



## SECTION 11

### Action Ideas for the Children's Sabbaths Weekend and Throughout the Year

**T**hank you for turning to this section! The actions that you plan for the National Observance of Children's Sabbaths® weekend and for the year that follows are an *essential* part of the Children's Sabbaths celebration. As important as the worship experiences and educational sessions are, it is vital to plan actions that will help translate that prayer and inspiration, that awareness and information into new hands-on service and justice-seeking advocacy for children

that will create real, measurable change for children and truly bring a better tomorrow.

So, are you ready to plan? There are two kinds of actions to plan for your Children's Sabbath: hands-on service and advocacy activities for the Children's Sabbaths weekend itself, and actions that can be carried out throughout the coming year to make a lasting difference for children.

## Action Ideas for the Children's Sabbaths Weekend and Throughout the Year

**The activities that you plan for the weekend of your Children's Sabbath are an essential way that participants can begin to create change *today*.** Activities on the weekend itself provide the immediate satisfaction of responding faithfully to the message in the service of worship and the learning in the educational programs. If people only learn about the crises facing children and families, they can feel hopeless, guilty, or helpless. That's when it becomes so easy to think, "I'll just take care of myself and look out for 'my own.'" By contrast, if people are provided immediately with specific ways to help in response to these problems, they will feel hopeful, motivated, energized, and positive, and want to do even more. They will discover that they really can create change and will be all the more eager to help usher in a better tomorrow.

**The Children's Sabbaths movement, of course, is not just a one-weekend event. The kind of widespread and lasting change that children need will not be accomplished in a single weekend, so it is vital to plan year-round efforts to improve the lives of children.** What might that look like? It could mean:

- Reenergizing existing efforts in your place of worship that serve or seek justice for children;

- Inspiring individuals to make new commitments to volunteer, donate, advocate, or help children in need in some other way;
- Developing, as a congregation, a new program or other effort to improve the lives of children—lifting children out of poverty, ensuring all children health coverage, dismantling the pipeline to prison and putting all children on the path to success—and create communities of justice and compassion;
- Partnering with other congregations to develop a long-term effort to help children.

This section provides a range of resources to help you plan activities on the Children's Sabbaths weekend and throughout the year to create real change for children. It includes:

- Tips for Planning Children's Sabbath Activities and Actions
- Actions to Learn More and Raise Awareness
- Actions to Reach Out and Serve Children and Families
- Actions to Speak Up for Justice

## Tips for Planning Children's Sabbath Activities and Actions

As you plan activities for the Children's Sabbaths weekend and for the year to come, keep the following tips in mind:

**First, offer a range of activities focusing on raising awareness, hands-on service, and advocacy.** Making a difference for children requires all three kinds of effort! It also enables people to choose activities based on their particular skills and interests. The action ideas that follow are organized in these three categories, so try to select one or more from each.

**Second, plan some activities that can be completed on the Children's Sabbaths weekend** (such as assembling care packages for children going into foster care) **and some that will lead people into long-term commitments** (such as signing up volunteers to do outreach and enrollment for public children's health coverage programs or work with a mentoring or after-school program once a week).

**Third, plan activities that will engage all ages.** For example, if there is a table to write letters to elected

officials, provide crayons and markers so that young children can draw pictures to enclose, or have them dictate their letters to an older child or adult.

**Fourth, use the Children's Sabbath to reinforce existing congregational programs that serve children,** particularly programs that promote justice and peace and work to end poverty, lack of health care, and the pipeline to prison (for example, you could highlight accomplishments, recruit new people to help, or solicit donations) **while introducing new opportunities to serve children and families, seek justice, and create change for children to bring hope and a better tomorrow.**

**Finally, be sure you are prepared to guide people in the activities so that they understand the connection between the worship and the action.** You may want to provide a preview of the activities on a bulletin insert or during the announcement time in worship. During the activity period, it works best to have several people at each activity who are prepared to explain and guide participation.

## Actions for Children

### Learn More and Raise Awareness

#### *On the Children's Sabbaths weekend...*

**Set up a “Your Truth Aloud” video station.** Invite members of your place of worship to come to a quiet spot you've set up with a video camera. Record each person delivering a brief statement (up to two minutes) of why they believe it is important for all children to have health care now. At the end of the day, go to [www.childrensdefense.org/child-advocacy-resources-center/take-action/your-truth-aloud-speak-out-now-for-children.html](http://www.childrensdefense.org/child-advocacy-resources-center/take-action/your-truth-aloud-speak-out-now-for-children.html) for instructions on how to post the videos to help raise awareness of the need for children's health coverage.

**Host a Forum on Creating Change for Children Today to Bring Hope and a Better Tomorrow.** Invite a panel of speakers to address child poverty, children lacking health coverage, and children in the pipeline to prison. (Alternatively, plan a series of forums so that each can cover one topic.) Possible speakers include staff from organizations and agencies serving low-income persons, such as a job training center, WIC office, or emergency food and shelter services; staff from organizations and agencies addressing children's health needs, including health clinics, emergency rooms, and pediatric practices; and staff from organizations addressing children in the pipeline to prison, including juvenile court judges, juvenile detention centers, and mentoring programs. Include a panelist who can talk about relevant initiatives in Congress and the state legislature. Ask the speakers to describe the problems (causes and effects) as well as the solutions and how people can help.

In addition to hearing from professionals working in these areas, when possible and appropriate, arrange to hear from the real “experts”: those who are personally affected by the issue (such as parents, grandparents and other relatives raising children, or youths.) Also, consider inviting legislators to serve as panelists or to respond to what the panelists present.

### Sample Agenda

1. Welcome: Introduction to the Forum's purpose, introduction of panelists (10 minutes)
2. Creating Change for Children in Poverty (10 minutes per speaker, 10 minutes for discussion)
  - a. Staff from an organization serving families in poverty, such as a food pantry, WIC (Women, Infants, and Children's Food Program) office
  - b. Children's advocate familiar with policies related to child and family poverty
3. Creating Change for Children Without Health Coverage
  - a. Health care provider, such as a pediatrician from a health clinic or emergency room that treats uninsured children
  - b. Advocate for health care coverage, such as a representative of an advocacy organization
4. Creating Change for Children in the Pipeline to Prison
  - a. Juvenile court judge or juvenile detention staff person
  - b. Staff person from a program nurturing positive youth development, such as a mentoring program
  - c. Children's advocate familiar with policies relating to juvenile justice, youth development, and the pipeline to prison
5. Where Do We Go From Here?
6. Closing (thank panelists and audience)

**Please Note:** The kinds of activities that are appropriate and permissible at various points during the Children's Sabbaths weekend vary depending on the religious tradition of a place of worship. As you read through the suggested activities, you should select those that are appropriate for your tradition or modify the actions to make them so. Remember that the whole weekend, from Friday morning through Sunday night, is part of the *National Observance of Children's Sabbaths* celebration, so some activities that would not be appropriate immediately following your time of worship could be planned for another day or time during the weekend. Additionally, activities can and should be planned for the year to follow, so you can plan accordingly. You know what is best for your place of worship.

## Sample Letter of Invitation to Forum Panelists

Dear [name]:

I am writing on behalf of [name of place/s of worship sponsoring the forum] to invite you to participate as a panelist in a community forum, "Create Change for Children Today to Bring Hope and a Better Tomorrow" on [date] from [times] at [location]. The forum is being held in conjunction with the 18<sup>th</sup> annual multi-faith National Observance of Children's Sabbaths® weekend sponsored by the Children's Defense Fund.

The purpose of the forum is to raise community awareness of the challenges and risks to children in poverty, without health coverage, and in the pipeline to prison, and to explore ways that we as concerned individuals and as a community can work to lift children out of poverty, assure children health coverage, and put children on paths of promise. We are inviting other community leaders with expertise in child poverty, health care, the juvenile justice system, and youth development. Confirmed speakers [or, Other invited speakers] include [list several of the most recognizable names, with their affiliation, or list the other panelists who will be speaking in the same portion of the program].

We are asking each panelist to speak for 10 minutes. In that time, we hope you will include your perspective on the scope of the problem and what the major challenges are to children's well-being. We also hope you will address some of the solutions—what is working? Finally, we hope you will include a call to action: What do you think individuals or our community should do to help children in poverty, lacking health coverage, or in the pipeline to prison? What should we do to raise awareness, meet needs directly, or advocate for justice? We will close with a brief discussion on "Where do we go from here?" which is intended to prepare people to move into action. You are welcome to bring copies of materials to distribute, especially those that provide information about action steps people may take.

I will call you in the next few days to learn if you will be able to participate in this important community forum. In the meantime, you can reach me at [provide phone number and/or email address]. Together, I believe that we can increase attention to and action on children's needs and bring hope and a better tomorrow for children and for all of us.

Sincerely,

[Your name]

[Title, organization/congregation]

**Hold an educational event to discuss the intersection of faith and public policy.** Often, members of places of worship are uncomfortable with public policy concerns being discussed in a place of worship—sometimes because of confusion about what “separation of church and state” really means. Instead of avoiding the misunderstood and sometimes controversial subject, arrange a time to really explore it. As a community or congregational forum, a short-term or one-time class, or as a book group, engage participants in learning about and discussing how our faith informs our lives as citizens who vote, speak out, and seek justice in the public square. Many denominations, movements, and other faith groups have prepared excellent materials to guide such a discussion. Find out what yours provides or explore the resources of groups like the Interfaith Alliance ([www.interfaithalliance.org](http://www.interfaithalliance.org)), including *Religion and Politics: A Guide for Houses of Worship*. Or invite a speaker to address the topic. Book groups might want to tackle a book like Jim Wallis's *God's Politics*.

**Organize a community forum** on incarcerated youths and the funding disparities between prisons and education in our nation. Potential speakers include juvenile court judges, educators and school administrators, and others.

**Introduce a child advocacy bulletin board.** Choose a public gathering place for your bulletin board to share news about children in need and initiatives taken by the local, state, and federal government on economic justice and children's concerns. Contact your faith group's public policy office or other body providing legislative and justice information and post that on the bulletin board as well. Use the bulletin board to highlight ways that your congregation is already meeting the needs of children and to highlight opportunities for members and visitors to support those efforts, too. Update it regularly. For updated information on the state of children in America, visit [www.childrensdefense.org](http://www.childrensdefense.org).

### *Following the Children's Sabbaths weekend...*

**Encourage members to host a house party** to educate others about the pipeline to prison and what they can do to dismantle it. The Children's Defense Fund has available America's *Cradle to Prison Pipeline*<sup>SM</sup> report, a moving video of images of children in the pipeline set against a stirring song, and other resources that you can draw upon ([www.childrensdefense.org](http://www.childrensdefense.org)). Invite a speaker from the community to outline the dynamics of the pipeline and serve as a resource for your discussion about what you can do.

**Explore your place of worship's rituals related to birth, coming of age, and membership** (such as baptism, infant dedication, namings, bar/bat mitzvah, and confirmation). In what ways does the faith community make a commitment to the child or young person in those rituals? How can your place of worship use these occasions to deepen members' understanding of the commitment they are making to the child or young person, and how can you help them discover ways to fulfill that commitment not only in spiritual nurture and support but in other aspects of that child's life? How can these rituals and life-cycle events nurture children's own understanding of the connection between faith, justice, and compassion? Suggests the Union for Reform Judaism: “*Encourage bar and bat mitzvah students to engage in tzedakah projects as a sign that they are ready to take responsibility for their observance of the mitzvot. Instead of bima flowers, consider decorating the bima with decorative food baskets, which can be donated later to a food pantry. Books can be used as centerpieces and then donated to a needy public school library or other organization. For further bar and bat mitzvah project suggestions visit the [Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism's] Youth Mitzvah Projects site and the social action program bank.*”

**Host a parent education program** to equip parents with conflict resolution and other parenting skills and support them in advocating for their children's healthy development and opportunities. **Meyers Park Baptist Church in Charlotte, North Carolina**, hosts a Parenting Circle for parents of children in elementary school and younger. The week of their Children's Sabbath in 2007, parents were invited to discuss Wendy Mogel's *The Blessing of the Skinned Knee*.

**Start a child advocacy book group.** Host a book group in your place of worship or in partnership with other places of worship or community groups. Select a book or other resource on children's concerns and child advocacy. The resource section in this book has many suggested titles. Your faith tradition's website or publishing house may have additional resources. How you structure the book group can be tailored to suit the interests and availability of group members—for example, you could meet weekly and discuss one chapter of the resource, or monthly to discuss the entire resource.

