



## THE WORLD DAY OF PRAYER AND ACTION FOR CHILDREN partners with:

Religions for Peace

UNICEF

Sarvodaya

### Arigatou International

Arigatou International is an international faith-based Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) dedicated to creating a better environment for children worldwide. Established in 1990 by the Japanese Buddhist organization, Myochikai, it is supported by members who donate funds as part of their spiritual practice. The Japanese word "Arigatou" means "thank you." The organization's name expresses the gratitude of the Myochikai members for the opportunity to help children worldwide.

Arigatou International is an NGO in consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and UNICEF.

# World Day of Prayer and Action for Children

An initiative supported by  
Arigatou International



The World Day of Prayer and Action for Children provides a platform for people of diverse religious traditions to collaborate for the well-being of children. We believe that the dignity and rights of children are intrinsically linked to the health of the human family today and tomorrow. At the heart of every religious faith is the insight that children are humanity's hope for a better world.

World Day of Prayer and Action for Children is a non-partisan movement that respects the differences among religious traditions and encourages communities to pray, to petition, to be in silence, to meditate, to reflect and to act according to their respective traditions.



Day of Prayer and Action for Children

### Arigatou International New York Office

845 Third Avenue 6th Floor New York, New York 10022

Phone: +1-646-435-4871 E-mail:  
mail@dayofprayerandaction.org



Arigatou  
International

# World Day of Prayer and Action for Children

AN INITIATIVE SUPPORTED BY ARIGATOU INTERNATIONAL

This World Day is an international movement involving people like you, who are committed to improving children's lives.

## WORLD DAY OF PRAYER AND ACTION FOR CHILDREN

is an international movement of religious leaders and faith-based organizations, civil society, government leaders, inter-governmental organizations and individuals who care for children.

Every year on 20 November, this World Day encourages people of faith and goodwill to collaborate locally to improve the lives of children, through a day of prayer and action in their behalf.

On this day, people of diverse faiths — partnering with local governments, community groups and secular organizations — carry out specific, unified actions to:

- safeguard the integrity, rights, and dignity of children
- promote child survival, development, protection, and well-being

## OUR HISTORY

Arigatou International was established in 1990 by Myochikai, a Japanese Buddhist organization.

In May 2008, the organization launched the World Day of Prayer and Action for Children at its Global Network of Religions for Children (GNRC) Forum in Hiroshima.

This initiative is guided by an International Planning Committee.

## WHAT WE DO

We call on people of faith to gather in prayer, organize worship services, meditate, and take action in other ways for the children of the world.

We encourage people of goodwill to work with communities of faith on initiatives that improve children's lives.

We also provide web-based resources such as a planning guide and fact sheets, to guide and inform the work.



## Why is 20 November a special day?

Every year, 20 November marks the day on which the United Nations established its Universal Children's Day in 1954. The United Nations also adopted the Convention on the Rights of the Child on this day in 1989. And now, the World Day of Prayer and Action for Children is celebrated on 20 November as well.



## Who should participate?

All people who care about children, including religious leaders and organizations, community groups, parents, child care professionals, young adults and others.



## How can I participate?

For how-to ideas, information and inspiration, please visit [www.dayofprayerandaction.org](http://www.dayofprayerandaction.org). You can also read about events in your local area.



## November 2009

In 2009, the Day of Prayer and Action for Children is being celebrated in five regions in the world, in Brazil, Kenya, Sri Lanka, Trinidad and Tobago and the United States.



Day of Prayer and Action for Children Secretariat  
Arigatou International—New York Office  
Address: 845 Third Avenue 6th Floor New York, New York 10022  
Phone: +1-646-435-4871 E-mail: [mail@dayofprayerandaction.org](mailto:mail@dayofprayerandaction.org)  
Website: [www.dayofprayerandaction.org](http://www.dayofprayerandaction.org)