

FAMILY



"Of all the rocks upon which we build our lives, we are reminded today that family is the most important."
-- Barack Obama

The ideal of "a family" is one of the most basic models of what a better world can be like. In a perfect family, the members are joined by bonds of love; they help each other meet all of their physical and emotional needs. Of course no family is perfect, but a family that strives together to become a "family for a better world" can help each member to feel more fulfilled and better about themselves and the world. They also provide a real-life example of how the human family can work together to create a more peaceful, just and sustainable world.

The first step to becoming a "Better World Family" is to decide to become one. It will be an ongoing learning experience with lots of mistakes. You might decide to set a regular time to discuss and work out family problems and issues. You'll want to make sure that you show your concern and encouragement for each other, regularly. You'll need to let things go and apologize and accept apologies and make amends when apologies aren't enough. You're a team and you want to work it out. You may decide to work together on projects for a better world as a way to strengthen your dedication.

In 1993, the United Nations decided that May 15 should be observed as the International Day of Families to help increase awareness of family issues and improve the capability of nations to tackle family-related problems.

In the United States, Family Day is also observed on September 26 by Presidential Proclamation.

Do One Thing for a Better World

- Find out more about building a strong family
- Invite your family to start a regular Family Time to discuss ways to improve your family life
- Invite your family to work together on a 'better world project'
- Support organizations that support families

Family Links

- Families Australia (familiesaustralia.org.au)
- Family Research Laboratory (unh.edu/frl)
- International Day of Families (un.org/esa/socdev/family/IntObs/IDF/IDFframe.htm)
- UN Program on the Family (un.org/esa/socdev/family)
- Building a Strong Family (Univ of Florida) (edis.ifas.ufl.edu/HE326)

DO ONE THING

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