**Make sure your place of worship is connected to the Children's Defense Fund Religious Action staff.** The Children's Defense Fund has long recognized the practical and moral imperative for the religious community to be at the forefront of CDF's mission to leave no child behind.

## Action Ideas for the Children's Sabbaths Weekend and Throughout the Year

Practically speaking, every great social achievement and transformation of values and priorities in our nation has required the leadership of the religious community with its moral authority, vast infrastructure, roots in every community, and wide range of resources. From the abolition of slavery to the end of child labor in the U.S. to the civil rights movement, no great social transformation has been achieved without the leadership and partnership of the religious community.

The religious community's leadership is not only a practical necessity but also a moral imperative for the religious community, itself: How can we profess to love a God whose abiding concern for the widow, orphan, and stranger, the poor, vulnerable, and excluded is evident in every great religious tradition, if we do not stand and speak out for children? For more than three decades, CDF has had staff committed to partnership with the religious community—from national bodies to local congregations—so that together we can put faith into action and nurture and protect our children.

CDF's Religious Action Team works to build faith-based leadership in the Leave No Child Behind® movement through securing institutional support of national religious denominations, movements, and other organizations, promoting effective public witness and faithful child advocacy, strengthening state and regional religious efforts for children, cultivating a cadre of religious leaders prepared to speak and act for children, activating religious individuals and congregations to help children, and communicating the moral basis for the children's movement. Please let us know how we can support your child advocacy efforts! Feel free to contact **Scott Jacobsen**, Religious Action program associate, at [sjacobsen@childrensdefense.org](mailto:sjacobsen@childrensdefense.org). Here are some ideas for building a stronger relationship:

- Designate a child advocacy liaison or team to work with CDF and bear responsibility for communicating CDF resources and calls for action to the congregation.
- Identify which committee, staff member, group, or other within your place of worship will include carrying forward the work of seeking justice for children in their scope of responsibility.
- Send CDF a description of your Children's Sabbath celebration, so we can share the information with the media, in our next Children's Sabbaths manual, or in other ways.
- Send CDF a description of a model program through which your place of worship is effectively meeting needs of children in the community, so we can share the ideas and inspiration with others.
- Let us know the children's concerns that your place of worship wants to address so we can connect you with CDF resources to help you do so.
- Encourage individual members to make use of CDF's resources.
- Designate a child advocacy resource shelf in your congregation's buildings (the library, educational room/s, social hall, office, or wherever works best). Stock it with copies of books, reports, and other resources from CDF and other child advocacy organizations and with resources related to children and justice from your faith tradition. Include brochures on your state's Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) and other community resources that would be helpful to members of your congregation and community.
- Link your place of worship's website to the Children's Defense Fund website ([www.childrensdefense.org](http://www.childrensdefense.org)): Find out the latest information on national and state child statistics, child welfare policies, and advocacy actions on all the various initiatives CDF is engaged in to ensure a successful passage to adulthood for all children.
- Send leaders and members to CDF trainings and institutes. These include:
  - **Send a young person to one of CDF's Young Advocate Leadership Trainings.** Held in early spring, the Young Advocate Leadership Training (*YALT<sup>SM</sup>*) program attracts hundreds of young adults who participate in an all-expenses-paid weekend-long training program where they develop knowledge and skills in child advocacy that can be implemented in their communities and on their college campuses.
  - **Send a team of a pastor and Christian educator or lay leader to attend the Samuel DeWitt Proctor Institute for Child Advocacy Ministry** ([www.childrensdefense.org/Proctor](http://www.childrensdefense.org/Proctor)). Created to fill a gap in most seminary preparation for ministry, the Proctor Institute offers theological study, great preaching, and teaching to support ministers, seminarians, Christian educators, young adult leaders, and other faith-based child

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advocates as they explore the intersection of Christian faith and child advocacy. These five days of spiritual renewal, preaching, Bible study, networking, movement-building workshops, and continuing education about children in need are not to be missed! The Proctor Institute is ecumenical, drawing participants from a wide range of churches. Young adult leaders (ages 18–25) are invited to register for the Joshua & Deborah Generation track within the Samuel DeWitt Proctor Institute for Child Advocacy Ministry. The Joshua & Deborah Generation track affirms the important role that the newest generation of religious leaders has to play in the movement for children, and the importance of the Moses & Miriam and Joshua & Deborah generations learning from each other and discovering unique leadership styles and opportunities.

- **Send a leader and member to CDF's multi-faith institute being planned for March 2010.** This multi-faith gathering is intended to engage members of every religious tradition as we explore the unique perspectives and resources of each tradition and identify shared concerns and commitments as we work together for justice to improve the lives of our nation's children.
- **Connect with the *Cradle to Prison Pipeline Campaign*** (<http://www.childrensdefense.org/helping-america-children/cradle-to-prison-pipeline-campaign>): Join this national call to action to stop the funneling of tens of thousands of youths, predominantly those who are poor and minority, down life paths that often lead to arrest, conviction, incarceration and, in some cases, death. Race and poverty are the major factors underpinning the pipeline. Other factors include: inadequate access to health care; gaps in early childhood development; disparate educational opportunities; intolerable abuse and neglect; unmet mental health needs; rampant substance abuse; and overburdened and ineffective juvenile justice systems. The urgent challenge for each of us and for our nation is to prevent this waste of

our children's lives and our nation's capabilities. We created the pipeline and we have the power, knowledge, and will to dismantle it.

### Reach Out and Serve

#### *On the Children's Sabbaths weekend...*

**Host a Children's Sabbaths Action Fair.** Invite programs, agencies, and organizations that serve children and families or work for justice to set up information tables in a central location. Have them present information about their work and ways that individuals can get involved on a one-time or ongoing basis by donating, advocating, or volunteering. Include both congregational programs and community-based organizations. Possibilities include community health clinics, juvenile detention facilities, youth development or mentoring programs, Head Start programs, programs and agencies providing services to families in poverty such as a food pantry, and child advocacy organizations. Encourage those staffing the tables to bring photographs or other visuals to depict their work and copies of newsletters or brochures. Urge them to be specific about volunteer and other needs. When possible, encourage them to offer a variety of options for ways people can support their work, including one-time help and ongoing commitments.

Have copies of the commitment form on page 148 at each table. When a congregation member decides on a new commitment, have them fill out the form. The top portion of the form should be left with the organization or program they are planning to support, so that those coordinating the congregation's programs and community organization efforts know the support they may expect. The middle portion of the commitment form should be left with a designated representative of your place of worship. That way, your place of worship can follow up and support and celebrate individuals' commitment. Some places of worship have even celebrated these commitments at the Children's Sabbath the following year. Finally, the bottom third of the commitment form should be kept by the individuals to remind them of the new commitment they have made.

## Faith in Action Fair Commitment Form

Name:

Address:

City/State/Zip:

Phone:

Email:

Pledge of Commitment (time, goods, money):

*Give the completed top portion of this form to the organization to which you will be contributing time, goods, or money.*

Name:

Address:

City/State/Zip:

Phone:

Email:

Pledge of Commitment (time, goods, money):

*Give the completed middle portion of this form to your place of worship. We will be gathering all of the forms to support you in your commitment.*

My pledge of commitment:

Organization/Program/Group to which I am making the commitment:

How to contact them:

*Keep the bottom portion of this form as a reminder of your commitment.*



## Action Ideas for the Children's Sabbaths Weekend and Throughout the Year

**Collect items children need.** Before the Children's Sabbaths weekend, contact a program serving children in poverty, without health coverage, or in the pipeline to prison—such as a Head Start program, health clinic, or juvenile justice program or youth development program. Find out what items are needed by the program or by the children they serve. For several weeks before the Children's Sabbath, publicize what items are needed and ask members to bring them on the Children's Sabbath. Collect them in a central location where members can see how many small contributions can add up to make a big difference. If possible, arrange for a representative of the program that will receive the donations to come speak to your place of worship.

**Make a difference.** For some people, the satisfaction of making a difference comes in part from creating something with their own hands. In consultation with a program serving children in need, come up with a hands-on project that members of all ages can engage in that will help children in poverty, without health care, or in the pipeline to prison. Examples of such a hands-on project that might be able to be completed at your place of worship include preparing food for a program serving children, youths, or families (e.g., baking cookies or making casseroles that could be frozen), assembling activity kits for the waiting room of a health clinic, making soft fleece blankets for children in foster care or juvenile detention, or writing a caring letter to youths in trouble.

**Roll up your sleeves.** Ahead of time, arrange for a service project that people can engage in on the Children's Sabbaths weekend (if appropriate for your religious tradition). Examples include planting bulbs in a neglected school yard serving primarily low-income students, painting a classroom in a Head Start center or low-income school, building book shelves in a youth development program, stocking shelves and packing bags at a food pantry, or sprucing up a common room at a homeless shelter or a juvenile detention center. Publicize the service project, date, and time in advance and have people register so that you can have the appropriate tools or other supplies and can make whatever transportation arrangements are needed.

**Host a health fair** to ensure all children who are eligible for Medicaid or the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) are enrolled. *Before the Children's Sabbath*, contact your state's CHIP or Medicaid office. Ask if a staff person or qualified volunteer could come to your Children's Sabbath to enroll any eligible families, or if a volunteer

from the congregation could be trained to help with the enrollment process. Publicize the availability of CHIP and Medicaid enrollment assistance throughout the congregation and community, using posters, flyers, notices in community newspapers, and other channels. *On the Children's Sabbath*, provide a location in your congregation's building that will provide privacy and confidentiality to increase congregation and community members' comfort in making use of this service. Have your enrollment volunteer or staff and enrollment materials available, and be sure people know when and where to go. *After the Children's Sabbath celebration*, make arrangements to provide the service again. Consider offering it on different days of the week and different times to be accessible to members of the community as well as the congregation. Share your experience with other congregations that may want to do the same, especially those that serve populations most likely to be uninsured (African American, Latino, and low-income). If you notice members of your congregation having difficulties enrolling in Medicaid or CHIP (for example, difficulty getting to an office to sign up), consider taking steps to overcome these barriers (for instance, asking for volunteers at the church to provide transportation).

### “Food, Fun, and Physicals”

That was how **Pratt United Methodist Church in Jackson, Mississippi**, billed the Health Fair for Children that they hosted from 9:00 until noon on Saturday of the 2007 Children's Sabbaths weekend. The children were given health checks from registered nurses. They also participated in games and enjoyed a nutritious meal. Before leaving, they viewed a DVD on good dental practices and were given a package of materials for healthy dental care as well as other health-related gifts. The following day, the church held a Children's Sabbath worship service with children and youths in leadership roles. The church plans to follow up the Children's Sabbath by monitoring the children's health with further health checks.

**What's it like to be a family with uninsured children?** Teresa Liborio and her husband, of Alameda County, California, are the parents of three daughters, all of whom suffer from serious medical conditions. Janneth, 16, has chronic tonsillitis; Brenda, 13, has asthma; and Guadalupe, 9, has anemia. None of the girls have health coverage. Over the past year, Janneth has missed several days of school because of fevers, frequent coughing, throat swelling, inability to eat, and weakness. This has resulted in a significant drop in her grades. An asthmatic, Brenda is unable to participate in even moderate physical activities, including physical education, because she does not have an Albuterol pump (a key asthma management medication). She worries that she may have an asthma attack and need to be rushed to the emergency room. Guadalupe misses occasional school days due to her anemia, which is a controllable illness with proper vitamins and medicine. Because her family cannot afford the medicine to treat her condition, she suffers from fatigue, loss of appetite, and hair loss. The last time all three girls had health coverage was approximately one year ago. Their mother, Teresa, reports that they lost coverage because the Medi-Cal office received her reauthorization packet late. Teresa confides that she is worried. Last year, the last time Janneth was seen by her medical provider, she was advised to have her tonsils removed because of her chronic tonsillitis. But because Janneth lost her health coverage, she has not been able to have the operation. Teresa also worries about how to meet all of her family's basic needs, since she had to leave her job at a fabric factory to care for her sick daughters. Her husband works but does not earn enough to cover all the family's expenses, and they now have additional debt because of unpaid medical expenses from the past year. Teresa says, "I just don't know how we are going to pay for rent, utilities, food, and everything else. I'm always stealing from Peter to pay Paul." When asked what she would say to elected officials about health care for children in the U.S., she replies, "Help us! The application process needs to be easier. One year without health insurance—who knows how my daughters are really doing?"

