



Childhelp National Day of Hope Fact Sheet

What is it? Our Founders, Sara O'Meara & Yvonne Fedderson worked with the Carter Administration who designated April as National Child Abuse Prevention month, as the first step in recognizing the problem of child abuse and neglect. On February 14, 2000, Congress unanimously voted designating the first Wednesday of each April to be known as Childhelp National Day of Hope. On this day, from coast to coast, we honor the little ones who lost their lives to abuse, as well the precious children in our midst still battling for their lives. For the past few decades, Childhelp has held an event on Capitol Hill during the month of April to meet with our Senators and Representatives to thank them for their work in child welfare and let them know about Childhelp's successful programs and the most vulnerable children we serve. This year's event on Capitol Hill is known as a virtual fly-in. This allows for advocates to hear directly from the member of Congress and staff, as well as educate on the needs of our programs and kiddos.

Why participate in the fly-in meetings? Members of Congress want and need to hear from their constituents about what matters in their community, the programs in their community and how they can be helpful. Congress turns the voices of their citizens into data points of what matters. Due to events like this, we were able to get much needed grant funding to support the National Child Abuse Hotline.

What is the time commitment the day of the virtual meetings? The time commitment is up to you! Meetings will take place all day long and across the country with Members of Congress in their home state/district offices. Meetings with your particular Member of Congress will last about 30 minutes and there may be anywhere from 1-4 meetings that day. We would love to have you join as many as you can. We are working on scheduling meetings soon and a you will be provided with a draft schedule ahead of time (about a week out).



National Day Of *Hope*[®]

Who will be attending the virtual meetings? At least one Childhelp staff member will be in the meeting alongside other advocates and volunteers, including Childhelp board and chapter members and of course Senior Congressional Staff and Members of Congress.

What will we be discussing in the virtual meetings? This meeting will be an educational opportunity for us to share with Members of Congress the State of Child Welfare today and the many impactful ways that Childhelp is serving our abused and neglected kids (and their families) through our many programs and outreach efforts. We will specifically be focusing on the need for continuous funding for the National Child abuse Hotline, the need to pass the long overdue Child Abuse Prevention Treatment Act (CAPTA), the dire need to fund the Victims Of Crime Act (VOCA) and, of course, the lasting and devastating effects this pandemic is having on our hurting children and Non Profit Organizations, like Childhelp.

Who will be speaking and leading these meetings? The meetings will be initially lead by the Childhelp Staff Member or designated lead. This will be done to ensure efficiency of our time with the Member of Congress. We will be offering 2 trainings prior to National Day of Hope so everyone is up to speed and feels comfortable with the material and subject area. Depending on how many people are in the meeting, not everyone may get to speak at each meeting, but all will be introduced! We will cover this much more in our training.

Will there be training prior, and if so, what is the commitment? There will be a video-conference training prior to the meetings. We want to make sure everyone is comfortable with the material and feels confident (virtually) walking into a meeting with Congressional staff and Members of Congress. The training will take place about a week prior for an hour and will be offered at two different times of the day to help accommodate schedules. We may add additional training times, depending on need and demand. You will also receive a packet in the mail, after you register, with all the essential materials. As a Childhelp Advocate, you will have access to a dedicated Childhelp National Day of Hope website. We will be using this as the platform for all meetings. The website will have links



with everything you need to know as well. There is no need to worry about not being prepared. We are here for you and will do this together!

What is required after participation? We are grateful for your participation and would just ask that you send a thank you email to the staff and Members of Congress that meet with you. All the information will be provided to do so and can be done through the Childhelp National Day of Hope website. Childhelp will also be sending around a survey a few days after CH NDOH, to hear your thoughts on what worked well, what you liked, and what can be improved upon. This is the first time Childhelp is holding this time honored event virtually, due to the pandemic, and hope to take what is learned this year and add a virtual option moving forward.

Is there a cost to participate in the virtual fly-in meetings? There is no cost to participate. Childhelp Government Relations will take care of all the details, logistics and trainings. We just need your time, commitment and voice to make a difference for the hurting and abuse kids that we serve.