

— News Release —

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

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Following Mother's Day... Why not "**Children's Day**"?

- Special day predates both Mother's and Father's Day

Batavia, Ill., May 11, 2009 (*The Religion Wire™*) —

Five weeks from Mother's Day is "**Children's Day**"

(June 14, 2009—the *second Sunday in June*). Many

individuals, groups, and churches, are trying to

bring attention to this special day for children that

predates both Mother's and Father's Day.

John Ross, advocate for **Children's Day** and part of a growing movement spear-headed by the website www.nationalchildrensday.us, notes the importance of and need for the day.

"Children are just as in need of a special day as are fathers and mothers. Many children are being left behind and left out of the American discourse today. Currently about nine million children are without health insurance. Some of our urban schools are graduating fewer than 50 percent of their students. Our children are behind in math and science. Americans are the most imprisoned population in the world... our children need more moral and spiritual guidance than ever. They are calling out to the adults of this great land for a new commitment and a new future. America needs **Children's Day!**"

Children's Day



Second Sunday in June

Add one — Following Mother’s Day... Why not “*Children’s Day*”?

Children’s Day observations in the United States date 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 “the second Sabbath in June as *Children’s Day*.”

The website 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 to children by parents and other individuals.

The ***Children’s Day*** website offers help 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.

In 2007 and 2008, Illinois proclaimed the second Sunday in June as ***Children’s Day***. Several Illinois towns also issued proclamations.

Currently *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 now observe *the second Sunday in June* including the African Methodist Episcopal Church, African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church and the Church of the Nazarene.

Yes, this is the time to promote ***Children’s Day*** all across America!