### *Following the Children's Sabbaths weekend...*

**Adopt a child-serving organization.** Identify an organization serving children and families in need in your community or one nearby (if the need is greater there), and provide a range of assistance such as financial support, donation of goods, and professional expertise in fundraising, promotion, or management, in addition to other forms of volunteer service. Regularly publicize needs and opportunities for involvement so that many members can contribute in ways that best suit their time, gifts, and interests.

In Connecticut, Covenant to Care for Children's Adopt a Social Worker (AASW) program matches individual religious congregations of any faith tradition with a child protective services social worker. "The purpose of the match is to support that worker and to meet the unmet needs of abused, neglected, and severely impoverished children in the local community. Due to the increasing numbers of children living in these situations, many churches and synagogues are needed to help... Most of the needs identified by the adopted social worker can be met through the abundance in the homes of congregation members: the extra blankets and sheets, the outgrown snowsuit, the discarded juvenile furniture, the baby sweater knit by a caring grandmother. Through this partnership, we are building stronger connections between congregations and their communities, reducing the negative consequences that poverty has on the nurturing children receive in their homes, and providing hope for families who experience the support they need from caring neighbors." ([www.covenanttocare.org](http://www.covenanttocare.org)) Imagine the satisfying difference your congregation could make if you forged a relationship with an organization or staff person serving children!

**Host "Families Care Days."** One of the best ways for children to learn compassion, generosity, responsibility, and other positive values is to see adults put them into practice and to do the same. One weekend a month (or quarterly), arrange an opportunity for all ages to work together to meet a need in the community. This may be preparing a meal in a community kitchen for people who are hungry, helping build a Habitat for Humanity house, cleaning up a playground, or painting over graffiti.

## Action Ideas for the Children's Sabbaths Weekend and Throughout the Year

**Host a Children's Defense Fund Freedom Schools® program.** The CDF Freedom Schools® program provides summer and after-school enrichment through a model curriculum that supports children and families around five essential components: high quality academic enrichment, parent and family involvement, civic engagement and social action, intergenerational leadership development, and nutrition, health and mental health. In partnership with community-based organizations, faith institutions, schools, colleges and universities, the *CDF Freedom Schools* program boosts student motivation to read, generates more positive attitudes towards learning, and connects the needs of children and families to the resources of their communities.

### A Day in the CDF Freedom Schools® Program

As children enter a *CDF Freedom Schools* site, they are greeted and served a **nutritious breakfast or snack** by caring adults. The children and young adults then move on to **Harambee!**, a time of informal sharing when children and staff come together to celebrate themselves and each other.

In the classroom where servant leader interns facilitate classes of no more than 10 students, children are engaged in reading and theme-based, hands-on activities as outlined in the **Integrated Reading Curriculum (IRC)**. Reading is a cornerstone of the program. Servant leader interns lead the children in reading excellent books throughout the summer or after school. These books feature heroes, heroines, and settings that reflect the children's cultural images and encourage them to think about how they can make a difference in their own lives. Classroom activities related to the day's reading use a variety of teaching models, including cooperative learning, role playing, group discussions, reading aloud, paired reading, creative writing, and visual arts. The range of activities ensures that children with diverse experiences, talents, and levels of confidence in reading and verbal expression are actively engaged.

During the summer program as the morning draws to a close, **Drop Everything And Read (D.E.A.R.)** time is announced and shared by everyone. To emphasize the importance and joy of reading, children and adults alike "Drop Everything And Read" silently for 15 minutes, choosing from a rich selection of reading material available from the *CDF Freedom Schools* site library. At lunchtime the feeling of family and community spirit continues as the children join adults to eat a **nutritious**

**meal.** After lunch, children participate in *CDF Freedom Schools* **afternoon activities**. These are well-planned music, dance or other culturally enriching activities that are related to the themes presented in the Integrated Reading Curriculum, including field trips that expand the children's horizons. The children also may engage in social action projects and rehearse for the summer finale that is performed for parents, friends, and members of the community.

Once the day has ended for the children, *CDF Freedom Schools* staff meet for the **daily debrief** to process the day's activities, discuss the day's successes and challenges, focus on site logistics and planning, and re-energize for the next day.

### What difference does participation in the CDF Freedom Schools program make?

- In New Orleans, 71 percent of Level 2 and 3 children reported they could do most things if they tried, an increase of 30 percent.
- In Newark, New Jersey, 81 percent of parents attended parent-teacher conferences and 96 percent brought home materials for their child to read.
- In Rochester, New York, the number of children physically fighting decreased by 26 percent.
- Although children in New Orleans maintain relatively high levels of depression symptoms, the number of children experiencing positive mental health indicators increased. The number of children stating "I felt like I was just as good as other children" (26.2 percent) and "I had a good time" (5.7 percent) increased. By the end of the program, 85.7 percent of the children reported that they felt happy.
- At a Washington, D.C., site that serves homeless children, fewer children reported feeling like they couldn't pay attention, and 100 percent of younger children reported feeling happy (a 21.4 percent increase).

October 30, 2009, is the application deadline for summer 2010 operation. To learn more about the *CDF Freedom Schools* program and the impact it has had on children throughout the country, please visit [www.childrensdefensefund.org/freedomschools](http://www.childrensdefensefund.org/freedomschools).

## Action Ideas for the Children's Sabbaths Weekend and Throughout the Year

### **Provide free tax filing assistance to low-income working families.**

Before your Children's Sabbath, find out about Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) sites in your community or other places that are conducting outreach and enrollment efforts to help low-income families receive the benefits for which they are eligible. On the Children's Sabbaths weekend, sign up volunteers for these existing outreach projects. To find a nearby VITA site:

- Call the IRS at 1 (800) TAX-1040 or 1 (800) 849-1040.
- Visit the AARP's website (<http://www.aarp.org/money/taxaide>) or call their toll-free hotline for information: 1 (888) 227-7669.
- Visit the American Bar Association's website at <http://www.abanet.org/tax/sites.html>.

Ahead of time, arrange for a trainer to come and train members as VITA volunteers to work at local VITA sites to assist eligible families in getting the Earned Income Tax Credits they are due. Call CDF at (202) 662-3542 for help arranging for a trainer.

### **What difference can free tax filing assistance make to a low-income family?**

Vivian, a single mother of three, earns \$35,000 as an office manager. Two years ago she went to a large tax preparer and paid \$182 to have her taxes completed and to receive a Refund Anticipation Loan. She also paid an additional \$99 in bank fees for the transfer—all to get her money in two days. If she had known that it takes Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) sites approximately 14 days to get her refund with direct deposit and electronic filing, she would not have visited a paid preparer. Last year, Vivian had an appointment at the free VITA site near her home, which saved her the \$281 she had paid in preparation and Refund Anticipation Loan fees the prior year. She plans to return to a VITA site again this year. She is saving the money from the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and free tax filing last year and this year to help her make a down payment on a house so that she can keep her children safe and secure.

Vivian's experiences getting her taxes done at a paid preparer are not unusual. Millions of low- to moderate-income families will claim billions of dollars in EITC

refunds this tax season. A large percentage of these taxpayers will pay outrageous fees to have their taxes prepared and to receive their refund more quickly. According to data from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), recent success in promoting the EITC has been accompanied by losses to commercial tax preparers and Refund Anticipation Loan lenders:

- More than 22 million taxpayers received the EITC in 2005, with an average benefit amount of \$1,894. This represents a \$41.8 billion investment in children, families and the communities in which they live, work and play.<sup>1</sup>
- In California, about 2.4 million taxpayers received the EITC, representing a \$4.4 billion investment. Still, Californians lost roughly \$320 million to tax preparation fees, Refund Anticipation Loans, and other commercial products.<sup>2</sup>

### ***Support for Working Families***

For the most recent year for which data are available, the EITC lifted 4.4 million Americans above the poverty line, including 2.4 million children.<sup>3</sup> Its contribution to the well-being of lower-wage, working families is significant—giving working parents an opportunity to support their families and infusing money into the local economy. Without the crucial income supplement the EITC provides, it is estimated that the child poverty rate would be one-fourth higher.

For tax year 2008, the EITC federal tax credit is worth up to:

- \$4,824 for families with two or more children;
- \$2,917 for families with one child; and,
- \$438 for individuals between the ages of 25 and 64 with no children.

In addition, many EITC recipients are eligible for other credits such as the Child Tax Credit (CTC). The CTC is a federal tax credit for working families with children and incomes above \$8,500. It is worth up to \$1,000 for each child claimed in tax year 2008. Overall, it has been estimated that the CTC adds as much as 40 percent to the refunds of EITC-eligible tax filers.

<sup>1</sup> Children's Defense Fund, "Avoiding the Pitfalls of Refund Anticipation Loans," 2008.

<sup>2</sup> Children's Defense Fund, "Avoiding the Pitfalls of Refund Anticipation Loans," 2008.

<sup>3</sup> Robert Greenstein, "The Earned Income Tax Credit: Boosting Employment, Aiding the Working Poor," Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, August 17, 2005.

**Bridge to Benefits** ([www.bridgetobenefits.org](http://www.bridgetobenefits.org)) is a multi-state project by Children's Defense Fund–Minnesota to improve the well-being of families and individuals by linking them to public work support programs and tax credits.

To see if you or someone else may be eligible for public work support programs, click the “start” button on the website home page to use the Eligibility Screening Tool. Bridge to Benefits will ask a few simple questions but will NOT ask for information that identifies the user. It's easy, confidential, and free!

**Arrange to have volunteer “pew parents”** who sit in a designated pew with children during the worship service so that an exhausted parent or caregiver can sit on their own on occasion and use that time for renewal. If children attend your place of worship unaccompanied by adults, this can also provide them with an important sense of connection. Publicize the availability of pew parents so that visitors and new members know they are available.

**Sponsor a parents night out** to give parents and other caregivers a chance to recharge their batteries. Publicize it to the community at large so that any stressed, short-handed parent can take advantage of the respite.

**Start a support group** for single parents or kinship care families (those headed by a grandparent or other relative). Publicize it to the community beyond just your congregation.

**Prepare care packages** of new clothes, personal toiletries, and/or a welcome gift for children placed into foster care homes. Contact the Division of Youth and Family Services to find out the best way to contribute this way.

**Provide internships, year-round and summer job opportunities, or job-shadowing experiences** and guidance for families and youths in need. Partner with other places of worship, community organizations, and area high schools to pool the opportunities and to identify those who might benefit from them.

**Publicize free family-friendly events** offered by your place of worship or in the community. Make all feel welcome.

**Partner with other places of worship and community organizations to combine resources, meet needs, and build connections.** Working through the appropriate staff and committees in your own place of worship, assess the interests, resources, needs, and partners available for a new or expanded effort to improve the lives of children:

- **Interest:** What is your congregation already doing to serve or advocate on behalf of children? How are their needs included and met through your place of worship? What past or current efforts have been most successful? Why do you think that is? What past or current efforts were not successful? Why do you think that is? What methods, programs, and events have been most successful in motivating and empowering members of your congregation to act on behalf of others?
- **Resources:** What resources are available in your congregation to meet the needs of children and families? What resources are already committed to children and social justice? What are potential resources that might be committed? In addition to financial resources, consider your physical resources—buildings, vans, playground, audiovisual, and the like. Think about your people resources. What kinds of skills, experience, contacts, time, and interests do your members have that could be contributed to an effort to help children and families?
- **Needs:** What are the needs of children and families in your community, state, and nation that your congregation might feel called to help meet? There are many resources to help you develop an understanding of urgent unmet needs your congregation might address. Those that touch members themselves are powerfully motivating. There are also needs that are evident through the media and others identified by community organizations. Conversations with community members are a vital way to learn what problems are pressing on others but of which your members might not be aware.
- **Partners:** Who in the community might become your partners in a new effort or join you to strengthen an existing effort? Concern for children is a powerful unifying force. Make the most of this opportunity to build relationships with other places of worship and with community organizations and leaders to improve the lives of children. Develop a list of effective organizations, agencies, and programs in the community that might welcome a partnership with your place of worship. Develop another list of other places of worship that might be good partners. Each partner might bring



something different to the relationship—varied interests and resources, different reach into communities that would benefit from the new services or effort, unique perspectives on the problems and what is needed. Invest time in listening to and learning from each other and developing a shared plan in which all feel ownership.

