

- 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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Every day is *not* “Children’s Day”

- Physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual reasons for a special day

Children’s Day



Second Sunday in June

Batavia, Ill., May 14, 2014 (The Religion Wire™) — When someone is asked, “Why not have Children’s Day?” you may have heard this reply: “Every day is children’s day.”

Yes, children need to feel loved and accepted every day.

However, it also is important for them to have their own special day.

John Ross, advocate for **Children’s Day** on *the second Sunday in June* (June 8, 2014), is part of a growing movement spear-headed by the website www.nationalchildrensday.us, which hopes attitudes of Americans will change regarding a special day for children. He notes that American families and the entire country need this day to love, evaluate, and commit to the betterment of our children. Here are a few statistics that show the care our children must have. By establishing a **National**

Children’s Day in the United States, these concerns can be brought to the forefront:

- Most nations of the world have a special day for children. **Source: en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Children's_Day**
- Every year more than 3 million reports of child abuse are made in the United States involving more than 6 million children (a report can include multiple children). The United States has one of the worst records among industrialized nations – losing on average between four and seven children every day to child abuse and neglect. **Source: ChildHelp.org**
- One in 45 children experience homelessness in America each year. That’s over 1.6 million children. **Source: FamilyHomelessness.org**
- There are 7.2 million uninsured children in America—that’s one in ten. Every 70 seconds, a child is born uninsured and each day 1,241 children are born without health coverage. **Source: ChildrensDefense.org**
- Nationally, **more than 200,000 American children are at risk for being lured into sex trafficking each year.** Sex trafficking is the largest form of domestic human trafficking. Traffickers coerce women and children to enter the commercial sex industry through the use of a variety of recruitment and control mechanisms. Victims are often recruited to work in strip clubs, and to prostitute on the streets, for escort services, and in brothels. Vulnerable youth, such as runaway and homeless children, are particularly at risk for being targeted by pimps. The average age of entry into prostitution in the United States is **12-14 years old.** Labor trafficking is another form of domestic human trafficking and often takes place in such locations as restaurants, the agricultural industry, traveling carnivals, peddling/begging rings, and in traveling sales crews. **Source: ChildAtRisk.org**
- Every year, over 1.2 million students drop out of high school in the United States alone. That’s a student every 26 seconds – or 7,000 a day. **Source: DoSomething.org**
- Report... Investing in Our Future: The Evidence Base on Preschool Education **Source: fcd-us.org**

- more -

Add one - Every day is *not* “Children’s Day”

Since 2007, the governor of the state of **Illinois** has proclaimed *the second Sunday in June to be “Children’s Day.”* The cities of Aurora, Ill.; Batavia, Ill.; Fort Collins, Colo.; Vancouver, Wash.; and other such cities have issued past proclamations too.

Ross notes, “This year we also are petitioning President Obama at <http://wh.gov/lww9z> to proclaim the second Sunday in June to be **National Children’s Day**. The petition needs 100,000 signatures by May 21, 2014. The White House will then review it and respond. Those age 13 and older can participate in the petition drive.

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*.”

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, Christian Methodist Episcopal Church, and the Church of the Nazarene.

The **Children’s Day** website, www.nationalchildrensday.us, 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 also can make a commitment beyond America to the world’s children.