

ABOUT *STAND WITH CHILDREN*

A Positive Educational Campaign in Support of Marriage and the Family

What is *Stand with Children (SWC)*?

Stand with Children is an educational coalition of concerned Catholic organizations and individuals promoting marriage with a positive focus on:

- The common interest of every child in the marriage of his or her mother and father;
- The family as the foundation of social justice – the first school of love, peace and justice.

All *Stand with Children* materials and messages are based on the Social Doctrine of the Catholic Church.



Who is behind it?

Stand with Children is a project of the Catholics for the Common Good Institute, affiliated with the organization that led the lay Catholic coalition for the California "Yes on Prop 8, Protect Marriage" campaign in 2008. It has been developed in close collaboration with the Dominican School of Philosophy and Theology in Berkeley, CA and the staff of the California Catholic Conference.

Why should my organization or I join?

Why join?

- Help fight poverty and higher delinquency, school dropout, and teen pregnancy rates caused by family breakdown.
- Learn how to provide better answers to the tough questions your children bring home from school.
- Defend your children against influences undermining their understanding of marriage and the family for their future.

Marriage continues to decline with devastating social consequences for children and society. Forty percent of children are now being born out of wedlock. A Brookings Institution report indicates "most, and in some cases all, of the increase in child poverty over the past thirty to forty years can be explained by changes in family structure."

Powerful private interests have successfully implemented policies increasingly hostile to marriage and in conflict with the common interest of every child. Children are required to be taught in school that marriage is a lifestyle choice equivalent to cohabitation and other alternatives.

We must work together through a large coordinated coalition with positive messages for the restoration of a marriage culture. This will benefit children who cannot advocate for their stake in their

parents' marriage. It is also an imperative of social justice.

- 63% of youth suicides
- 90% of all homeless and runaway children
- 85% of all children that exhibit behavioral disorders
- 71% of all high school dropouts

come from fatherless homes.

How do we join *Stand with Children*?

Organizations are invited to join and participate by using the organization application form. It is recommended that each organization consider and pass the "We Choose to Stand with Children" resolution". Organizations should then appoint a SWC chair or coordinator as a liaison.

Individuals are invited to join by subscribing online or by submitting the reply form attached to the *Stand with Children* brochure.

Your organization's name will be listed on the *Stand with Children* website with other member organizations.

What does being a member of *Stand with Children* involve?

The names of organizations that join *Stand with Children* will be posted on the *Stand with Children* website. In addition, SWC will keep organizations and individuals informed about concerns and events by periodic emails related to marriage and family. Organizations will be invited to participate in projects that would include:

- Inviting other parish organizations and individuals to join *Stand with Children* (SWC).
- Distributing literature within parishes or organizations. SWC will provide flyers, talking points and other educational materials.
- Recruiting volunteers to work on specific projects.

Is there any cost to join?

Membership in the coalition is free. However, CCGI-*Stand with Children* would be grateful for donations of any amount for support of this educational effort.



Stand with Children is a project of the Catholics for the Common Good Institute, a IRC 501c3 educational organization. Contributions to CCGI-*Stand with Children* are deductible for federal income tax purposes.