## Speak Up for Justice

*On the Children's Sabbaths weekend...*

**Launch a Justice for Children letter-writing table that is available to congregation members every week or once a month.** Supply it with paper, pens, envelopes, and action alerts or other advocacy information from your faith group's Washington or public policy office or a children's concerns group like the Children's Defense Fund. See pages 165–166 for information. In addition to

writing or calling when legislation is coming up and their vote is important, remind members to contact legislators after the vote to congratulate them for their leadership on behalf of children or to express disappointment and urge better leadership the next time. Let them know that you are watching what they do and will hold them accountable. Review CDF's non-partisan voting record to see how your elected officials stood for children at [www.childrensdefense.org](http://www.childrensdefense.org).

**Tip:** Set the table up in a location like the fellowship or social hall, library, or another gathering spot where it will be convenient to stop by. Provide informational materials and letter-writing supplies that can be used right away or, if your tradition requires, taken home to be used at another time, as soon as permissible.

## Tips on Writing Letters to Your Members of Congress

- **Be brief.** Address only one issue. A letter need not be longer than four or five sentences.
- **Be specific.** If you are writing about specific legislation, include its bill number or title.
- **Write your own letter,** adapting a sample letter as appropriate. Form letters do not receive the same attention as individually written letters.
- **Be positive and constructive.** Try to say something complimentary in the first paragraph. It is just as important to thank members of Congress for voting the right way as to criticize them for voting the wrong way.
- **Say in your own words why the legislation matters to you and to children.** Clearly state your reason for supporting or opposing the bill or issue you are writing about.
- **If you have a personal story about children in poverty, without health coverage, or in the pipeline to prison, consider sharing it.** These personal stories are the most effective way for your legislator to truly understand the issue and the impact it has on real lives.
- **If you have particular knowledge or expertise, describe it.** Relating the bill to local or state conditions is especially effective.
- **If you wish, feel free to include a copy of a report, a newsletter story, or a local survey to support your arguments.** Don't presume that the legislator is aware of such information, even if you think it is common knowledge.
- **Be sure to sign your name legibly and include your address and telephone number** so your Representative or Senator can respond.
- **If possible, fax the letter** (since postal mail may be delayed by screening procedures) or **send the letter electronically.** Your legislator will likely have a link on his or her website directing constituents to "contact us."

## Step-by-Step Sample Letter

(Please note: This is written as an example only. Please feel free to write your letter in your own words to reflect your concerns, experience, and perspective.)

The Honorable \_\_\_\_\_  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Or:

The Honorable \_\_\_\_\_  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

**1. Introduce yourself.** My name is *Janet Doe* and I am a member of *Mytown Congregation* in *Mytown*. I appreciate your commitment to public service and desire to do the right thing.

**2. Share your concern for children.** I am writing out of concern for uninsured children in our community and throughout America, most of whom live in working families.

**3. Share your vision for children.** As a person of faith, I believe providing health coverage for all of our nation's children is our moral obligation and the right thing to do. I believe every child needs and deserves health care coverage so they can get the health care they need when they are sick and for preventive care.

**4. Talk about the solutions and urge action on them.** Public children's health insurance should be simplified and consolidated into a single program that guarantees all children in America affordable health coverage for all medically necessary services. It should also improve children's access to health services by increasing the level of reimbursement to providers. I hope that you will support proposals by the Children's Defense Fund that will provide health coverage for all our children. *[Visit the Children's Sabbath Action Page at [www.childrensdefense.org/childrenssabbaths](http://www.childrensdefense.org/childrenssabbaths) after October 1 for the latest information on legislation and needed action and an updated sample letter.]*

**5. Thank the Member of Congress and ask for a reply.** Thank you for your attention to our community's children and the nine million children who are uninsured. I look forward to your reply informing me of how you will address these concerns so that all children have the health coverage they need and deserve.

Sincerely,

*Your name*

*Your address*

*Your telephone number*

### How to address your envelope:

The Honorable \_\_\_\_\_  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Or:

The Honorable \_\_\_\_\_  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515



**Encourage members to speak up on behalf of children in the local newspaper to influence many others.** After they've written a letter to a member of Congress or other elected leader, members can take a little time and turn the letter into a Letter to the Editor or op-ed for the local paper. Encourage them to think about a current "hook," an article recently published in the paper that relates to the topic or a recent or upcoming event, to make it

timely. Perhaps keep copies of recent papers on the letter-writing table set up in the congregation's building. Theologian Reinhold Niebuhr urged religious leaders to step into the pulpit with the Bible in one hand and the newspaper in the other. Now, we can take that newspaper and bring our moral voice and call for leadership that upholds a priority for children and the poor to its readers. See below for more tips on writing Letters to the Editor.

### Tips on Writing a Letter to the Editor

(Adapted from *Reclaiming Our Democracy: Healing the Break between People and Government* by Sam Daley-Harris)

- 1. Respond to a recent news story or editorial.** A good letter might begin, "Your article on the new health statistics ('More Americans Are Uninsured,' Oct. 4) was excellent. Readers might want to know that of those 45 million uninsured Americans, nine million are children...." You don't have to agree with the article, editorial, or column. Say respectfully whether you think they got the story right or not and assert your views.
- 2. Make your letter short.** Check your local paper for submission criteria; a letter should contain 200-300 words. Provide a few striking facts that might surprise an editor or a reader. ("One out of every nine children in the United States is uninsured. Most of them have parents who work.")
- 3. Use descriptive words that communicate your passion about the issue.** Don't be dry. ("Imagine walking into a classroom of 27 second grade students. Could you look around and pick out three children in that room who don't deserve health insurance?")
- 4. Offer a solution to the problem.** "The Children's Defense Fund's proposed plan would simplify and consolidate children's health coverage into a single federal program that guarantees all children in America access to health coverage for all medically necessary services. The proposal also improves children's access to health services by increasing the level of reimbursement to providers."
- 5. Review.** Re-read your letter and check for any spelling or grammatical mistakes before you submit it. Include your address and day and evening phone numbers; editors usually verify the identity of the writer before they print the letter.

### *Following the Children's Sabbaths weekend...*

**Build relationships with elected leaders to help them be voices for children's justice.** Plan a visit with others in your place of worship. If there is someone in your congregation or community who has met previously with their member of Congress, you may want to invite them to describe their experience and guide the group through its first visit. Make appointments to visit your members of Congress in their home district offices. (You don't have to go to Washington, D.C., to meet with your elected officials, and, in fact, visits when they are home in their district can be more influential than being just one of the many groups of tourists who stop by for a photo-op while in the nation's capital). Share with them your concerns about the problems facing children in your community and state. Talk about your values and priorities for how we protect children, especially those who are poorest and most vulnerable. Ask what leadership they will provide on the issues that concern you most. When key justice concerns arise, you'll be ready to gather those concerned members to visit your elected officials again and urge specific action. The box on the following page provides tips for arranging an effective visit with your elected officials. Contact your faith group's Washington or public policy office, if it has one, for information on key concerns and legislative action alerts. The Children's Defense Fund also provides information and alerts. Visit [www.childrensdefense.org](http://www.childrensdefense.org) and click on "Action Center."

**Invite your elected officials and other decision-makers and opinion-shapers (like the media) to visit programs sponsored by your congregation or programs in your community,** like a juvenile detention facility, that demonstrate the challenges children face, as well as sites that show what works, like an after-school tutoring program or a school-to-work program. Put a human face on problems affecting children that otherwise might just be a statistic to them.

### **Join the Children's Defense Fund's Health Coverage for All Children Campaign**

([www.childrensdefense.org/healthychild](http://www.childrensdefense.org/healthychild)): The nine million uninsured children in America and the millions more who are underinsured need your voice to move Congress to guarantee every child and family in America access to quality, affordable, comprehensive health coverage.

#### **You can be a voice for parents like Blanca and Marisol.**

Blanca Valerio of Los Angeles has two daughters, Mayra, age 17, and Paola, age 18. Mayra has asthma, and while it is currently under control, between birth and age 12 she suffered from attacks more than once a week. Mayra and Paola's father earns \$1,400 per month as a driver. His employer does not offer coverage for either Mayra or Paola. In 2005, Mayra and Paola lost their Medicaid coverage as a result of an increase in their father's salary. When this occurred, there was a delay in enrolling for Healthy Families (California's CHIP program); however, with the assistance of a social worker at their local health clinic, the process was expedited. Since then, there have been additional lapses in health coverage, and Blanca has had to reapply many times. During these lapses in coverage, Blanca and her husband accumulated debt as a result of their children's medical bills.

Marisol, another California mother of two uninsured children, knows the stress the Valerios endure. She says of her own children, "When they are sick, I can't take them to the doctor. I stay at home with them and hope and pray to God that it passes. But sometimes it doesn't, so we have to take them to the doctor, and then I get into more debt but with less money because I missed one day's work."

## Meeting with Your Legislators

### Before Your Visit

**Begin planning for your visit.** Don't worry if you have butterflies in your stomach at the thought of meeting with your legislator for the first time. It would be unusual if you didn't. Know that the best way to communicate with your legislator is to make a personal visit. You probably will enjoy the experience—and the legislator will appreciate the time you spent communicating your views. So, take a deep breath and begin planning! First, decide on the issues you want to discuss.

**Make an appointment.** When making an appointment, explain what issue you would like to discuss. If the legislator is unavailable, the aide who deals with your issue often will be knowledgeable and influential in helping to form the member's views. Don't feel slighted if you end up meeting with the aide. He or she can be very influential and, if your meeting goes well, may also encourage your legislator to meet with you in person the next time.

**Do your homework.** Study the legislator's voting record on a number of issues using the Children's Defense Fund Action Council® Nonpartisan Congressional Scorecard and other sources, so you can comment on something positive, if possible, and know if the particular issue is one on which the legislator tends to agree or disagree with you. If there is a bill that interests you, know its status and whether your legislator has taken a position on it.

**Remember the experts!** Parents, grandparents, service providers, educators, religious and business leaders, police officers, doctors and nurses, and others who witness children's needs on a daily basis are children's best advocates. They really are the experts when it comes to how bills and policies will affect children, and it's important that policy makers have a wide variety of people to call upon when they have questions about their work's impact on children. Children's advocacy groups often seek out these everyday experts to present the most compelling information during legislative visits. Tell of personal experiences you have had, if possible, to illustrate your point.

**Be prepared.** Before meeting with the legislator or aide, plan and organize your presentation, and practice what you are going to say. If you are going with other people to the meeting, get together beforehand to make sure that you all have the same purpose. Take along helpful information to back up your arguments: newspaper articles about the problems children face, statistics, or a fact sheet. (CDF can provide some of the information you need. Call the Religious Action Team at (202) 662-3579 or visit CDF's website at [www.childrensdefense.org](http://www.childrensdefense.org).)

### During Your Visit

**Make your message concise.** You may think your meeting is for 30 minutes and then arrive to find the legislator's schedule so tight that you get only five minutes. Know exactly what you want to say and be prepared to say it quickly, if circumstances demand that.

**Present solutions.** People often feel overwhelmed by problems they consider too massive and diverse for corrective action, so don't just talk about the problem. Share one or two concrete ideas for ways to improve the lives of children in your community. Tell your legislator what it will take to ensure that no child is left behind.

**Talk about what works.** Using success stories of real children and families who are being helped by Head Start, child care, job training, or health insurance will strengthen your argument and counter claims that all government programs are ineffective.

**Search for common ground.** Don't be exclusive or judgmental. Keeping in mind the wide range of viewpoints in Congress and in every community and state legislature, frame your messages carefully to include words and themes that will reach new audiences and persuade them to become new allies. Children's advocates care as much as anyone about efficiency, accountability, fiscal responsibility, and personal responsibility. Use themes like these to frame your message.

**Be honest.** It's fine to say you don't know the answer to a question and to promise to provide information later, by phone, fax, or email. This also gives you another opportunity to contact the office.

### Following Your Visit

**Build a relationship.** The better your communication, the more seriously you will be taken, and the more willing the representative and his or her staff will be to rely upon you and your judgments.

**Follow up your visit with a letter thanking the legislator for the time spent listening to your concerns.** Enclose any documentation you had agreed to provide to bolster your position, and briefly restate your views.

**Provide additional information.** Send articles, write letters with further information, or offer assistance in thinking through solutions that could work in your community.

**Call periodically with updates.**

**Invite them to speak.** Invite the representative or the staff person who handles children's issues to speak before your congregation or a community group in which you are involved.

**Invite them to a site visit.** Invite the legislator to visit a successful child-serving program with which you work, such as an after-school program, conflict resolution program, or Head Start class.

