

# — News Release —

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

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## Website Shows Determination for “*Children’s Day*”

- Historic day in June focuses on commitment to children

Batavia, Ill., Feb. 16, 2009 (*The Religion Wire™*) —

An advocacy website, [www.nationalchildrensday.us](http://www.nationalchildrensday.us)

(mirror [www.childrensday.us](http://www.childrensday.us)) continues to press for the

support of a national “*Children’s Day*” on the *second*

*Sunday in June* (this year: June 14, 2009).

## Children’s Day



Second Sunday in June

John Ross, founder of the website and an advocate for a national ***Children's Day***, affirms that “my late mother, Mabel Ross, encouraged me to start this movement in 2005 to renew ***Children’s Day***. With her in mind, I shall continue with determination and commitment to advocate for its renewal at both the local and national levels. My mother in her many civic causes was determined to fix it right. I believe that now more than ever, children need a day of affirmation at home, in the church and in the community. They need to know they are special, to feel loved, and to believe someone cares about them. I’m hopeful that individuals, churches, schools, businesses, government and community leaders, and of course the media will generate support for a national ***Children’s Day on the second Sunday in June.***”

An important aspect of the site is an opportunity for individuals or groups to promote the adoption of a proclamation/resolution in their home state or municipality in support of ***Children’s Day***. Sample proclamations and a listing of contacts are available tools. The site recently updated contacts for the governors of all 50 states plus Puerto Rico.

## Add one — **Website Shows Determination for “Children’s Day”**

Past history and current events related to **Children’s Day** are also presented at the website. A *Children Count* blog is planned for the coming year.

The site 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 (physically, mentally, emotionally, & spiritually), and affirm...” They can also make a commitment beyond America to the world’s children.

The website highlights numerous endorsements. These include Rudy Ruettiger — (motivational speaker, author, inspiration behind the movie “RUDY”) and Finn Laursen —(executive director of the Christian Educators Association International).

**Children’s Day** observations in the United States predate both Mother’s and Father’s Day. The day to celebrate children dates from the 1860s and earlier. The Methodist Episcopal Church at the Methodist Conference of 1868 recommended that the second Sunday in June be observed annually as **Children’s Day**. The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in 1883 designated “the second Sabbath in June as *Children’s Day*.”

In 2007 and 2008 the second Sunday in June was proclaimed as **Children’s Day** in the state of Illinois. The mayors of Aurora and Batavia, Illinois, also issued proclamations.

“Chase’s Calendar of Events” currently 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 now observe the second Sunday in June including the African Methodist Episcopal Church, African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, and the Church of the Nazarene.