

**National**  
**Children's Day**  
"expanding across America"

www.nationalchildrensday.us

**Celebrating Children • They're God's Gift**  
The Second Sunday in June

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05/30/2005 Time: 5:00 p.m.

For Immediate Release

For News and/or Community and/or Religion Editor(s)

## **June 12 Promoted as National *Children's Day***

• New Website Highlights Effort to Expand Historical Day

**Batavia, Ill., May 30, 2005 (*The Religion Wire™*)** — America needs to know that the

second Sunday in June is **Children's Day**. That is theme of a new website,

www.nationalchildrensday.us. The website is an educational and motivational tool for

the expansion of a national **Children's Day**.

You may ask... What's **Children's Day**? A forgotten holiday. Today, only a few churches and denominations celebrate the day. But still, **Children's Day** observations in the United States predate both Mother's and Father's Day.

The earliest known celebration of a special **Children's Day** in America took place in Chelsea, Mass., in 1858, to commemorate the training of children in Christian living. In 1862, the second Sunday in June was selected as the day for regular celebration. Today, Massachusetts has legislation mandating a proclamation for **Children's Day**.

John Ross, founder of www.nationalchildrensday.us, feels "More than ever, do not today's children need a day of affirmation, praise, prayer, and celebration? More than 20 million children, more than 27 percent of young people in the nation, now live in a single-parent household. We know that most roots of faith and good citizenship are cultivated in youth." Ross for the last 13 years has been involved with a June children's event, *Celebrate Our Children*, in Aurora, Ill. (see www.celebrateourchildren.us)

Ross is hopeful that individuals, churches, denominations, media, businesses, government, and organizations can help spread the support for a national **Children's Day on the second Sunday in June**.

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