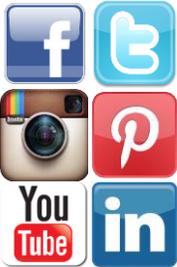




CHILDREN'S WEEK

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Submit Children Artwork for Children's Week "Give Us a Hand" Campaign

Tallahassee, Fla. – In anticipation of the 22nd annual Florida Children's Week celebration in March, organizers today launched a campaign that will create the largest piece of artwork inside the Florida Capitol rotunda in Tallahassee. The "Give Us a Hand" campaign encourages children throughout the state of Florida to send decorated paper cut-outs of their hands to Children's Week organizers, who will hang them in the Capitol rotunda from March 26-31.

The hand artwork is meant to convey a message to lawmakers – to "give us a hand" during the upcoming legislative session on funding and policy decisions that promote the health, safety and wellbeing of children in Florida. Last year, more than 100,000 paper hand cut-outs were collected and transformed into an impactful display.

"The hands show decision makers a visual representation of the vast number of children their decisions affect. We hope that the legislators will see the thousands of hands – see the personalization of each one – and envision the children who made them," said Jason Zaborske, statewide coordinator for Children's Week.

To have your child's artwork displayed in the Capitol rotunda during Children's Week, it must be postmarked by Friday, March 10th, 2017 and sent to the Early Learning Coalition of the Big Bend Region c/o Children's Week, 2639 N. Monroe Street, Building C Tallahassee, FL 32303.

This year, participants also are encouraged to share photos of their artwork on social media. From now until March 23rd, everyone who shares a photo using the hashtag #GiveUsAHand on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram will be entered to win one of three prizes for best individual hand art, best group piece and most creative.

The Hanging of the Hands ceremony is the hallmark of Children's Week – an annual weeklong celebration at the Capitol which serves as a platform for numerous organizations to advocate for children and family issues to Florida lawmakers. Many of the organizations participating in Children's Week also will hold local events leading up to Children's Week at the Capitol.

In addition to the Hanging of the Hands ceremony on March 26th, various events are scheduled to take place during Children's Week, including a free breakfast and luncheon for attendees, an awards ceremony, workshops, town hall meetings, a storybook village for children and more. Thousands of educators, students and families are expected to attend.

For more information about Children's Week and events in your community, visit www.ChildrensWeek.org. For hand artwork instructions, visit www.ChildrensWeek.org/art.

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