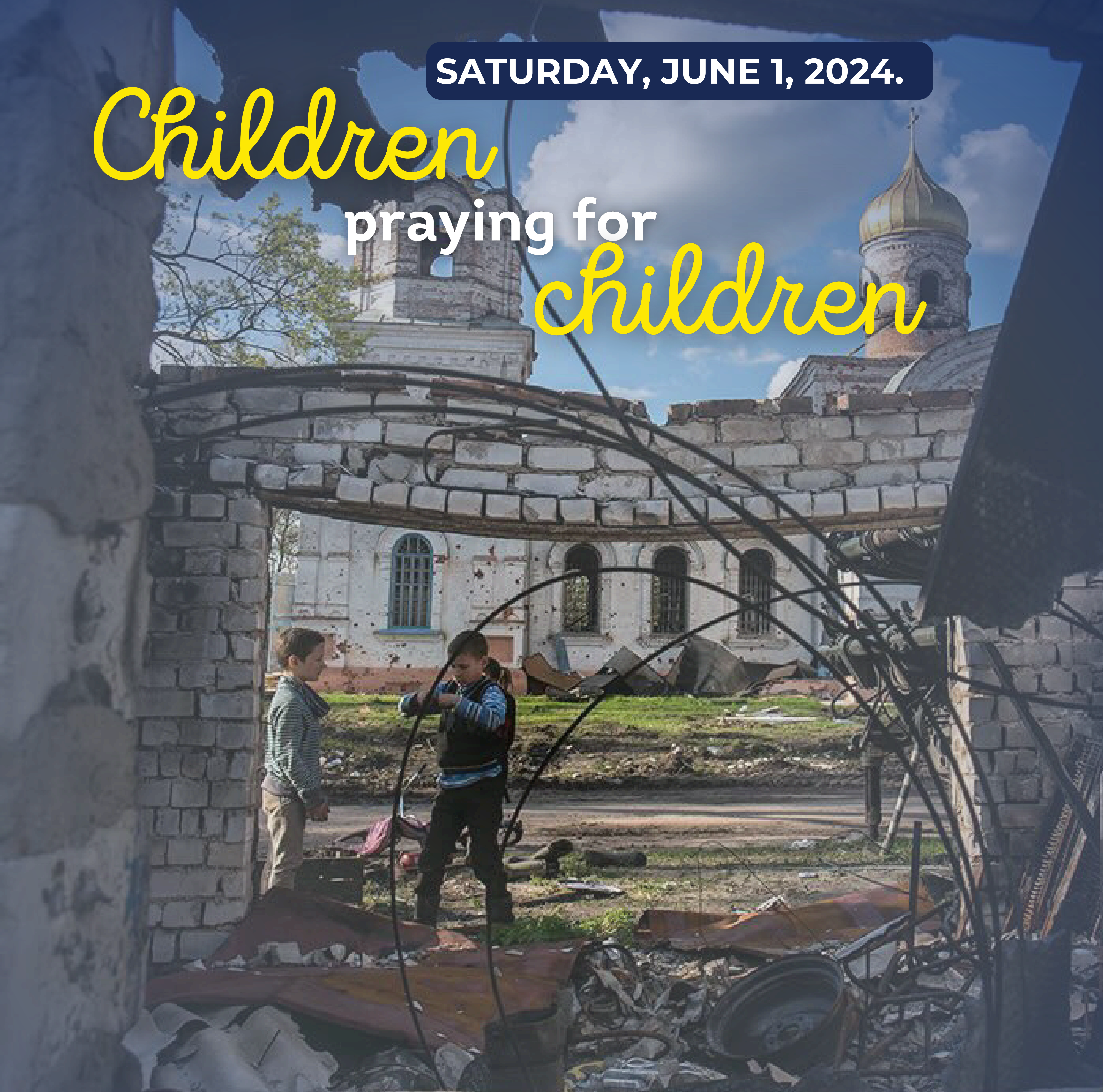


SATURDAY, JUNE 1, 2024.

Children praying for children



The UNWLA's initiative Return Ukraine's Children is organizing prayer services throughout the United States on International Children's Day.

Let's create a sacred space for children to come together in prayer, solidarity and compassionate action for their peers who are affected by the tragic circumstances of the war in Ukraine.



JOIN US ON JUNE 1ST, 2024

contact your local UNWLA branch for details about time and locations of the service.



