

CITY OF BELLEVUE, WASHINGTON

*PROCLAMATION*

**Whereas:** Every year since 1920, the children in Turkey celebrate April 23 "Sovereignty and Children's Day" as a national holiday highlighting the date of the founding of the National Assembly in Republic of Turkey by Mustafa Kemal Atatürk; and large number of world states including U.S.A. send groups of children to Turkey to participate in the Children's Day festivities where children pledge their commitment to international peace and brotherhood, and

**Whereas:** The importance of April 23 as a special day of children has been recognized by the international community and UNICEF decided to recognize this important day as International Children's Day – a day of worldwide fraternity and understanding between children, and

**Whereas:** Observing April 23 as International Children's Day will promote the welfare of the children not only in the Washington State, but also of the world as a day of activity devoted just for them, and

**Whereas:** Turkish American Cultural Association of Washington (TACAWA) took the initiative to organize the first three annual International Children's Friendship Festivals to bring the positive energy of International Children's Day to the Washington community through fostering cultural exchange and friendship among youth, and

**Whereas:** The third annual International Children's Friendship Festival will be entirely run by the Washington State resident children, and will feature children performance groups representing their heritage from El Salvador, Ethiopia, Germany, India, Iran, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Korea, Mexico, Peru, Philippines, Republic of China, Russia, Scotland, Somali, Turkey, Ukraine, Uzbekistan and Zimbabwe as well as the United States, and

*Now, therefore, I, Conrad Lee, Mayor of the City of Bellevue, Washington, and on behalf of its City Council, do hereby proclaim April 23, 2012 as:*

*The International Children's Day*

And the week of April 23, 2012, as

*The International Children's Friendship Festival Week*

in Bellevue, and urge all citizens to join me in this special observance.



Conrad Lee  
Mayor