

The Children's Agenda's Interfaith Collaborative

What is the Children's Interfaith Weekend (October 20-22, 2017)?

The Children's Interfaith Weekend is celebrated annually in October. It is an opportunity to **pray, learn about, and act on the troubles facing children in our community**, sponsored by the TCA Interfaith Collaborative and staffed by Brigit Hurley of [The Children's Agenda](#).

In 2017, our focus will be preventing child abuse and neglect and strengthening our local Child Protective Services office.

What is the [TCA Interfaith Collaborative](#)?

It is a coalition of diverse faith communities and organizations in Monroe County who work year-round in collaboration with The Children's Agenda to seek systemic change that will create a brighter future for local children and youth. We gather on a regular schedule to plan year-round activities such as:

- The Children's Interfaith Weekend in October
- Meetings with state and local elected officials
- Advocacy efforts to promote programs and policies that have proven success in helping children.
- Educational opportunities to learn more about local children's issues
- Collaborating with other groups in the Rochester area who share our concern for children

What is [The Children's Agenda](#)?

The Children's Agenda (TCA) is a local, independent non-profit (501(c)(3)) advocacy organization whose goal is to improve the health, education & success of Monroe County's children & youth, especially the most vulnerable. *TCA partners with community groups and residents to create a bold and unified voice advocating for evidence-based solutions and systemic policy change for kids.*



Who celebrates the Children's Interfaith Weekend? Congregations from the following traditions:

Jewish
Episcopal
Muslim
Catholic
Baptist
Buddhist
Unitarian
Methodist
Mennonite
Church of Jesus Christ of
Latter-day Saints
Presbyterian
Sufi Order of Rochester
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.
- For some, "Taking action" means inviting congregants to sign an advocacy letter in support of an evidence-based strategy to help children in Monroe County; it can also be a service project or collection.
- **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**



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.** The number of reports of child abuse and neglect continue to increase (10,000 projected in 2017 - **27 reports per day**). Child Protective Services (CPS) caseloads are far above recommended levels, averaging 29 – and reaching up to 50. Funding for prevention services has been cut.

Our kids need our prayers, and they need our voices.

Speak up for children

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