Children

praying for

children



April 28 2024

Re: Children Praying for Children June 1 2024

Dear Soyuzianky,

The Ukrainian National Women's League of America (UNWLA) initiative Return Ukraine's Children is calling upon all our members for your engagement in organizing Children Praying for Children services throughout the United States. These services will bring attention to Ukraine's children on International Children's Day on Saturday, June 1, 2024

The Children Praying for Children prayer service aims to create a sacred space for children to come together in solidarity and compassionate action for the children of Ukraine who are affected by the tragedy of war in Ukraine – focusing especially on the children abducted by Russia from the temporarily occupied territories. To date, the Ukrainian government has identified at least 20,000 Ukrainian children that have been abducted, and whose fate is unknown.

An important goal of this prayer service is to raise awareness about this tragedy and by doing so to gain support for the return of our children to their loving families.

Attached are materials which we hope will make it easier for you to organize the Children Praying for Children service (s) in your community:

- 1/ a Media Advisory for your own use or to be shared with other organizations with whom you are working
- 2/ Guidelines for organizing the prayer service
- 3/ Fact sheet for reference
- 4/ A template for use as a flyer for handouts, social media posting or emails

Together we can ensure that the Children Praying for Children prayer service is a meaningful and respectful event bringing together children and our communities in prayer and awareness of the tragedy.

Respectfully yours,
Marta Fedoriw, Chair
UNWLA Return Ukraine's Children Initiative



GUIDELINES FOR ORGANIZING A PRAYER SERVICE



Children praying for children

MARKING INTERNATIONAL CHILDRENS DAY – JUNE 1, 2024

The following guidelines are intended to assist organizers in planning and implementing the “Children Praying for Children” national event.

It is important to include as many faith communities as possible to take part in the prayer service, both of Ukrainian heritage and not of Ukrainian heritage. Ensuring broad community engagement is crucial as it demonstrates the unified support of our neighbors and friends.

If your prayer service cannot be held on Saturday, June 1, 2023, please schedule it for Sunday, June 2, 2024. It is, however, very important to note that it is being held to mark International Children’s Day.

VERY IMPORTANT! Be sure to reach out to your local media – newspapers, TV, and radio to ask them to announce the prayer service – Children Praying for Children – in their community bulletins as well as to report on the prayer service! Use the materials provided in this toolkit – press release, fact sheet and resource links-to relate to the media contacts the important information about this event.

Pro tip: *The media loves a “human interest” story – please be prepared, when possible, to introduce someone from your community - a refugee who can provide any personal aspects of their life during the war in Ukraine, especially if they came with a child.*

Reach out to your local elected officials and invite them to attend the prayer service.

What additional activities can be planned? After the prayer service the children can:

- a/ draw little cards with pictures or make some arts&crafts to be sent to children in Ukraine.
- b/ use a map of Ukraine with a net over it and have children tie prayer ribbons to the net

All these activities add interest - children feel that they are involved and the media likes this personal touch. It also makes for good photos and video.



GUIDELINES FOR ORGANIZING A PRAYER SERVICE



Children praying for *children*

FOR UNWLA BRANCHES THAT DO NOT HAVE A UKRAINIAN SATURDAY SCHOOL THAT MEETS ON SATURDAY JUNE 1, 2024

STEP #1/ Reach out to a parish in your community to hold a prayer service on Saturday, June 1, 2024.

If there is more than one parish in your community, coordinate with them to hold the prayer service in one church for all to attend together. Include the representatives of all the churches and invite leaders of all faiths to attend.

Reach out to the Inter-Faith Council in your area to take part.

