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**CHILDREN'S WEEK**  
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United Way of Florida

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Prevent Child Abuse Florida

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## Celebrating Florida's Children and Families During Dire Economic Times

Local events for children's services across the state conclude on April 5th with the 'Capitol for a Day' celebration in Tallahassee.

Tallahassee, FL - Florida Legislators face unsurpassed budget challenges during the 2011 legislative session. As a result, vitally important services for Florida's children and families are at risk. Communities across the state are responding by gearing up to kick-off the 16th Annual Florida Children's Week to raise awareness about critical children's issues. Children's Week supporters know that if critically important services for children and families are not maintained or improved, our children will not be prepared to join tomorrow's workforce and become productive citizens.

Thousands of children, families, educators and policy makers will join forces with over 80 statewide partners and corporations to flood Florida's Capitol, April 3-8 in an effort to bring attention to the issues facing Florida's youth. Here they will learn about the workings of our state government, tour the Capitol, meet with legislators and enjoy Florida's Capital.

### Children's Week activities will include:

- **"Hanging of the Hands" Sunday, April 3, 12:30 p.m. to 4 p.m., Capitol Rotunda:** Hundreds of volunteers from across the state will hang over 100,000 paper cut-outs of children's hands.
- **Children's Week Community Innovation Awards Luncheon presented by United Way of Florida and Whole Child Florida: Monday, April 4, 2011 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., University Center Club:** Policy makers, elected officials and community leaders will come together to recognize collaborate efforts in communities statewide, featuring keynote speaker Kathy Hurley, Senior Vice-President of Strategic Partnerships for Pearson Education and the Pearson Foundation.
- **Advocacy Dinner & Reception Monday, April 4, 5 p.m. to 8 p.m., University Center Club:** More than 360 Children's Week Partners, advocates, policy makers and elected officials attend the networking dinner and reception. The winner of the 2011 Chiles Advocacy Award will be announced.
- **Children's Capitol for a Day Presented by Comcast Tuesday, April 5, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., State Capitol Courtyard:** More than 80 interactive non-profit children's activity booths are setup throughout the Capitol Courtyard and Rotunda to provide interactive activities and information regarding children's programs in Florida. Please refer to the attached listing of activities and times for Children's Capitol for a Day.

Additional information on activities taking place during Children's Week at the Capitol is available at <http://www.childrensweek.org>.

**Children's Capitol for a Day (Tuesday, April 5) activities will include:**

- **Children's Week Press Conference and Hanging of the Hands Dedication Ceremony, 9 a.m., Back steps of the Old Capitol:** The Hanging of the Hands artwork display will be dedicated to the 2011 Florida Legislature. Nemours will announce the total number of steps walked for children's issues during the Florida Legislative Session. April 5th will be announced as the official "Children's Capitol for a Day" with a signed proclamation from Governor Scott. Speakers include: Ted Granger, President, United Way of Florida; Bishop Tim Whitaker; Missy Atkinson, 2010 Teacher of the Year; Sen. Nan Rich (D); Rep. Rich Glorioso (R); Lieutenant Governor Jeff Kottkamp.
- **Guided Tours of the Capitol, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., New and Old Capitol buildings:** Children and families will enjoy guided tours of the new and old Capitol buildings.
- **Legislative Reading Corner, 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., Capitol Courtyard:** Dozens of Florida Legislators will read to children throughout the day. Pearson Foundation will provide free books to all children that participate.
- **"Teens Only" Town Hall Meeting and Youth Commission, 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m., Tallahassee City Hall:** This event provides a forum for students from across the state to pose poignant questions to the Florida Children and Youth Cabinet about the state of Children's issues and services. The 20-member Cabinet chaired by Lt. Governor Jeff Kottkamp and comprised of government officials, policy makers, and Children's developmental and advocacy experts will hear from a twelve member student panel, selected from a statewide pool of student applicants.
- **Children's Week Luncheon, 11:30 a.m., Capitol Courtyard:** Thousands of attendees will receive healthy boxed lunches provided by Crispers. Lunches are provided on a first come, first served basis.
- **Youth Advocacy Workshop, 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m., Tallahassee City Hall:** Created by youth for youth, this fun and interactive advocacy workshop is for students of all ages who want to learn more about how they can make a difference in their communities. Students will have fun learning with members of Florida Youth SHINE and become effective advocates at the same time. Want to learn how to get your point across? Wish adults would hear what you had to say on important issues? Join Florida Youth SHINE's workshop and you'll learn how your voice can serve as a voice for all youth on any topic that is important to you.
- **Comcast Newsmakers:** Comcast will set up a stage and conduct a live televised production with more than 55 interviews with legislators, policy makers and Children's Week partners. The interviews will be broadcast on CNN Headline News and Comcast Newsmakers outlets and cable networks statewide. A list of interviews will be provided at the event.
- **Children's Activities and Entertainment:** Over 80 interactive non-profit Children's activity booths are set up throughout Capitol Courtyard and Rotunda to provide interactive activities and information regarding Children's programs in Florida. Children can receive free health screenings, face painting, science experiments, balloons and much more. Children's Week T-shirts and pedometers will be given out to the first 1,000 attendees.

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