**Show broad support for your concerns.** If your legislator or aide disagrees or is noncommittal, don't threaten or argue after you have made your case, because it is counter-productive. A better strategy is to plan another visit with others to show more community support for your position, to put together a bunch of letters from constituents, or to think of another tactic such as a letter to the editor. Persistence often pays.

**Watch how your legislator votes and respond.** If the legislator votes with your position on the issue, recognize that vote with a written "thank you." Such recognition may influence his or her next vote on children's issues. It also lets your legislator know that you are watching closely. If the legislator votes against your position, write or call to express your disappointment, and urge reconsideration of the issue the next time it comes up for a vote.



## SECTION 12

### Resources for Faithful Child Advocates

The following resources may be useful to you and your place of worship as you work to create change for children today and bring hope and a better tomorrow. In this section you will find:

- Resources from the Children's Defense Fund
- Resources from Other Sources
- Resources from the Bahá'í Community
- Resources from the Catholic Community
- Resources from the Protestant Community
- Resources from the Jewish Community
- Resources from the Unitarian Universalist Community
- Resources for Children

In addition to exploring the resources from your own religious tradition, you may find that resources from another tradition are informative and useful as well.

## Resources from the Children's Defense Fund

Unless otherwise noted, all of the following may be ordered by visiting the CDF web store at [www.childrensdefense.org](http://www.childrensdefense.org) or by calling (865) 457-6466. Many of the publications can be downloaded for free at [www.childrensdefense.org/Publications](http://www.childrensdefense.org/Publications).

**NEW!** *The Sea Is So Wide and My Boat Is So Small: Charting a Course for the Next Generation*  
by Marian Wright Edelman

A call to action for all Americans to address the urgent needs of the country's youth, this book is a series of letters to a variety of audiences—educators, faith leaders, youths, mothers, elected officials and concerned citizens nationwide—that reflect on the social and economic progress as well as the setbacks since Dr. King's death 40 years ago. Mrs. Edelman challenges each audience to step up and take action at this pivotal moment to ensure a level playing field for the next generation. Hyperion, 147 pages, 2008. \$19.95. Available in stores and on-line at [amazon.com](http://amazon.com), [barnesandnoble.com](http://barnesandnoble.com), and [borders.com](http://borders.com).

**NEW!** *The State of America's Children 2008*

This edition of CDF's analysis of the status of children in America puts a special focus on child poverty and the more than 13 million children who are poor, and includes the latest developments and data related to family income, child welfare, child health and the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP), early childhood development, education, and juvenile justice. Foreword by Marian Wright Edelman offers both vision and challenge. The 2008 edition can be downloaded from CDF's website at [www.childrensdefense.org](http://www.childrensdefense.org).

*Did Your Members of Congress Protect Children?  
The 2007 Children's Defense Fund Action Council®  
Nonpartisan Congressional Scorecard*

This Scorecard documents how well your state's congressional delegation voted to protect the children in your state and the nation in 2007. Based on crucial votes that affected the lives of millions of children in America, the CDF Action Council names the best and worst Senators and Representatives in protecting children. Download this edition for free at <http://www.cdfactioncouncil.org/>.

*America's Cradle to Prison Pipeline<sup>SM</sup> Report*

This report documents an urgent national crisis at the intersection of poverty and race. The report includes an overview of the major factors behind the pipeline, photographs that show the faces of children in the pipeline, case studies describing how the pipeline affects children, calls for the hard work and persistence needed to build a transforming movement to dismantle the pipeline, descriptions of some promising approaches to help keep children out of the pipeline, and research tables and state-by-state data of key child indicators. CDF, 234 pages, 2007. \$9.95

*Protect Children, Not Guns 2008*

CDF's annual report about the toll gun violence is taking on our children and society. Contains tables and graphs outlining the latest data for firearm deaths of children and teens, as well as action steps that you can take to help prevent this senseless loss of lives. CDF, 16 pages, 2008. Available for free by calling (865) 457-6466.

*Katrina's Children: Still Waiting 2007*

In 2006, CDF released *Katrina's Children: A Call to Conscience and Action*, a report highlighting the trauma and heartrending stories of young Katrina evacuees struggling with their devastating losses. As our nation's attention has moved on to the next big story, thousands of Katrina survivors are still scattered across the country or crowded into "temporary" trailers waiting to return home. This second "call to conscience and action" looks at what still needs to be done to help them get their lives back and address their health and mental health needs, especially as it relates to chronic and acute traumatic stress disorder. Report is available for free by calling (865) 457-6466.

*When Will We Hear Dr. Martin Luther King's Call to End Poverty? 2008 National Observance of Children's Sabbaths® Manual*

by Shannon Daley-Harris

Focusing on the theme, "When Will We Hear Dr. Martin Luther King's Call to End Poverty?" this multi-faith, easy-to-use resource manual provides congregations everything they need to plan, promote, and present a Children's Sabbath celebration. CDF, 190 pages, 2008. \$8.00. You can also download the manual at [www.childrensdefense.org](http://www.childrensdefense.org).

***In Harm's Way: True Stories of Uninsured Texas Children***

Texas has the highest rate of uninsured children in the nation, 20.2 percent, compared to 11.6 percent nationally. In this report from CDF-Texas, families lacking health coverage tell their stories, from frustrating to frightening, of the overwhelming obstacles they encountered in trying to get medical care and health insurance for their children. This report is dedicated to Devante Johnson, who went without health coverage for four months while struggling against cancer of the kidneys. He died at the age of 14 in March 2007. Report can be downloaded for free from CDF's website at [www.childrensdefense.org](http://www.childrensdefense.org).

***Hold My Hand: Prayers for Building a Movement to Leave No Child Behind***

**by Marian Wright Edelman**

An inspiring collection of Marian Wright Edelman's heartfelt prayers of thanksgiving, prayers of petition, and pledges of commitment that will move and encourage you. CDF, 92 pages, 2001. \$6.95

***Holding Children in Prayer: A Lenten Guide*** by Shannon Daley-Harris and Eileen W. Lindner, eds.

Each spring renew your spirit and your commitment to children with this Lenten Guide offering daily lessons, reflections, and prayers to encourage and strengthen your commitment to continue serving and advocating for children. Contributors to this collection include Dr. Samuel DeWitt Proctor, Dr. Diana Garland, Dr. Rebecca Davis, Dr. Eileen W. Lindner, and Shannon Daley-Harris. CDF, 60 pages, 1997. \$2.00

***Holding Children in Prayer: An Advent Guide*** by Shannon Daley-Harris

During the holiday season, keep children in your thoughts and prayers with this Advent Guide. Includes Lighting the Advent Candle, scripture readings, reflections, prayers, and Acts in Faith for every day of Advent. CDF, 72 pages, 2001. \$2.00

***I Can Make a Difference: A Treasury to Inspire Our Children***

**by Marian Wright Edelman**

Marian Wright Edelman has drawn from a variety of cultures and peoples to compile these timeless stories, poems, quotations, and folktales that speak to all children to let them know they can make a difference in today's world. Illustrated by Barry Moser, the book highlights 12 values children and youths can aspire to achieve. Harper Collins Publishers, 112 pages, 2005. Hardcover. \$19.99

***Lanterns: A Memoir of Mentors*** by Marian Wright Edelman

Marian Wright Edelman, president of the Children's Defense Fund, shares powerful stories about the mentors in her life from her childhood through the Civil Rights Movement to the founding and building of CDF. She pays tribute to the extraordinary personal mentors who helped light her way: Martin Luther King, Jr., Robert F. Kennedy, Fannie Lou Hamer, William Sloane Coffin, Ella Baker, Mae Bertha Carter, and many others. She brings home the importance of mentoring, caring about, and standing for children every day. Beacon Press, 180 pages, 1999. Hardcover \$20.00, softcover \$14.00

***The Measure of Our Success: A Letter to My Children and Yours***

**by Marian Wright Edelman**

A touching and moral message from Marian Wright Edelman to her sons—a message both introspective and compelling that all of us can use in our daily struggle to find the right balance. She passes on a family legacy based on service to others and the 25 lessons for life she wants most to impart to her sons. Beacon Press, 97 pages, 1992. \$9.00

***Guide My Feet: Prayers and Meditations on Loving and Working for Children***

**by Marian Wright Edelman**

Marian Wright Edelman offers inspiration, prayers of thanksgiving, pleas for guidance, and pledges of commitment. Beacon Press, 210 pages, 1995. Hardcover \$17.95, softcover \$10.00

***I'm Your Child, God: Prayers for Our Children*** by Marian Wright Edelman

Contemporary, multi-cultural prayers for children and teens dealing with the complexities of growing up in today's world, accompanied by stunning illustrations by Caldecott Honor Medal winner Bryan Collier. Hyperion, 90 pages, 2002. \$19.99

***Dream Me Home Safely: Writers on Growing Up in America***

This book tells the stories of the many ways children make a place for themselves in their families' hearts and in the world. With insight, skill, great humor, and zestful candor, the writers offer a glimpse of their childhood selves. Written by some of America's most outstanding authors (Anna Quindlen, Alice Walker, Joyce Carol Oates, and many others), this compilation highlights the complexities and preciousness of childhood and the importance of family and rituals in the lives of children. Houghton Mifflin, 244 pages, 2003. \$13.00

## Resources for Faithful Child Advocates

### **“A Prayer for Children” video**

This moving poem by Ina Hughs is read by Marian Wright Edelman, along with footage of children, creating an inspirational three-minute video that may be used in worship, educational programs, or to begin or end a meeting. \$6.00

### **Resources from Other Sources**

#### ***Together We Pray: A Prayer Book for Families* by J. Bradley Wigger**

Prayers inspired by the psalms for use by families, organized by table prayers for mealtimes, devotional prayers of joy and care, and memory bedtime prayers. Wigger uses language that is familiar to Jews and Christians alike, and suitable for any family that draws from the rich resources of the psalms. Chalice Press, 98 pages, 2005.

#### **NEW!** ***Acts of Faith: The Story of an American Muslim, the Struggle for the Soul of a Generation* by Eboo Patel**

Eboo Patel, the founder and executive director of the Interfaith Youth Core, a Chicago-based international non-profit dedicated to building the interfaith youth movement, has written this remarkable account of coming of age and coming to understand what led him toward religious pluralism rather than hatred. His story is a hopeful and moving testament to the power and passion of young people and to the nation, that we find the fulfillment of our identities in the work we do in the world. Readers of many faiths will come to a better understanding of the experience of one young Muslim and be inspired by what young people of a variety of faiths are accomplishing as they come together through the Interfaith Youth Core. A Discussion Guide from Interfaith Youth Core can guide a group in discussing Patel's story. Beacon Press, 189 pages, 2007. Softcover \$13.00

#### **NEW!** ***Whatever It Takes: Geoffrey Canada's Quest to Change Harlem and America* by Paul Tough**

The question that Geoffrey Canada found himself asking was “What would it take to change the lives of poor children—not one by one, through heroic interventions and occasional miracles—but in big numbers and in a way that could be replicated nationwide?” The question led him to create the Harlem Children's Zone, a 97-block laboratory in central Harlem where he is testing new and sometimes controversial ideas about poverty in America. His conclusion: If you want poor kids to be able to compete with their middle-class peers, you need to change every-

thing in their lives—their schools, their neighborhoods, even the child-rearing practices of their parents.

*Whatever It Takes* is an inspired portrait by Paul Tough, an editor at the *New York Times Magazine*, not only of Geoffrey Canada but also of the parents and children in Harlem who are struggling to better their lives, often against great odds. Carefully researched and deeply affecting, this is a dispatch from inside the most daring and potentially transformative social experiment of our time.

#### ***Our Day to End Poverty: 24 Ways You Can Make a Difference* by Shannon Daley-Harris and Jeffrey Keenan with Karen Speerstra**

Imagine ending poverty at home and around the globe in our own lifetimes. With creativity this book invites us to look at our very ordinary days, from waking up in the morning to going to bed at night, and to begin to think about combating poverty in new, inventive ways. Includes guides for using the book with places of worship, schools, and the workplace. Berrett-Koehler, 232 pages, 2007. Softcover \$14.95

#### ***Amazing Grace: The Lives of Children and the Conscience of a Nation* by Jonathan Kozol**

This book draws extensively upon poverty as spoken through the voices of children and their families who live in the South Bronx, the poorest Congressional district in the United States. Crown, 1995.