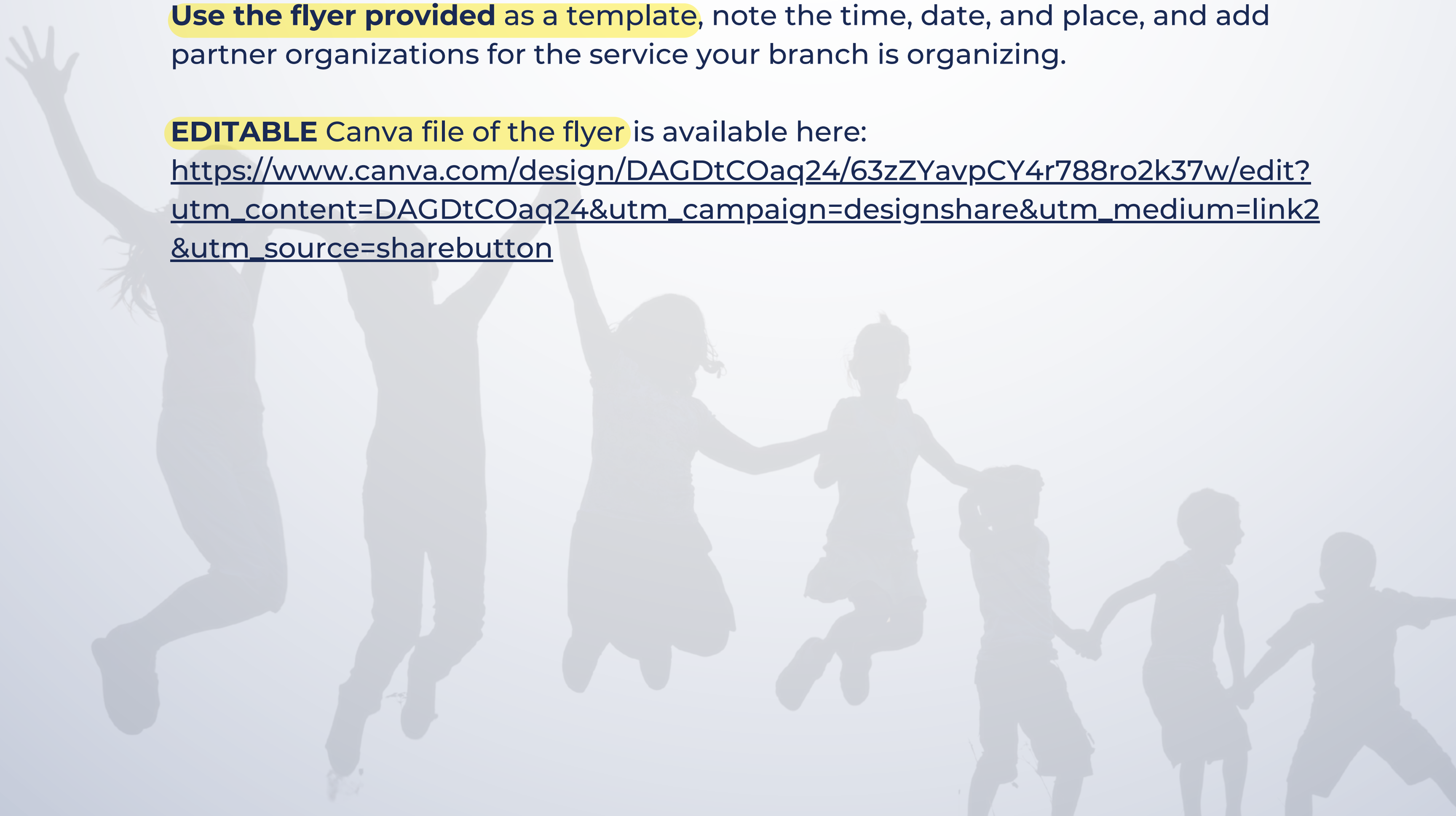
Inter-Faith outreach is very important as it not only unites us in prayer but also highlights that Ukraine is multi-religious society which respects religious freedom.

STEP #2/ Once the prayer service details are decided upon, please ask all the religious leaders to announce it in their respective communities.

Use the flyer provided as a template, note the time, date, and place, and add partner organizations for the service your branch is organizing.

EDITABLE Canva file of the flyer is available here:

https://www.canva.com/design/DAGDtCOaq24/63zZYavpCY4r788ro2k37w/edit?utm_content=DAGDtCOaq24&utm_campaign=designshare&utm_medium=link2&utm_source=sharebutton





GUIDELINES FOR ORGANIZING A PRAYER SERVICE



Children praying for *children*

FOR THOSE BRANCHES IN AN AREA THAT HAS ONE OR MORE UKRAINIAN SATURDAY SCHOOLS:

STEP #1/ For branches located in areas where there is a Ukrainian Saturday school, please organize the prayer service in the school or schools, if there is more than one in your area. Hold the prayer service in the school itself, unless the school is part of a parish as are some schools.

If the Ukrainian Saturday school is a part of the parish – please organize the prayer service with the parish priest and the school director where it would be best to hold the prayer service – either in the school or the church if it is nearby.

The organizing committee for this prayer service includes the Ukrainian American Shkil'na Rada, which will inform each director of each Ukrainian Saturday school that a UNWLA member will reach out to them to assist them in organizing the prayer service.

Please note – not every Ukrainian School is under the umbrella of the Shkil'na Rada – it is up to each branch to reach out to their Ukrainian Saturday School and organize the prayer service to be held at the school or the church if it is a Ukrainian Saturday School that is part of a parish.

STEP #2/ The prayer service can also be held in a suitable place such as a park, or another outdoor or indoor area, especially if your branch does not have a church nearby. Please be mindful of any permit requirements that apply.

Please feel free to **contact Marta Fedoriw with any questions you may have:**
marta.fedoriw@unwla.org

And last but not least – remember to **share your event announcement, take photos of your Prayer Service and share them on social media and with**
events@unwla.org.

WISHING EVERYONE A SUCCESSFUL, MEANINGFUL AND FULFILLING EVENT!