

# FAMILY MATTERS

## Spending Meaningful Time With Children

(NAPSA)—In the 21st century, family dynamics have changed. Now more than ever, we must commit ourselves to the needs of the country's children. Unlike many other countries, America does not designate an official day to celebrate its most cherished national asset—its children. That is about to change.

Boys & Girls Clubs of America, in collaboration with KidsPeace, and leading youth-serving, community and educational organizations, is spearheading National KidsDay®. Celebrated the first Sunday each August, National KidsDay is a day to celebrate and honor America's children by giving the gift of meaningful time. This year's celebration is Sunday, August 4. The long-term goal is placement of National KidsDay on the national calendar.

This year, Laura Bush serves as the National KidsDay Honorary Chairperson. "I applaud Boys & Girls Clubs of America and KidsPeace for setting aside a day to honor and strengthen the relationship between adults and children," she said. "This is a day to reinforce that children matter—that their ideas and dreams are important and worthwhile. I hope National KidsDay becomes one of the greatest days of the summer for America's children."

Noted TV personality and KidsPeace National Spokesperson, Leeza Gibbons, is supporting National KidsDay to encourage parents and others to spend more meaningful time with children. "National KidsDay is an opportu-



**A new holiday is dedicated to fostering stronger relationships between parents and children.**

nity to remind ourselves to give the gift of heartfelt time every day to the most important people in our lives," she said.

On Sunday, August 4, National KidsDay celebrations will take place in hundreds of communities nationwide. In 2001, the U.S. Conference of Mayors passed a resolution proclaiming the first Sunday in August as National KidsDay. With their support, some 250,000 people celebrated at more than 500 events.

For more information about National KidsDay and activities throughout the United States, visit [www.kidsday.net](http://www.kidsday.net) or call 800-854-CLUB to find your nearest Boys & Girls Club. No matter how you celebrate, spend meaningful time with a child on August 4. Research shows that when adults spend meaningful time with young people, it helps them develop a positive self-image and a sense of belonging. Those are presents that money can't buy, but you can give.