#### ***You Can't Be Neutral on a Moving Train: A Personal History of Our Times* by Howard Zinn**

Acclaimed historian Zinn has both chronicled and participated in some of the most important social movements of our time. His experiences speak to the future as much as to the past, showing in vivid detail how small actions can effect historic change. Beacon, 1995.

#### ***The People Speak: American Voices, Some Famous, Some Little Known* by Howard Zinn (ed.)**

Collected dramatic readings that celebrate the enduring spirit of dissent. Here, in their own words, are: Christopher Columbus, an unnamed Lowell mill girl, Frederick Douglas, John Brown, Mark Twain, Malcolm X, a Gulf War resister, a family member of a victim of the September 11 Twin Towers attack, and many others. Includes commentary by Zinn. Harper Collins Publishers, 2004.



## Resources from the Bahá'í Community

The following resources all are available from Bahá'í Distribution Service: 1(800) 999-9019 or [www.bahaibookstore.com/index.cfm](http://www.bahaibookstore.com/index.cfm):

- *In Service to the Common Good by the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the U.S.*, 56 pages, 2004.
- *For the Betterment of the World* by the Bahá'í International Community, 32 pages, 2002.
- *Foundations for a Spiritual Education, Research of the Bahá'í Writings*
- *Family Life and Bahá'í Education*, compiled by the Research Department of the Universal House of Justice
- *To Be a Mother* and *To Be a Father*, both compiled by Wendi Momen, George Ronald Press
- *When We Grow Up* by Bahiyiyih Nakhjavani, George Ronald Press
- *The Brilliant Stars: The Bahá'í Faith and the Education of Children* by H.T.D. Rost, George Ronald Press
- *The Virtues Project Educator's Guide: Simple Ways to Create a Culture of Character*, Jalmar Press
- *Healing Racism: Education's Role*, Editors: Nathan Rutstein, Michael Morgan, Whitcomb Publishing
- *On the Front Lines: Bahá'í Youth in Their Own Words*, Editors: Heather Brandon, Aaron Emmel, George Ronald Press
- *ONE Magazine: Wealth & Poverty*, Vol. 2.5, Editor: The Bahá'ís of Eliot, Maine
- *Youth: Channels for Change: A Compilation of Extracts from the Writings of the Bab, Baha'u'llah, Abdu'l-Baha, Shoghi Effendi and the Universal House of Justice Relating to Youth*

## Resources from the Protestant Community

**NEW!** *Weaving a Just Future for Children: An Advocacy Guide*

by Diane C. Olson and Laura Dean F. Friedrich

In *Weaving a Just Future for Children*, Olson and Friedrich use the image of weaving to bring together biblical and theological imperatives for caring action (the loom), various tools and issues for child advocacy (the warp), and specific productive ways that individuals and churches can advocate for children (the weft). Newcomers to advocacy will feel welcome, and longtime activists will learn new takes on both advocacy and recruiting others to the work. The authors give a broad perspective on the problems children face worldwide and offer researched, thoughtfully structured faith responses to issues. A study guide is included to assist groups of adults and youth groups to study the

book in three sessions. Discipleship Resources, 208 pages, 2008. Softcover \$15.00

**NEW!** *Child Poverty: Love, Justice, and Social Responsibility*

by Pamela Couture

A tool for those who wish to become instigators of love and justice in the world. Developed from a nine-year task force for the United Methodist Bishops Initiative on Children and Poverty, *Child Poverty* explores the possibilities for the church to assume a responsibility for children with needs in the local community, state, nation, and around the world. Children who are economically poor face many of the same problems as children with more economic means, yet poverty concentrates problems in the lives of poor children. Problems that should be merely an inconvenience turn out to be life threatening for some children. Through analysis of concrete cases and ministries, *Child Poverty* demonstrates that the flourishing of poor children and all children is best supported by interdependent conditions of both love and justice. Just as children and poverty are interconnected, so too should be love and justice. Chalice Press, 2008.

**NEW!** *Prayers for the New Social Awakening*  
Christian Iosso and Elizabeth Hinson-Hasty, eds.

A compilation of nearly 100 prayers on social justice themes including poverty, economic justice, and care for the environment from well-known church and community leaders in honor of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1908 Social Creed and the development of a Social Creed for the 21<sup>st</sup> century. These prayers reflect the diversity of the Christian faith and call for the church to be awakened to meet the social challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Contributors include Marian Wright Edelman, Walter Brueggemann, Tony Campolo, Katie Geneva Cannon, and others. Westminster John Knox Press, 185 pages, 2008.

*Hope for Children in Poverty: Profiles and Possibilities*, edited by Ronald J. Sider and Heidi Unruh, foreword by Marian Wright Edelman

Editors Ron Sider and Heidi Unruh have drawn together the expertise of academics, activists, clergy, and social service professionals to consider—biblically, educationally, physically, sociologically, politically—the special concerns of children living in poverty. Discover ways you, your church, and your community can transform the world for America's children. Free study guide available online at [www.judsonpress.com](http://www.judsonpress.com). Judson Press, 168 pages, 2007.

### **NEW!** *Raising Children to Love Their Neighbors*

by **Carolyn C. Brown**

Practical plans with reproducible activities and outlines for classroom and service experiences for children ages 3 to 12 to nurture mission-minded children. “How to” plans that churches can build into their current programs, with a hands-on enrichment curriculum for grades 1–5, more than a year of monthly service projects for preschoolers, mini-workshops for teachers, and newsletter blurbs about the program. Abingdon Press, 114 pages, 2008.

### *Thus Far On the Way: Toward a Theology of Child Advocacy*

by **Dr. Eileen W. Lindner**

Based on sermons and speeches that Rev. Lindner delivered over more than a decade at CDF’s Samuel DeWitt Proctor Institute for Child Advocacy Ministry each July, this superb book develops a theology of child advocacy, skillfully weaving together theology, church history, biblical exegesis, and more, with Lindner’s classic stories and humor that move the reader through laughter and tears to faithful action. Foreword by Marian Wright Edelman. Presbyterian Publishing House, 116 pages, 2006. Available from Presbyterian Distribution Services at 1 (800) 524-2612 and [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com).

### *Congregational Health Ministries Resource Packet*

An information packet containing resources useful in developing congregational health ministries using the parish nurse, lay counselor, participatory approach and congregations as healing community models. Packet available through the United Methodist Church, [www.umc.org](http://www.umc.org).

### *Health for All: A Congregational Health Ministries Resource*

Manual for congregational use exploring health issues and factors that promote a healthier life for all. Each chapter contains a Bible study, information case study, discussion questions, and suggestions for action. Available through the United Methodist Church, [www.umc.org](http://www.umc.org).

### *A Church for All God’s Children*

In 1996 the Council of Bishops called upon the United Methodist Church to reshape its life in response to the crisis among children and the impoverished and in faithfulness to Jesus Christ. Congregations are invited to undertake specific actions to make their churches more responsive to the needs of children and their families in the church and community. This packet contains

resources (checklist, guidelines, resource list, and reporting form) for churches that want to participate and to qualify as a “Church for All God’s Children.” The packet, which was sent to every United Methodist congregation, is available on the United Methodist website at <http://archives.umc.org/initiative/pdf/cp.pdf>.

### *Putting Children and Their Families First: A Planning Handbook for Congregations*

This book offers strategies for assessing children’s needs in the congregation and the community; identifying the strengths and assets of children, families, and communities; and developing a plan for comprehensive ministries. It also provides a biblical framework for ministry and suggestions for implementing new ministries. General Board of Global Ministries, The United Methodist Church. To order, call 1 (800) 305-9857.

### *Community with Children and the Poor: A Guide for Congregational Study*

This six-session study guide for use by small groups in a congregational setting is based on the United Methodist Bishops’ Letter Community with Children and the Poor and was prepared by the Task Force for the Bishops’ Initiative on Children and Poverty. Sessions focus on the Bishops’ Initiative, Community with the Poor, Economic Globalization, Global Debt, the State of Poor Children in the U.S., and Where Do We Go from Here. Cokesbury, 2003. To order, call 1 (800) 672-1789.

### *The Child-Friendly Church*

by **Boyce Bowdon**

One hundred and fifty examples of how churches of various sizes and settings are faithfully ministering to and with children and the impoverished. Models include ways churches attract children and their families, models that help children grow as disciples of Christ, models that enable churches to minister to their communities, and models for ministry to and with the poor. Concludes with consideration of what it takes to make a child-friendly church. Abingdon Press, 142 pages, 1999.

### *Children’s Ministries: Ministries That Help Children Grow in Faith*

by **Mary Alice Gran**

A practical resource that helps children’s ministries leaders understand elements of that ministry and how it fits within the mission of the congregation and the United Methodist Church. Sections include children in the life of the congregation, ministry in the community and world, and more. Cokesbury, 40 pages, 2004.

### ***Listen to the Children!*** (35-minute video)

This video takes a look at the lives of children—their needs, fears, and hopes. To create this video, children at four church settings in diverse communities were given video cameras. Hear children's own messages to us through singing, dance, drama, and interviews. To order, call the United Methodist Church at 1 (800) 305-9857.

### **The United Methodist Women's Campaign for Children, Phase III**

The third phase of this campaign is focused on advocacy in public school education. A "how to" booklet (#3223 for \$5.00) is available from the Mission Resource Center, 1221 Profit Drive, Dallas, Texas 75247-3191 or call 1 (800) 305-9857.

### **United Methodist Women's Division Action Alerts**

Alerts provide updates on legislative issues that address concerns of United Methodist Women including children's issues. Receive by contacting the Women's Division, Office of Public Policy, 100 Maryland Ave., N.E., Suite 530, Washington, DC 20002 or call (202) 488-5660. For other information about current campaigns related to children's issues, contact the Women's Division, Office of Community Action, CCUN/UMOUN, 777 UN Plaza, New York, NY 10017 or call (212) 682-3633.

### ***Seeing Children, Seeing God: A Practical Theology of Children and Poverty***

by Pamela D. Couture

A holistic theology that incorporates the reality of poverty and the plight of children, this book is a resource for theologians, pastors, and other church leaders. Abingdon Press, 144 pages, 2000.

### **Introducing Caring for Health bulletin insert**

Bulletin insert offering suggestions for bringing the social statement to life in your congregation. Download from [www.elca.org/socialstatements/health/bulletin](http://www.elca.org/socialstatements/health/bulletin).

### **Decade of the Child**

A brochure, newsletter, and range of other resources are available to help congregations participate in the General Assembly designated "Decade of the Child" and lift up the special gifts and needs of children and youths, birth to 18, within the church, beyond the church, and throughout the world. For more information, call 1 (888) 728-7228 and ask for the Presbyterian Child Advocacy Office or write to: The Decade of the Child, The Child Advocacy Office, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), 100 Witherspoon Street, Louisville, Kentucky 40202-1396.

### **NEW!** ***Presbyterians in Covenant with Children Intro Booklet***

This booklet presents an invitation for PC (USA) groups or congregations to become a part of a network of Presbyterians who care about children and who want to make a difference with and for them. The booklet includes a three-session discernment study to help congregations reflect on what they are already doing and what further steps God is calling them to make with and for children. Order from Presbyterian Distribution Service, PDS#24-354-08-002, or download in pdf format at [www.pcusa.org/children](http://www.pcusa.org/children). Free.

### **NEW!** **[www.presbykids4kids.org](http://www.presbykids4kids.org)**

This website for older elementary children is designed to empower kids to take action on behalf of other kids. Children can read stories, play games, and engage in other activities to learn more about the needs of children both here and worldwide and to take action on their behalf. Includes a section for parents and leaders.

### **Light a Candle for Children Prayer Vigil Project**

This brochure provides information about the Ecumenical Light a Candle for Children project begun by the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). This project leads up to and brings attention to the Children's Defense Fund's *National Observance of Children's Sabbaths* celebration. During the vigil, congregations are encouraged to pray for children and learn more about children's needs. People in the congregation and/or community are invited to take one of the 40 days to light a candle and spend the day in prayer for children. For information, visit [www.homelandministries.org/FamilyandChildren/candle.htm](http://www.homelandministries.org/FamilyandChildren/candle.htm). To download a generic copy of the brochure, visit <http://www.nccusa.org/pdfs/lightacandlebrochure.html>.

