

GROW THE PRAYERS

- Group prayer — Choose a special time each week to pray for children, no matter where everyone is at the time.
- Prayer reminders — Make and distribute bracelets to wear as reminders to pray for specific children.
- Commitment from Congregation — Create a Prayer Charter, a formal list of children in the congregation to be prayed for, and display it prominently. Update it annually. Each time a new child is born to a parent or grandparent in the congregation, add the child's name. Youth groups can be responsible for the Charter and for reminding people to pray.
- Community Commitment — Compile a list of children who lost their lives during the past year due to drugs and/or violence. Place a pair of shoes on the steps of a public building for each of the persons whose lives were lost. Make a formal commitment to build a healthy and safe community. Invite clergy from all faiths to participate.
- Outreach to Teens — Hold a "Lean On Me" event for teens, and establish a prayer and support network. "You just call on me brother, when you need a hand."

Check out the Pray for the Children Website at www.prayforthechildren.org to customize your own brochure, for prayer cards, and for ideas on activities.

To learn more about Pray for the Children Weekend or to request brochures or prayer cards, please contact: Educating Voices — Pray for the Children
P.O. Box 6084, Naperville, IL 60567
630 420-9493
contact@prayforthechildren.net

DID YOU KNOW?

More high school seniors smoked marijuana than smoked cigarettes according to the 2010 Monitoring the Future Survey. Medical marijuana laws and jokes about marijuana normalize its use, and teens' use correlates directly to their perception of marijuana's harm.

Marijuana use impacts academic success; it impairs learning, memory, abstract thinking and problem solving. It can lead to poor attendance, school dropouts, delinquency and behavioral problems. Marijuana is connected to depression, psychosis and schizophrenia. *(Royal College of General Practitioners, UP International January 16, 2005 London)*

Marijuana's potency is significantly higher today. In 2008, the average THC level of seized sample marijuana was 10.1% compared to 4% in 1983. *(U. of Mississippi's Potency Monitoring Project)*

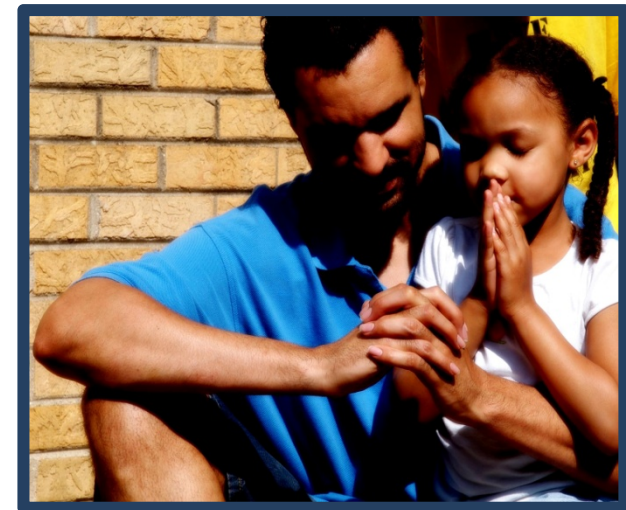
Not only is marijuana more potent today, but it is often a gateway drug. Most cocaine and heroin users used marijuana first.



PRAY FOR THE CHILDREN DRUG-FREE AND SAFE

PRAY FOR THE CHILDREN WEEKEND 2011

Take Time to Pray ... the Greatest Gift You Can Give a Child is the Gift of Prayer



PRAY FOR THE CHILDREN WEEKEND

October 21-23, 2011

If you can't join us on October 21-23, 2011, set aside another special time to participate in praying. Make praying for children a daily commitment.

**PRAY FOR THE CHILDREN
WEEKEND
October 21-23, 2011**

A Simple Concept

**NEXT YEAR'S
PRAY FOR THE CHILDREN
WEEKEND 2012
OCTOBER 20 – 22**

Brochures may be reproduced

PRAYER REQUESTS

Pray for the Children is a simple concept, but one that can accomplish great things. For the last fourteen years, people everywhere have reached out and embraced the effort, offering up thousands of prayers for children.

It is time for those of all faiths to raise children up in prayer, praying for them to **live safe and drug-free lives**. Today, children are in peril and this global event promises them hope through divine intervention. Hope is a child's right.

**PRAY FOR THE CHILDREN'S
2011 MISSION**

To build a concert of prayers for children

ADULT PRAYER

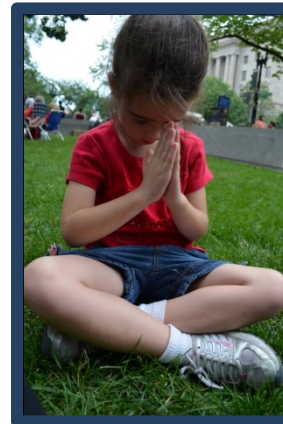
Heavenly Father, we thank you for the gift of your children all around the world. You have created them in your image and likeness. Help us to guide, affirm and love them so they are equipped to make healthy choices for their lives. Help the children experience your great love for them deep in their hearts. Send your Spirit upon them to comfort, heal, protect and enlighten all their decisions.

Amen

Why do we pray for children?

Lost Innocence

- Absence of faith
- Drugs
- Violence
- Fear
- Breakdown of the family
- Academic success compromised
- Misguided values
- Lack of character
- Decline of language
- Misplaced loyalty
- Disparaged patriotism
- Weak role models
- Online influence
- Social networking
- Video games
- Media
- Financial pressures



Restore Innocence

Where do we start? We start with ourselves!

When do we start? We start today!

How do we start? We start with PRAYER!

Begin by making a difference in ONE child's life!
Engage hundreds of others. Spread the word!!!

**We pray to restore hope to our
children.**

What does a child do when he feels confused, desperate or alone with a problem? Teach them to reach out for help. Teach them about prayer.

Encourage children to ask for prayers and offer to intervene for them with prayer. Listen carefully to their requests.

Create an easy way for children to request prayers and publicize it. Establish a children's email address for requesting prayers. Have a prayer mailbox where children can drop off requests.

This will make adults mindful of issues impacting young people and can provide a vehicle for reaching out to support them.

Suggest young people regularly lift their friends up in prayer. Often teens are aware of their peers struggling with difficult choices, pain, loss, addiction, isolation or a challenging family situation.

YOUTH PRAYER

Heavenly Father, thank you for your love and mercy. I pray for my friend and others who struggle with pressures of loss, tough choices, relationships, poverty, special needs, drugs and violence. Give all young people the strength not to give up. Help adults understand how to reach out and support us. Lord, send your Spirit to my friend and others to comfort and protect them. Help us support each other.

Amen