

— News Release —

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

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Aurora - a “Children’s Day” city

- Aurora, Illinois – state’s 2nd largest city – for the sixth consecutive year issues proclamation

Aurora, Ill., June 9, 2012 (*The Religion Wire™*) —

The City of Aurora for the sixth consecutive year proclaims “**Children’s Day**” on Sunday. Aurora is a city on a mission to help children. Recently the city teamed up with schools, community groups, and churches to begin planning to provide younger children with a quality pre-school educational experience. This initiative is called SPARK (Strong, Prepared and Ready for Kindergarten).

John Ross, advocate for **Children’s Day** and part of a growing movement spearheaded by the website www.nationalchildrensday.us, congratulates the City of Aurora on its leadership in adolescent development.

“I am so happy that **Children’s Day** is again being recognized on *the second Sunday in June* by the City of Aurora. Mayor Tom Weisner and the city leadership have been supportive of this special day for several years. The city is currently focusing on a new initiative for children that incorporates schools, churches, and community organizations to help build a quality pre-school experience in the city. Aurora is taking a lead that I hope other cities will follow. Aurora is truly a **Children’s Day** city.”

Children’s Day



Second Sunday in June

Add one — Aurora - a “Children’s Day” city

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*.”

On April 17, 2012, **Illinois Governor Pat Quinn** proclaimed the day for 2012.

In 2011, **Illinois** was joined by one of its border states, **Wisconsin**, to partner in proclaiming “**Children’s Day**” on *the second Sunday in June*. Also the cities of Aurora, Ill.; Batavia, Ill.; Fort Collins, Colo.; and Vancouver, Wash.; issued 2011 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 also 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.

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