

NationalChildrensDay.us - News Release -

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For Immediate Release

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

“Children’s Day” during a pandemic

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

Batavia, Ill., June 8, 2020 — It is a week before Father’s Day during the COVID-19 pandemic. Children’s Day 2020 is set for Sunday June 14.

John Ross, advocate for ***Children’s Day on the second Sunday in June***, notes “COVID-19 may have made our community’s response this year a bit different, but not our individual commitment to love our children on this coming Sunday and throughout the year.”

Ross is part of an informal grass-roots movement spear-headed by the website www.nationalchildrensday.us. This site and many others hope the attitude of Americans will change regarding a special day for children.

He notes that American families and the entire country, now during COVID-19 more than ever, 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 forefront:

- Most nations of the world have a special day for children. (listing of 86 countries)

Source: en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Children's_Day

- Every year more than 3.6 million referrals are made to child protection agencies involving more than 6.6 million children (a referral can include multiple children). The United States has one of the worst records among industrialized nations

Source: ChildHelp.org

- **A staggering 2.5 million children are now homeless each year in America. This historic high represents one in every 30 children in the United States.**

Source: AIR.org

- A reversal may happen, but...Thanks to the Affordable Care Act (ACA), Medicaid, and the Children’s Health insurance Program (CHIP), 94 percent of children in America have health coverage – an historic high. - See more at:

<http://www.childrensdefense.org/policy/health/#sthash.6i4zXfot.dpuf>

Source: ChildrensDefense.org

Add one – “Children’s Day” during a pandemic

•The U.S., which had some of the highest graduation rates of any developed country, now ranks 22nd out of 27 developed countries.

Source: DoSomething.org

• Report... *Investing in Our Future: The Evidence Base on Preschool Education*

Source: fcd-us.org

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

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.

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, Reformed Church in America, 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.