



More than 100,000 paper hands made by children across Florida will hang in the Capitol Rotunda. (Special to the Democrat)



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### **Children's Week activities include luncheon, autism walk**

By Sharon Kant-Rauch

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Children don't vote.

But once a year for the past 14 years, child advocates have converged on the Florida Capitol for a week to give legislators this message: Don't forget about the kids.

Children's Week this year runs from Sunday through April 3.

As in years past, more than 100,000 paper cutouts of child-sized hands made by children from all across the state will hang in the Capitol Rotunda. Eighty nonprofit groups that serve children and families will have educational booths, and advocates will have 55 interviews with policymakers.

The week also will include guided tours of the Capitol and a town hall meeting. The public is invited to all the events.

In the current economic crisis, organizer Jason Zaborske said, it was essential to get the legislators' attention.

"The overriding issue is budget cuts," he said. "They affect all our programs. We want to make sure legislators see all the different constituent groups from across the state, working together for all the children."

Events for the week include:

- ↴ Sunday: "Hanging of the Hands," 12:30 to 4 p.m. in the Capitol Rotunda.
- ↴ Monday: Advocacy training from 1 to 2:30 p.m. at the University Center Club.
- ↴ Tuesday: Children's Capitol for the Day from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Will include Hanging of the Hands dedication (9 a.m.), a "Kids Only" Town Hall meeting (10 to 11:30 a.m.) and a Children's Week Luncheon, free to the first 1,500 people (11:30 a.m.).
- ↴ Thursday: Inaugural Tallahassee Walk for Autism from FSU Law School to Capitol (9 a.m.).
- ↴ Monday through Wednesday: Guided tours of the Capitol from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

For more information about Children's Week events, visit [www.childrensweek.org](http://www.childrensweek.org).