

# — News Release —

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

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## ***Illinois Starts the Ball Rolling by Proclaiming This Sunday as “Children’s Day”***

• Governor and Communities Issue Proclamations

**Batavia, Ill., June 7, 2007 (*The Religion Wire™*) —**

Illinois became the first state in the start of a movement to proclaim this Sunday (the second Sunday in June) as **“Children’s Day.”** Illinois governor Rod R. Blagojevich on Wednesday issued a proclamation. The Illinois cities of Batavia and Aurora (Illinois’ second largest city) have issued mayoral proclamations.

The website [www.nationalchildrensday.us](http://www.nationalchildrensday.us), supporting the revival of **“Children’s Day”** on the *second Sunday in June (this year June 10, 2007)*, is stressing this day as a day of celebration and commitment by parent and individuals to children.

John Ross, advocate for **“Children’s Day”** and part of a growing movement spearheaded by the website [www.nationalchildrensday.us](http://www.nationalchildrensday.us), expressed gratitude to the Illinois governor and local public officials. “I just can’t express my deep happiness for the support of Illinois Governor Rod Blagojevich in proclaiming this day. I believe this is just the beginning of a national movement to highlight this day for children. Children need a special day just as fathers and mothers have a day. This is a day of celebration and a renewal of commitment. This weekend numerous churches, parents, individuals, and communities across America are honoring children.

”I’d also like to give a big thank you to Aurora state representative Linda Chapa LaVia; and mayors, Tom Weisner of Aurora and Jeff Schielke of Batavia.”

## Children’s Day



Second Sunday in June

Add one — *Illinois Starts the Ball Rolling by Proclaiming This Sunday as “Children’s Day”*

The “**Children’s Day**” website offers helps and challenges 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*.”

*Chase’s Calendar of Events* cites *Children’s Sunday*.

Numerous churches and denominations observe the day including the African Methodist Episcopal Church and the Church of the Nazarene.

Last year, the Illinois House passed a resolution proclaiming the day. The *Chicago Tribune* also ran an article.

This year, Dr. Paul Cedar of the *Mission America Coalition* was promised to spread the word to his community of influence. A few weeks ago, Moody radio’s “*Prime Time Chicago*” did an interview.

On Sunday, June 10, *CBS Radio News* will air an interview with advocate John Ross.

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Copy of the Illinois Governor’s Proclamation is available as a 2-part graphic:

[http://www.gospel-net.com/public/images/IL\\_Proclamation\\_2007\\_1.jpg](http://www.gospel-net.com/public/images/IL_Proclamation_2007_1.jpg)

[http://www.gospel-net.com/public/images/IL\\_Proclamation\\_2007\\_2.jpg](http://www.gospel-net.com/public/images/IL_Proclamation_2007_2.jpg)