Worthy Wage Day: Information you may be interested in....

What is Worthy Wage Day?

Worthy Wage Day came out of an ongoing Worthy Wage Campaign, launched in 1991 by the Center for the Child Care Workforce in the United States. The national campaign was designed to draw attention to the important work of early childhood educators and the need to improve the wages, benefits, professional development opportunities and working conditions for early childhood educators.

Through Worthy Wage Day, ECE’s have been able to raise public awareness of what we do and how we are important in the growth and development of young children. Elsewhere, other early childhood education organizations, associations, support agencies and/or unions have taken on the challenge of raising awareness. The first Worthy Wage Day was celebrated in 1992 in the US. Worthy Wage Day is May 1st.

The NSCCA believes in the value of early childhood educators and the work they perform every day. The NSCCA feels it is important to educate the public on what it is ECE’s do and why they play an important role in today’s society.

What can I do to participate in Worthy Wage Day?

As May 1st is on a Sunday this year, Worthy Wage festivities will primarily be held on Monday May 2nd. As an ECE or a supporter of ECE’s you can participate in many ways...

✓ Make a commitment to talk with someone outside of the field who has an interest in our issues.
✓ Offer to make a presentation on quality early childhood education at a community college, civic organization or church group.
✓ Visibility at conferences can be as easy as wearing Worthy Wage buttons or T-shirts, stickers, or a Worthy Wage ribbon attached to a name tag. At a Michigan conference one year, worthy wagers handed out ribbon armbands with the word "babysitter" in a circle with a diagonal line running through it.
✓ If your event has a resource sharing area, set up an information table to display information on how to become involved in the fight for worthy wages.
✓ Invite parents to your work site for coffee and donuts or plan an award ceremony to recognize a Children's Champion in early childhood education.
✓ Ask parents to wear a message sticker to work on Worthy Wage Day.

At this time, I am unable to organize an event. Is there another way I can help?

There are many simple ways you can help get the message out about the need for increased wages, benefits and professional development opportunities for early childhood professionals. They include:

• Making a commitment to talk with someone outside of the field who has an interest in our issues.

Some information in this article was made possible by AFT (American Federation of Teachers) website.
• Staying informed! If you haven’t already signed up, join the Nova Scotia Child Care Association and be part of the Advocacy Committee.
• Wear and share the stickers / buttons provided by the Nova Scotia Child Care Association and share the information sent to your centre with families, friends, and the public.

How can I keep the momentum of Worthy Wage Day going throughout the year?

Fighting for worthy wages and support is a constant battle. Be sure to connect frequently with legislators, media and parents to talk about the value of your profession. Activities to promote the value of ECE’s can be done at any time of the year. Simple ways to keep the momentum going include: writing about your concerns in child care to your local newspaper throughout the year, write an article on something great happening where you work for the NSCCA newsletter, celebrate National Child Day on November 20th and promote yourself on Early Childhood Educator Appreciation Day on October 27th.

Where can I find more information on Worthy Wage Day?

For more information or to obtain a button email the NSCCA at INFO@nschildcareassociation.org or check out the AFT (American Federation of Teacher)