### ***Building Assets in Congregations: A Practical Guide for Helping Youth Grow Up Healthy***

This guide offers everything you'll need to create a congregation that builds assets—young people's strengths. Perfect for youth workers, clergy, volunteers, and others, this practical book includes: worksheets for assessing and planning your current priorities and programs; strategies and ideas for introducing assets into youth programs; tips for creating intergenerational programs and parent workshops; and ten reproducible bulletin inserts. Search Institute, 176 pages, 1998. #113. To order, call 1 (800) 888-7828.

### Resources from the Catholic Community

#### ***Health Care for All Campaign brochure***

Introduced at the 2005 Catholic Social Ministry Gathering, it is available for download at [www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org).

#### ***Health and Health Care: A Pastoral Letter of the American Catholic Bishops***

This statement issued in 1981 addresses the message of the Gospel and tradition, responsibility for health, formal health apostolate, and public policy. It is available for download at [www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org).

#### ***Catholic Campaign for Children and Families: Parish Resource Manual***

This comprehensive resource includes practical planning and support materials, clip art, bulletin quotes, liturgical and preaching guides and models to help parishes integrate a focus on children and families into all aspects of parish life. Includes the Bishops' Statement, "Putting Children and Families First: A Challenge for Our Church, Nation, and World," a resource developed by committees on domestic social policy, international policy, and marriage and family life. A video is also available. Also available in Spanish, \$6.95. To order, call the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops at 1 (800) 235-8722 and ask for publication number 525-9.

#### ***Renewing the Vision: A Framework for Catholic Youth Ministry***

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops addresses the call to personal discipleship, evangelization, and leadership. Offered as a "blueprint" for the continued development of effective ministry with young and older adolescents, this framework is an affirmation of the faith, gifts, energy, and fresh ideas of young people, a Christ-centered vision, and a call to empower young people. Available in English and Spanish, 61 pages., \$5.95. To order, call 1 (800) 235-8722.

### Organizations

The following key national Catholic social ministry organizations are associated with the USCCB and provide valuable resources to support the Catholic community in its work on poverty and health-related concerns:

**Catholic Campaign for Human Development:** For information and educational materials on poverty in the United States, go to [www.povertyusa.org](http://www.povertyusa.org). For information on the Church's program to support self-help groups in low-income neighborhoods, go to [www.usccb.org/cchd](http://www.usccb.org/cchd).

**Catholic Charities USA:** For parish social ministry resources, advocacy materials, and information on how the

Catholic community serves people in need throughout the United States, go to [www.catholiccharitiesusa.org](http://www.catholiccharitiesusa.org).

**Catholic Health Association:** For resources and information on Catholic health care and efforts to provide accessible and affordable health care for all, go to [www.chausa.org](http://www.chausa.org). Its framework for health care reform published in April 2000 is "Continuing the Commitment: A Pathway to Health Care Reform." In addition, it has an extensive resource catalog of health-related publications and other resources for the Catholic community.

**Catholic Relief Services:** For advocacy and educational materials on international issues as well as information on the relief and development efforts of the Church in the United States at sites around the world, go to [www.catholicrelief.org](http://www.catholicrelief.org).

**USCCB Department of Social Development and World Peace:** For parish resources and educational materials as well as advocacy resources and general information on the U.S. bishops' efforts to address issues of justice and peace, go to [www.usccb.org/sdwp](http://www.usccb.org/sdwp).

**USCCB Migration and Refugee Services:** For parish resources, advocacy materials, and general information on programs of the Church in the United States to support and resettle immigrants and refugees, go to [www.usccb.org/mrs](http://www.usccb.org/mrs).

There are many additional organizations within the Catholic community and beyond that offer programs and resources for understanding and responding to poverty. Throughout the country, there are many diocesan and parish programs that offer essential help to poor people who are struggling to live in dignity. In addition, state Catholic conferences and diocesan social ministry offices work on justice issues and provide helpful information to schools and parishes. Catholics join with many ecumenical, interfaith, and other groups to defend human dignity. For more information, go to [www.usccb.org/sdwp](http://www.usccb.org/sdwp).

#### **USCCB Statements on Health Care, Economic Issues, and Other Justice Areas**

*USCCB documents outlining policy criteria on a range of key issues related to health care and poverty include:*

- *Health and Health Care*
- *A Framework for Comprehensive Health Care Reform*
- *A Catholic Framework for Economic Life*
- *A Commitment to All Generations: Social Security and the Common Good*

## Resources for Faithful Child Advocates

- *A Decade After “Economic Justice for All”: Continuing Principles, Changing Context, New Challenges*
- *A Jubilee Call for Debt Forgiveness*
- *Called to Global Solidarity*
- *Economic Justice for All*
- *Food Policy in a Hungry World*
- *Homelessness and Housing: A Human Tragedy, a Moral Challenge*
- *In All Things Charity*
- *Moral Principles and Policy Priorities for Welfare Reform*
- *Putting Children and Families First*
- *Welcome and Justice for Persons with Disabilities*

These documents can be ordered from USCCB Publishing by calling toll-free 1 (800) 235-8722 or by visiting the U.S. bishops’ website. Also available on the USCCB website ([www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org)) are recent testimony and action alerts on these and related issues.

### Resources from the Jewish Community

The Religious Action Center website, [www.rac.org](http://www.rac.org), has a variety of advocacy resources including information on issue areas including children and poverty, legislative reviews and agendas, and links to write letters to the President and Congress. You can also join RAC’s Advocacy Network and sign up to receive emails; RACNews delivers Chai IMPACT Action Alerts, the RAC’s Weekly Legislative Update, all RAC press statements, program announcements, Web updates, and other timely information to anyone with an email address. “Social Action” is an interactive electronic social justice activists’ discussion group, where you can share your successes, learn from others, and discuss pressing issues of the day with other committed social justice activists.

#### Social Action Blessing Cards

In an effort to bind our pursuit of justice more explicitly with our tradition, the Commission on Social Action of Reform Judaism and the URJ-CCAR Commission on Religious Living have created a series of b’rachot blessings that can be recited when performing mitzvot of social action.

#### *A Guide To Synagogue Tzedakah Collectives*

View this guide produced by the Commission on Social Action and the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism on how your Synagogue can create a *Tzedakah* Collective.

#### *Mitzvah Day Manual*

Mitzvah Day is a program that sets aside one day during the year when all congregants—adults and children, social action mavens and novices—take part in one of several social action projects in their city or town.

#### *K’hilat Tzedek: Creating a Community of Justice*

K’hilat Tzedek is a discussion guide intended to help congregations through a process of reflection to determine where their social action programs fit into the scheme of congregational life, and how they can become models of integrated, justice-seeking congregations. The K’hilat Tzedek process will invigorate and deepen your congregation’s social justice work.

#### *Speak Truth to Power: A Guide for Congregations Taking Public Policy Positions*

A publication to assist congregations in taking public policy positions, created by the Commission on Social Action of Reform Judaism (CSA) and the Ida and Howard Wilkoff Department of Synagogue Management of the Union for Reform Judaism (URJ).

#### *Lirdof Tzedek: A Guide to Synagogue Social Action by Evely Laser Shlensky, Rabbi Marc D. Israel, ed.*

Whether you are looking to expand a successful social action program or are working to build one, this guide is an important resource for you and your congregation. Lirdof Tzedek provides step-by-step guidelines for all aspects of synagogue social action programming, from establishing the appropriate structures within the congregation to effecting change on the local, regional, and national levels. UAHC Press, 112 pages, 2001.

### Resources from the Unitarian Universalist Community

#### *In Our Hands, Grades 4-6: A Peace and Justice*

*Program* by Barry Andrews and Pat Hoerlender  
Explores the concepts of peace and justice in 16 sessions. Unitarian Universalist Association, 1990.

#### *\*\* The Bully, the Bullied and the Bystander: From Preschool to High School – How Parents and Teachers Can Help Break the Cycle of Violence* by Barbara Colorosa

It’s a deadly combination: bullies who get what they want, victims who are afraid to tell, bystanders who either watch, participate, or look away, and adults who see these incidents as a normal part of childhood. Parenting educator Colorosa provides the tools to break this cycle of violence. Quill, 2003.

\*\* Resource for teachers and parents

## Resources for Faithful Child Advocates

***In Our Hands, Grades 1-3: A Peace and Justice Program* by Samuel Goldenberg, et al.**

Explores peace and fairness through active learning in 16 sessions. Unitarian Universalist Association, 1989.

***Race to Justice: A Racial Justice and Diversity Program for Junior High***

**by Robin F. Gray and José A. Ballester y Marquez**

Fifteen-session program affirms human diversity through role-playing, real-life stories, and games. Unitarian Universalist Association, 1995.

***Weaving the Fabric of Diversity***

**by Jacqui James and Judith A. Frediani**

Take stock of the “isms” that may be holding you back from embracing diversity: racism, heterosexism, ableism, classism, and ageism. Eight-session program for adults to learn strategies for increasing diversity in their congregation. Unitarian Universalist Association, 1996.

The following are Unitarian Universalist Association resources and/or other resources available through the UUA Bookstore. Phone: 1 (800) 215-9076 or email: bookstore@uua.org

***Common Fire* by Laurent A. Parks Daloz, et al.**

Landmark study reveals how we became committed to the common good and sustain our commitments in a changing world. Beacon, 1997.

***The Best Things in Life Aren't Things: Celebrating What Matters Most* by Joann Davis**

Through inspirational essays on family, faith, friends, virtue, service, community, and the beauty of the natural world, the author explores and celebrates the real stuff of life. She reminds us that life is a spiritual exercise that brings fulfillment when we savor the intangibles that are often right in front of us. Beacon Press, 2003.

***How Much Do We Deserve? An Inquiry into Distributive Justice* by Richard Gilbert**

“It is my intent to bridge the gap between scholars in economic and theological/ethical disciplines and concerned laity and clergy.” Draws on Jewish, Christian, Buddhist, humanist, and other traditions to reflect on ethical and economic issues. Can be ordered online at www.uua.org. Skinner House, 2001.

***The Prophetic Imperative: Social Gospel in Theory and Practice* by Richard Gilbert**

Explores the connection between spirituality and social action. Helpfully presented in two parts, “Theoretical Foundations” and “Social Gospel in Practice.” Contains

vital advice and models to help congregations engage in effective justice work. Can be ordered online at www.uua.org. Skinner House, 2000.

***Bucketful of Dreams: Contemporary Parables for All Ages* by Christopher Buice**

A charming cast of characters brings values such as diversity, justice, faith, and empowerment to life in 18 original parables. Playful cartoon illustrations by the author. All ages. Skinner House, 1994.

***What If Nobody Forgave? And Other Stories***

**by Colleen M. McDonald (ed.),**

“From Buddha to Jesus to the Sufi masters, spiritual teachers have used stories to convey basic messages about truth and right living.” This edition contains 11 new stories (19 in all) that echo the seven Unitarian Universalist Principles. Each story is followed by discussion questions, activities, and a reading list. All ages. Skinner House, 2002.

## Resources for Children

***Something Beautiful***

**by Sharon Dennis Wyeth, illustrated by Chris K. Soentpiet**

A young girl longs to see beyond the scary sights in her neighborhood and angry graffiti on the wall. After her teacher writes the word “beautiful” on the chalkboard, she sets out to find her “something beautiful.” Along the way, she discovers what others in her neighborhood find beautiful. Newly hopeful, she sets about creating positive changes in her neighborhood and feels powerful. She envisions how she will engage others to create further change. The story ends as she discovers that she is her mother’s “something beautiful.” Dragonfly Books, 1998. \$6.99

***Black Is Brown Is Tan* by Arnold Adoff**

The winning portrayal of a loving family—a brown-skinned mother, white-skinned father, two children, and their various relatives—beautifully illustrated with watercolors by Caldecott Medalist Emily McCully. Ages 4–8. Harper Trophy, 2002.

***The Kids' Guide to Working Out Conflict: How to Keep Cool, Stay Safe, and Get Along***

**by Naomi Drew**

Proven, practical ways to avoid conflict and defuse tough situations. Includes tips for how to counter bullying, calm down, reduce stress and tension, let go of anger, and eliminate put-downs and other hurtful language. Free Spirit, 2004.

***What Do You Stand For? A Kid's Guide to Building Character***

by **Barbara A. Lewis**

Guided exploration of issues of honesty, empathy, integrity, respect, and more. With quotations, activities, problem-solving exercises, true stories, and reproducible handouts. Ages 11 and up. Free Spirit, 1997.

***Different Just Like Me***

by **Lori Mitchell**

While April is waiting for the days to pass before she visits her grandmother, she encounters all sorts of different, interesting people. By the time she returns from her visit, she realizes that people—like the flowers in her grandmother's garden—have different needs and come in many colors, shapes, and sizes. Ages 4–8. Charlesbridge, 1999.

