



## **What is World Orphans Day?**

Millions of children, in the world are vulnerable and often incapable of meeting the demands of society. Most are orphans, children who are extremely vulnerable after having lost their parents for various reasons. While their pain is unfathomable, there still remains the necessity to make them a part of society rather than streamline them for lack of opportunity. Governments all over the world need to focus on activities that help find sustainable solutions to ensure that orphans are provided an alternative caring home along with all the rights that a child is entitled so that he can live a complete and fulfilling life.

## **What is the Origin of the Day?**

The Stars Foundation is a United States based entertainment industry nonprofit 501 (c) 3 is the initiating organization behind the international World Orphans Day programming. Their mandates serve as an advocacy organization for peace and children's rights, contributing to the quality of life for orphans as well as the victims to AIDS, natural disasters, children of American fallen heroes and poverty on an international level.

The Stars Foundation's Founder, Cheryl Robeson Piggott stated "Research shows that every 2 seconds a child becomes an orphan somewhere in the world. The major contributing causes are disease, poverty, war and famine". World Orphans Day™ is a global initiative to draw attention to the plight of these orphans who would otherwise be forgotten. Various government organizations, non-government organizations and charitable societies are working enthusiastically for the empowerment of these orphans. Observed every year on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of November, the day is marked by numerous activities that raise support, awareness and funding for the cause of orphans all over the world.

## **Gestures to Mark the Importance of the Day**

Activities organized on World Orphans Day include sponsorship programs and collection of donations. The primary focus remains in generating awareness about the plight of orphans and orphanages. The lack of funding is a primary factor affecting the future of the orphans and hence the need for donations and sponsorships for the orphans. This small gesture goes a long way towards ensuring their education and helps to build a foundation for them to grow in life. The importance of the day lies in beginning various activities and social initiative that ensures the well-being of orphans and helps them create a future in mainstream society.

## **Discussions on How to Celebrate the Day**

Discussions on how to celebrate the day are incomplete without a careful study about the plight of orphans and the steps undertaken for their future well-being. The activities including studies and discussions as well as interaction with the orphans and their caregivers help to identify all their needs and initiate concrete steps to meet those needs. The importance of the day not only lies in highlighting the plight of orphans, their vulnerabilities and organizing activities for their empowerment, but also in initiating steps required in setting up a system that meets all their basic needs in the absence of their parents.

## **Activities that focus on the Welfare of Orphans**

The focused and disciplined approach rather than high profile activities showcasing of the plight of vulnerable children. Even though sponsorships as well as donations make a small contribution to their well being, the majority of orphans are left to fend for themselves. This can even create a corpus of persons ready to step onto the dark side of society due to lack of opportunities for their growth unless basic amenities like education and medical facilities are provided. It remains a stigma on society that a major part of funds raised for orphans usually does not reach them or their caregivers.

More information can be found by visiting [www.TheStarsFoundation.net](http://www.TheStarsFoundation.net)

## **Dates**

**2014** - November 10

**2015** - November 9

**2016** - November 14

**2017** - November 13

**2018** - November 12

**2019** - November 11

**2020** - November 9

