PRESENTATION OF THE 1998 MARGARET E. MAHONEY AWARD

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The Margaret E. Mahoney Award is a central feature of the Mahoney Symposia. Each year, the award is presented to an individual with an extraordinary vision for the common good and a commitment to seeking effective opportunities for improving health care and health status in this country. The award is presented, in other words, to a person with a vision and commitment much like Margaret Mahoney's. As her presentation made clear, Marian Wright Edelman has dedicated her career to advocating effectively for disadvantaged Americans. She exemplifies the intent of this award.

In his introduction to her presentation, Dr. Alpert indicated some of the markers of Marian Wright Edelman's amazing career. As the Children's Defense Fund celebrates its 25th anniversary, we should recognize its dedication in providing a strong and effective voice for all children in America, especially those who are disadvantaged. It has worked since its inception to create a tight web of family, community, private sector, and government support for children and has sought to ensure that the needs of every child are met. It has done so primarily because it derives its inspiration, impetus, and strength from its founder and leader.

Without reiterating Marian Wright Edelman's academic and other career credentials, it is appropriate to note that she has been awarded 91 honorary degrees. These honors form a rich testimony to her extraordinary accomplishments. Her numerous awards and honors include the Lucretia Mott Award from Women's Way in Philadelphia; the Child Health Day Leadership Award from the American Health Foundation; the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Medal for Outstanding

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Professional Service to Civil and Human Rights from George Washington University; and the Gandhi Peace Prize. She has traveled worldwide to study economic development and family and child policies; she is a board member of the Council on Foreign Relations; she is a member of the US Committee for UNICEF. She also is a member of the US Olympic Committee. In 1965, *Mademoiselle* magazine named her one of the four Most Exciting Young Women in America. Most of us would say that is still the case.

It was, therefore, a true honor to present to Marian Wright Edelman the Margaret E. Mahoney Award for Outstanding Service on behalf of the health of children.