***Ten Amazing People and How They Changed the World***

by **Maura Shaw**

Profiles of Black Elk, Dorothy Day, Malcolm X, Mahatma Gandhi, Martin Luther King, Jr., Janusz Korczak, Mother Teresa, Albert Schweitzer, Thich Nhat Hanh, and Desmond Tutu show kids that spiritual people can have an exciting impact on the world around them. Includes a map showing the place of origin for each individual and a timeline. Ages 6–10. Skylight Paths, 2002.

***If the World Were a Village***

by **David J. Smith**

What if we imagine the whole world as a village of just 100 people? The shrunk-down statistics about everything from religion to language, electricity to water quality, and literacy to money help children gain a better understanding of the world's peoples and their ways of life. Includes two pages of games, activities, and thought-provoking questions to teach “world-mindedness.” Ages 7 and up. Kids Can Press, 2003.

***Briefly Noted:***

*The Circuit: Stories from the Life of a Migrant Child*

by Francisco Jimenez

*Smoky Night* by Eve Bunting

*The Wall* by Eve Bunting

*Click, Clack, Moo (Cows That Type)* by Doreen Cronin

*That's Good, That's Bad* by Marge Cuyler

*She Is Wearing a Dead Bird on Her Head* by Kathryn

Lasley

*The Misfits* by James Howe

*Swimmy* by Leo Lionni

*Frederick* by Leo Lionni

*Baseball Saved Us* by Ken Mochizuki

*Passage to Freedom* by Ken Mochizuki

*Honest-to-Goodness Truth* by Patricia McKissack

*Prejudice – A Story Collection* by Daphne Muse

*A Step from Heaven* by An Na

*Sitti's Secrets* by Naomi Nye

*Don't Hold Me Back: My Life and Art* by Winfred Rembert

*The Real Thief* by William Stieg

*Sneetches and Other Stories* by Dr. Seuss

*Horton Hears a Who* by Dr. Seuss

*The Lorax* by Dr. Seuss

*The Butter Battle Book* by Dr. Seuss

## Appendix

### National Organizations Endorsing the National Observance of Children's Sabbaths® Movement

- African American Women's Clergy Association  
African Methodist Episcopal Church, Women's  
Missionary Society  
African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, Christian  
Education Department  
American Baptist Churches, USA  
Anti-Defamation League  
Armenian Apostolic Church of America  
Armenian Orthodox Church  
Association of Brethren Caregivers  
Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America  
Benedictine Sisters, Queen of Angels Monastery  
B'nai B'rith International  
Border Association for Refugees from Central America, Inc.  
Bread for the World  
Catholic Charities USA  
Center for Ethics and Economic Policy  
Center for Ministry Development  
Center for the Prevention of Sexual and Domestic  
Violence  
Christian Children's Fund  
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)  
Christian Methodist Episcopal Church  
Church of the Brethren  
Church Women United  
Communities of Christ  
Congregations Concerned for Children, Child Advocacy  
Network  
Congress of National Black Churches  
Cooperative Metropolitan Ministries  
Council of Bishops of the United Methodist Church  
Council of Christian Communions  
Covenant to Care, Inc.  
Cross-Lines Cooperative Council  
Ecumenical Child Care Network  
Episcopal Church Center, Children's Ministries  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Division for  
Church in Society  
Faith Institute for Black Catholics  
Federation of Reconstructionist Congregations and  
Havurot  
For the Love of Children  
Inner City Renewal Society  
Interfaith Resource Center  
International Institute for Islamic Thought  
International League of Muslim Women  
Islamic Society of North America  
Jesuit Social Ministries, National Office  
Jewish Reconstructionist Federation  
Jewish Women International Leadership Conference  
Lexington Theological Seminary  
Metropolitan Ecumenical Ministry  
National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA  
National Farm Worker Ministry  
National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís in the  
United States  
NETWORK, A National Catholic Social Justice Lobby  
Network of Religious Communities  
Parenting for Peace and Justice Network  
Pax Christi USA  
Peace with Justice Week, National Council of the  
Churches of Christ in the USA  
The Piarist Fathers  
Presbyterian Child Advocacy Network  
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Child Advocacy Office  
Presbyterian Health, Education, and Welfare Association  
Presbyterian Women in the Presbyterian Church U.S.A  
Rabbinical Assembly



## Create Change for Children Today: Bring Hope and a Better Tomorrow

Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association  
Reformed Church in America  
Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism Service  
Employees International Union  
Seventh Day Adventist Church, North American Division  
Sikh Council on Religion and Education  
Sisters of Charity, BVM, Women's Office  
Sojourners  
Solid Ground Ministry  
The Swedenborgian Church in North America  
Trinity College, Campus Ministry  
Ukrainian Orthodox Church of America  
Union of American Hebrew Congregations  
Union for Reform Judaism  
Unitarian Universalist Service Committee  
United Church of Christ, Office of Church in Society  
United Methodist Church, General Board of Church  
and Society  
United Methodist Church, General Board of Global  
Ministries, Women's Division

United Methodist National Youth Ministry Organization,  
Steering Committee  
United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism  
Voices for Illinois Children  
Women of Reform Judaism  
Women's League for Conservative Judaism  
World Vision Relief and Development

**For a full list of organizations endorsing CDF's  
*National Observance of Children's Sabbaths* celebration,  
please visit [www.childrensdefense.org/childrenssabbaths](http://www.childrensdefense.org/childrenssabbaths).  
Don't see your national, regional, or local faith com-  
munity listed? Visit this website and fill out an easy  
form for your organization to endorse this celebration.**

## Commitment Form for Endorsers of the National Observance of Children's Sabbaths® Movement (for local, state, regional, and national religious organizations)

Yes! We will commit to strengthening this year's National Observance of Children's Sabbaths® celebration.

Name of Endorsing Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact information for Media/Communications Staff

Person: \_\_\_\_\_

Please check the boxes below to indicate the support you plan this year:

- We will distribute Children's Sabbaths manuals to our members.
- We will distribute Children's Sabbaths flyers with ordering information to our members. Please send.
- We will print a camera-ready box about the Children's Sabbaths manual in our publication. Please send.
- We will link our website to yours. Please send the necessary information.
- We will include the Children's Sabbath date on our calendar this year and next year. (Next year's Children's Sabbath dates are October 15–17, 2010.)
- We are interested in having a Children's Sabbath workshop at a meeting, conference, or convention. [Please contact the Religious Action Team at (202) 662-3641 to discuss dates, times, locations, and other logistics.]

**Please return this form to Children's Defense Fund, Religious Action Team.  
It may be faxed to (202) 662-3570 or mailed to 25 E Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20001  
Questions? Call the Religious Action staff at (202) 662-3641.**

# 2009 National Observance of Children's Sabbaths® Weekend

## Evaluation Form

Let us know how you celebrated the Children's Sabbath!

Please detach and return this evaluation form to: **The National Observance of Children's Sabbaths  
Children's Defense Fund  
25 E Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20001**

### About You and Your Congregation

Name

Address

City, State, Zip

Congregation (if not part of address) and Religious Affiliation

Telephone (indicate day or evening)

Fax

Website

Email

Please describe your congregation: its membership (number, racial/ethnic makeup, number of children, and so forth) and location (urban, suburban, rural) \_\_\_\_\_

Is this the first time your congregation has celebrated a Children's Sabbath?  Yes  No

If not, in which years (1992-2008) has your congregation participated? \_\_\_\_\_

### About Your Children's Sabbath

Who took the lead in proposing and planning the Children's Sabbath in your congregation?

(Please describe their role, e.g., senior pastor or rabbi, lay person, committee member, youth group leader) \_\_\_\_\_

How many other people helped significantly in the planning? \_\_\_\_\_

How did your congregation observe the Children's Sabbath? What activities, services, or events were held, and approximately how many persons participated in each?

Please underline all that apply to your celebration:

1. Focused the worship service, liturgy, or prayer service on children through sermon, prayers, music, or other.  
Was it for a single congregation, ecumenical group (different Christian congregations), or interfaith gathering (Christians, Jews, Muslims, and members of other faith groups)?
2. Involved children and youth more fully in the service.
3. Led educational programs focused on children's concerns for preschool, elementary, middle school, high school, and adult classes.
4. Held special outreach and advocacy activities.

Briefly describe any or all of these events (use additional paper if necessary). Please feel free to enclose any bulletins or other materials from your Children's Sabbath. We would love to see what you did!

What follow-up is planned? That is, how will your congregation incorporate the commitment to children generated by your Children's Sabbath into the ongoing life of your congregation this year? Please be specific.

What support would you like from CDF for your follow-up efforts or your involvement in the Children's Sabbath next year? \_\_\_\_\_

Did any other congregations in your community hold Children's Sabbaths events? Tell us about them if possible.

### About the Children's Sabbaths Manual

Please rate the Children's Sabbaths manual sections.

- |                      |                       |                       |                            |                              |
|----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Very useful       | 2. Somewhat useful    | 3. Not very useful    | 4. Didn't use              | 5. Plan to use at later date |
| ____ Section 2       | ____ Section 3        | ____ Section 4        | ____ Bahá'í Resources      | ____ Christian Resources     |
| ____ Hindu Resources | ____ Jewish Resources | ____ Muslim Resources | ____ Multi-Faith Resources | ____ Section 11              |
| ____ Section 12      |                       |                       |                            |                              |

What resources or changes would you like to see in the Children's Sabbaths manual?

### About Spreading the Word

How did you learn about the *National Observance of Children's Sabbaths* weekend?

1. Denomination/faith group \_\_\_\_\_
2. Religious organization or community group (specify which) \_\_\_\_\_
3. CDF (publication, mailing, meeting, Internet website, other) \_\_\_\_\_
4. Media coverage (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_
5. Other \_\_\_\_\_

How did you publicize your Children's Sabbath events? (Underline all that apply)

1. Print coverage: (name and date of publication; send clipping if possible)  
Community newspaper  
Denominational newspaper/faith group newspaper  
Congregational newsletter or bulletin  
Other \_\_\_\_\_
2. Broadcast coverage (name of television/radio station) \_\_\_\_\_
3. Other \_\_\_\_\_
4. Did not actively publicize the Children's Sabbath.

What individuals do you know or what professional networks are you a part of that might be interested in receiving material about the *National Observance of Children's Sabbaths* celebration?

Organization	Denomination/Affiliation	
Address		
City	State	Zip
Telephone	Fax	
Website	Email	

**ORDER YOUR CHILDREN'S SABBATHS MANUAL TODAY!**

## Create Change for Children Today: Bring Hope and a Better Tomorrow

### National Observance of Children's Sabbaths® Manual, Vol. 18

A Multi-Faith Resource for Year-Round Child Advocacy

The Children's Sabbaths manual serves as a guide for you and your faith community to celebrate the *National Observance of Children's Sabbaths* weekend, October 16–18, 2009, and to engage in year-round child and family advocacy work. The manual includes resources for worship services, education programs, direct service activities, and social justice initiatives for your congregation, organization or community.

The theme of the 2009 Children's Sabbaths weekend is "Create Change for Children Today: Bring Hope and a Better Tomorrow." With millions of children living in poverty, lacking basic health coverage, and being funneled into a pipeline to prison, we know that children in our nation desperately need change—and they need us to create that change today. We must step forward now to strengthen families, call for health care for all children, and create paths of promise for every young person. Creating change for children today brings hope and a better tomorrow for all of us.

This easy-to-use reference manual provides worship materials for Bahá'í, Christian, Hindu, Jewish, Muslim and other faith traditions, and resources for a multi-faith event. It also includes bulletin inserts, ideas for hands-on service and advocacy efforts, guidance for strengthening your efforts for children throughout the year, and much more.

**To order, please contact Ken Libby at  
(865) 457-6466 or mail form below.**

Quantity: \_\_\_\_\_

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#### Children's Sabbaths Manual Pricing Information

Quantity	Price (for each)
1–49	\$8
50 or more	5

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Over \$100.00	10% of merchandise total
Overseas/FedEx Shipping (please ask for details)	Extra

Please fax to (865) 457-6464 or mail to: CDF Order Fulfillment  
1000 Alex Haley Lane, Clinton, TN 37716

For more information or for bulk orders, contact Kenneth Libby  
Phone: (865) 457-6466 • Email: CDFHaley@childrensdefense.org





