

— 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., April 15, 2011 (*The Religion Wire™*) —

Five weeks from Mother's Day, *the second Sunday in June* — June 12, 2011, is "**Children's Day.**" 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 and need for the day.

"Children are just as in need of a special day as are our fathers and mothers. Children are being left behind and out of the American discourse today. Currently millions of children are still without health insurance. Some of our urban schools are graduating students at rates lower than 50 percent. 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. Our children are calling out to the adults of this great land for a new commitment and a new future. Yes, 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 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 “the second Sabbath in June as *Children’s Day*.”

Since 2007, the Illinois governor has issued proclamations proclaiming the second Sunday in June as **Children’s Day**. The mayors of Aurora and Batavia, Illinois, also have issued proclamations.

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, African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, and the Church of the Nazarene.

Community groups, churches, and individuals are encouraged to challenge state governors and local governments to proclaim the day. The website www.nationalchildrensday.us has instructions and contact information for all 50 states plus Puerto Rico.

The **Children’s Day** website also 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.