

— News Release —

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

Contact:

John Ross

(630) 879-8828 (office)

(630) 879-2583 (home)

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Illinois Takes Lead... Governor Proclaims “Children’s Day”

- For the fifth straight year Illinois affirms date

Batavia, Ill., April 28, 2011 (The Religion Wire™) —

On April 15, Illinois Governor, Pat Quinn, issued a proclamation proclaiming “**Children’s Day**” in Illinois.

Just five weeks from Mother’s Day is “**Children’s Day**.”

It’s *the second Sunday in June* — June 12, 2011. 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 spearheaded by the website www.nationalchildrensday.us, complimented the Illinois governor.

“I am so happy that Illinois Governor Pat Quinn has again reaffirmed **Children’s Day** on *the second Sunday in June*. This year it’s June 12. This will be the fifth straight year for a proclamation. I am hopeful that other state governors and local government leaders will get onboard and recognize this historic date. I know of one pending state and several other states in the explorator stage. Children across America need this day, now more than ever.”

Children’s Day



Second Sunday in June

Add one — Illinois Takes Lead... Governor Proclaims “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 Christian Methodist Episcopal Church.

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 (ourselves), 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.