

— News Release —

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

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Let the Statistics Speak for “Children’s Day”

• Christian Educator Mickie O’Donnell Shares Thoughts

Batavia, Ill., May 29, 2007 (*The Religion Wire™*) —

“Statistics speak louder than words” is being used to support the revival of **“Children’s Day”** on the *second Sunday in June (this year June 10, 2007)*.

Mickie O’Donnell, president of Children’s Ministries of America and part of a growing movement spear-headed by the website www.nationalchildrensday.us, stresses the importance of **“Children’s Day”** by looking at some statistics about children in America.

O’Donnell notes, “June 10 is National Children’s Day and I can just imagine many parents saying ‘But isn’t every day *Children’s Day*?’ That’s at least what I used to say to my children when they would protest about not having a special day just for them like Mother’s Day or Father’s Day. However, there are many thousands of children in our own neighborhoods who don’t ever feel like there is a special day for them because of their home situation. In the book *“The 13th Generation”* by Neil Howe and Bill Strauss we read that:

- Every day, over 2,500 children witness the divorce or separation of their parents.
- Every day, 90 kids... are committed to foster homes.
- Every day, 13 Americans age 15-24 commit suicide, and another sixteen are murdered.
- Every day, the typical 14 year old watches 3 hours of TV and does 1 hour of homework.
- Every day, over 2,200 kids drop out of school.
- Every day, 3,610 teenagers are assaulted, 630 are robbed and 80 are raped.
- Every day over 100,000 high school students bring guns to school.

Children’s Day



Second Sunday in June

Add one — *Let the Statistics Speak for “Children’s Day”*

Of 28 Students in any given classroom...

- 8 have struggled with or are currently struggling with pornography addiction
- 7 have parents that are divorced at least once
- 4 have struggled with sexually acting out
- 3 have had a history of drugs/alcohol
- 2 have struggled with an eating disorder
- 1 is diagnosed with a chemically related personality disorder
- 1 has struggled with suicidal thoughts and/or attempted

Clearly, today’s child is ‘at risk’ and it is time that we pledged together as people of faith to love, cherish, nurture and affirm children - whether they are our own children or simply those in our community. One day these children will be the leaders and decision makers for our country. The need to cherish and nurture them is great. Let’s do it!”

The “***Children’s Day***” website is also challenging parents, individuals, churches/houses of worship, schools/places of education, government/community and businesses to sign commitment cards directed at affirming America’s children. They pledge to “commit myself(ourself), in the coming year, to love, cherish, nurture(physical, mental, emotional, & spiritual needs), and affirm...” They can also make a commitment beyond America to the world’s children.

“***Children’s Day***” observations in the United States predate both Mother’s and Father’s Day. This day dates from the 1880s and earlier. The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in 1883 designated the “the second Sabbath in June as *Children’s Day*.” Last year, the Illinois House passed a resolution proclaiming the day. The *Chicago Tribune* also ran an article.