



CHAMPIONING CHANGE ★ CHANGING LIVES

Fall 2008 Update

Dear Jeff:

Welcome to our Fall 2008 Update. Let me begin by acknowledging these are challenging times for many of our supporters and the organizations with whom Fight For Children works. Low-income children in our community need the help of Fight For Children and our partners now more than ever. We are grateful that you continue to stand with us.

We have made significant progress this year in our efforts to improve the lives of the children and youth we serve, and we are working hard to be good stewards of your investment with us. Please take a moment to read the latest information on our programs and how you can continue to help. Thank you.

With best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michela English". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Michela English
President & CEO



Fight Night 2008 is Almost Here!

We are gearing up for the 19th Annual Fight Night, which will be held on November 6 at the Hilton Washington. Our staff and volunteers, including Fight Night Chairman Fred Schaufeld, are busy planning the best Fight Night ever. We are thrilled that *BizBash* magazine recently named Fight Night the number one charity benefit in Washington. As we have since 2002, we expect to sell out this year. However, there are a limited number of tables and tickets still available. Individual tickets begin at \$1,000. Visit www.fightnightdc.org or contact Liz Warnecki at 202-772-0416 or liz.warnecki@fightforchildren.org to learn more or purchase tickets.

The proceeds from Fight Night support our grantmaking activities. [Please read below](#) about the \$1.1 million in grants to other non-profit organizations that we will announce to the public this week.

Fight For Children Updates Its Brand Identity



You may have noticed our new logo and tagline. The new Fight For Children brand symbolizes the impact of Fight For Children's programs, as well as the high level of achievement Fight For Children encourages all children and families to pursue. We are putting the final touches on our new website, which we will launch at the end of October. Fight For Children is proud to be working with DC-based [Axis Communications](#) to create our new brand identity.



Fight For Children Awards \$1.1 million in Strategic Grants to 24 Organizations

This week, we will announce \$1.1 million in grants to 22 non-profit organizations delivering high quality services that expand access to quality education options, improve student achievement, and address the critical link between good health and a quality education. These grants are in addition to \$330,000 in grants made to the winners and runners up of our inaugural Quality Schools Initiative awards earlier this year.

The 2007-2008 grant cycle reflects Fight For Children's renewed commitment to healthcare for low-income children. We know that kids need to maintain good health to be able to attend school and to be active learners. Our grant to Children's National Medical Center will help Children's and the Boys & Girls Clubs of Metropolitan Washington launch an obesity prevention project for low-income children at the THEARC in DC's Ward 8. Our grant to the Georgetown University Kids Mobile Medical Clinic will allow the clinic to greatly expand its ability to offer mental health services to the children it sees in its clinic, as well as other children in the surrounding neighborhoods.

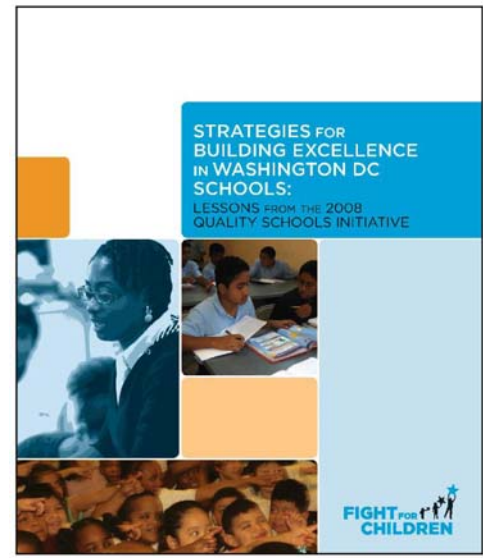
To see the complete list of grantees, visit www.fightforchildren.org/grantees.asp.

Update on Programmatic Initiatives

The second edition of *My School Chooser* is in the final stage of production and will be released in English and Spanish at the beginning of November. This year's *Chooser* contains academic achievement information for most DCPS and public charter schools so parents can see how well each school is doing in educating children. The guide also has richer details about classroom offerings, extracurricular activities, and transportation options for all 320 schools in DC. We are grateful for the support of the DC Office of the State Superintendent of Education for its support of the publication of the *Chooser*.

On October 30, Fight For Children will release a report summarizing the effective practices used by the winners of our Quality Schools Initiative. Professional case study writers carefully researched successful programs at Strong John Thomson Elementary School, E.L. Haynes Public Charter School, and San Miguel School. *Strategies for Building Excellence in Washington, DC, Schools: Lessons from the 2008 Quality Schools Initiative* will be distributed at a principals forum on October 30 moderated by Deborah Gist, DC State Superintendent of Education. The forum will bring together leaders of public, private, and charter schools to discuss how to replicate the successful practices of the winning schools.

If you are interested in receiving a copy of the *Chooser* or the case studies, please contact Anna Yousufzai at 202-772-0424 or Anna.Yousufzai@fightforchildren.org.



Looking Forward

Fight For Children will publish an *Action Agenda to Improve Kids' Lives* in early 2009. This report will serve as a call to action for policy and business leaders and philanthropists, identifying key challenges facing kids and the programs that have proven most effective in addressing them. We are currently working with our partners, Child Trends and the Urban Institute, to finalize an analysis of these programs and services. This summer, we convened a group of 40 community leaders, researchers, and public officials to review a draft of this work. The goal of the *Action Agenda* is to highlight and focus resources on proven programs that have the greatest impact on improving the lives of our children and youth.

To learn more about the *Action Agenda*, contact Jeanie Lee Boehmler at 202-772-0431 or jeanie.lee@fightforchildren.org.