

# — News Release —

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

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## Illinois Governor Gets the Ball Rolling by Proclaiming the Second Sunday in June as “Children’s Day”

- Governor Again Reaffirms the Day with a Second Proclamation

Batavia, Ill., April 30, 2008 (*The Religion Wire™*) —

Illinois became the first state this year to proclaim *the second Sunday in June* — June 8, 2008, as “**Children’s Day.**” Last Thursday, Illinois governor Rod R.

Blagojevich issued a proclamation for the second year in row. Last year the Illinois cities of Batavia and Aurora (Illinois’ second largest city) also 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*, 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 spear-headed by the website [www.nationalchildrensday.us](http://www.nationalchildrensday.us), expressed gratitude to the Illinois governor for his reaffirm of the day. “I just can’t express my deep happiness for the support of Illinois Governor Rod Blagojevich in proclaiming this day again this year. 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. During the June weekend numerous churches, parents, individuals, and communities across America will be honoring children.”

## Children’s Day



Second Sunday in June

## **Add one — Illinois Governor Gets the Ball Rolling by Proclaiming the Second Sunday in June 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 1860s and earlier. The Methodist Episcopal Church at the Methodist Conference of 1868 recommended that second Sunday in June be annually observed as **Children’s Day**.

The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in 1883 designated the “the second Sabbath in June as *Children’s Day*.” The spring/summer 2005 issue of *The Journal of Presbyterian History* highlighted **Children’s Day** in the Presbyterian Church.

*Chase’s Calendar of Events* cites Children’s Sunday and notes that The Commonwealth of Massachusetts issues an annual proclamation for the second Sunday in June.

Numerous churches and denominations currently observe the second Sunday in June including the African Methodist Episcopal Church and the Church of the Nazarene.

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Copy of the Illinois Governor’s 2008 Proclamation is available as a 2-part graphic:

[http://www.gospel-net/public/IL\\_Proclamation\\_2008\(1\).jpg](http://www.gospel-net/public/IL_Proclamation_2008(1).jpg)

[http://www.gospel-net/public/IL\\_Proclamation\\_2008\(2\).jpg](http://www.gospel-net/public/IL_Proclamation_2008(2).jpg)