

— News Release —

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

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Education Plays an Important Part in “Children’s Day”

- Churches and Community Education Contribute

Batavia, Ill., June 4, 2011 (*The Religion Wire™*) — Just a week away 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.

Children’s Day



Second Sunday in June

Vernon LaVia, a community activist from Aurora, Illinois, notes, “Education of our children is a very important part of Children’s Day.” LaVia and his wife, Linda, Illinois state representative (83rd district), are promoting a new opportunity coming to Aurora called **One Hope United**.

One Hope United is accepting applications for a child care and early education center that will open in September. The center will have capacity to serve 196 kids on a first-come-first-served basis (infants, toddlers, pre-school and after school; ages 6 weeks to 12 years).

Interested parents can call (630) 256-7700, One Hope United-Aurora Center, 525 E. College Ave., Aurora, or visit www.onehopeunited.org.

John Ross, advocate for **Children’s Day** and part of a growing movement spear-headed by the website www.nationalchildrensday.us, voiced support for the LaVias and their community effort for children’s education.

Add one — Education Plays an Important Part in “Children’s Day”

“Education is definitely an important part of **Children’s Day**. Churches and religious institutions play a key role along with parents in providing a moral and spiritual compass to our children. Public and community education facilities are also a vital link in helping our children develop into productive citizens. In Aurora there is a great mix of both public and religious effort to help our children. The **One Hope United** is just one example of the community reaching out to youth. We need to affirm the education of children and **Children’s Day** in America”.

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 **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.