 45 years. She successfully fought for the creation and protection of a framework of federal and state laws that now safeguard the well-being of children.. She taught generations how to be advocates – with her unique combination of deeply personal and spiritual leadership, detailed documentation of the plight of children, and hard-hitting strategies and passionate rhetoric calling on those in power to account. In 2007 calling for an end to adult hypocrisy, neglect and the abandonment of children, she named the problem the Cradle to Prison Pipeline and challenged "America to become America."



**The Funding the Next Generation network may not realize that Edelman is also the founder of what we often refer to as our Children's Budget Movement and the inspiration for billions of dollars in federal, state and local budgets for children.**

In the mid 80's CDF started publishing "A Children's Defense Budget" every year – tearing apart the federal budget for its utter failure to support children. It was an inch thick with small print, and a detailed analysis documenting the winners and losers in the federal budget. She taught us that budgets are about choices.

### **HOW MANY FOUR POUND BABIES WILL IT TAKE TO BALANCE THE FEDERAL BUDGET?**

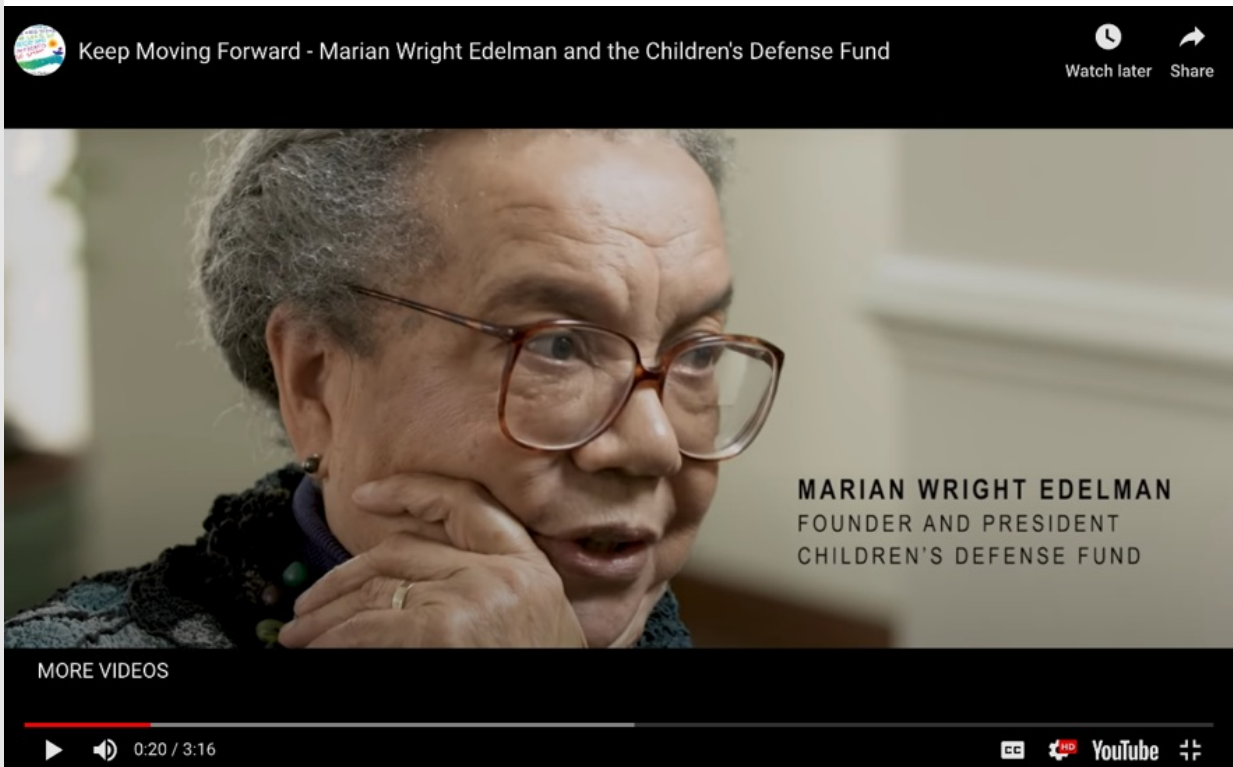
"The tax and spending choices in the federal budget frame our national priorities and shape our society's future. Our nation could make better choices:

- We could put a 10% federal excise tax on luxuries (furs, jewelry, gens, private aircraft, boats, and yachts) and with the money raised, we could pay for Head Start for more that 370,000 children.
- We could cut two of the B-2 Stealth bombers and instead buy Chapter 1 remedial education services for an additional 2/7 million children.
- We could cancel the \$1.8 billion in orders for spare parts and supplies that the Pentagon's own auditors say it doesn't need, and pay for WIC for almost 4 million pregnant women, infants and children every month for a year." – from the 1990 Children's Defense Budget

"I was riveted by the documents, every year attending the national conference – learning the importance of understanding where the money goes and understanding that a budget as a moral document. It inspired my work of the past 40 years – leading to the San Francisco Children's Budget and the SF Children and Youth Fund, and now hopefully a new generation of local children's budgets," said Margaret Brodtkin, Founder of Funding the Next Generation.

In her Emeritus status, Edelman will continue to focus on building a lasting movement for

children to end child poverty and inequality. This work has never been more important.



## FROM FUNDING THE NEXT GENERATION

### WEBINAR VIDEOS NOW AVAILABLE ON OUR HOME PAGE

We have had webinars on everything from closing juvenile halls, to budget advocacy, to unique opportunities created by COVID. [Check them out.](#)



Contact me with questions, suggestions, requests for support or advice.

**Margaret Brodtkin**

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Sept. 2020

Excuse dupes

**Reagan's America has spawned a new set of national beatitudes:**They measure success not by how many needy pregnant women can be provided cost-effective prenatal care to prevent infant deaths and birth defects, but by how many families can be denied Medicaid and turned away from public health clinics. Not by how many hungry infants can be nourished, but by how many federal nutrition dollars can be held back as the waiting list of hungry babies grows. Not by how many poor homeless families are provided adequate shelter and minimum food, but by how many MX missiles we can find a hiding place for. Not by how many new babies we can keep alive in the first year of life, but by how many new nuclear bombs we can warehouse to wait for war.

*Marian Wright Edelman, 1986, A Children's Defense Budget: An Analysis of the 1987 Federal Budget and Children*