



The Children's Agenda's Interfaith Collaborative and the Children's Interfaith Weekend

What is The Children's Agenda?

The Children's Agenda (TCA) is a local non-profit advocacy organization whose goal is to improve the health, education and success of Monroe County's children and youth, especially the most vulnerable. *TCA partners with community organizations and residents to create a bold and unified voice advocating for evidence-based solutions and systemic policy change.* TCA is an independent, 501(c)(3) nonprofit created in 2004 by community leaders to champion policies and programs that have been proven to best help children. To maintain its independence, TCA does not accept funding from government or service providers.

What is the Children's Interfaith Weekend (CIW)?

The Children's Interfaith Weekend is an opportunity to pray, learn about, and act on the troubles facing children in our community, planned by a local group of interfaith leaders and staffed by [The Children's Agenda](#). It is adapted from the annual [Children's Sabbath](#), celebrated throughout the U.S. and sponsored by the Children's Defense Fund.

Why should my congregation participate?

Rochester's children are in a state of crisis: More than half of children in the city of Rochester live in poverty; in Monroe County, more than one in 5 are poor. Rochester has the highest rate of extreme poverty and the highest child poverty rate in the nation among comparable cities. 41,000 residents of Monroe County suburbs are living in poverty. Most poor families have an adult who is working. Our kids need our prayers, and they need our voices.

How can my congregation get involved?

- Hold a worship service or part of a service on the moral imperative to care for children.
- Educate the congregation on the local facts about children using The Children's Agenda's reports on the state of Monroe County's children.
- Engage in a "call to action" on programs affecting children's health and well-being.
- Attend monthly Collaborative meetings held at Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School.

For more information: Brigitt Hurley, bhurley@thechildrensagenda.org, (585) 256-2620 ext. 2602

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Who celebrated the Children's Interfaith Weekend in 2014?

108 congregations from the following traditions:

Jewish
Episcopal
Muslim
Catholic
Baptist
Buddhist
Unitarian
Methodist
Mennonite
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
Presbyterian
Church of Christ, Scientist
Lutheran
Free Methodist
Quaker/Friends
United Church of Christ
Christian

Children's Interfaith Weekend activities

- Each congregation plans and holds its own celebration based on what works best for its faith tradition and community
- All are asked to incorporate 3 activities: prayer/reflection for children; learning about how kids in our community are faring; and taking action to improve the lives of vulnerable children
- "Taking action" often means inviting congregants to sign an advocacy letter in support of an evidence-based strategy that benefits children in Monroe County; it can also be a service project or collection for a children's organization.
- **Examples: guest speaker on child poverty; children's choir; youth leading worship; youth performances and speakers; special activities with Sunday school or religious education; adult education session**



Children's Project



Speak up for children

Advocacy letters are signed during the Weekend, then collected and delivered to an elected official



2015 Events and Plans

Children's Interfaith Weekend Orientation –
Thursday, Sept. 10,
12:30 – 1:30 pm (For
RSVP and location contact:
Britig Hurley - 256-2620 ext.
2602 or
bhurley@thechildrensagenda.org)

**County Elections -
Nonpartisan Candidate
Forums** on local
children's issues—
September & October;
Dates and locations
TBA

**Children's Interfaith
Weekend –** October 16-
18 (or an alternate
October weekend)

