



# Governor's Commission on Community Service

Office of Lt. Governor Barbara O'Brien



## Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service

2 0 0 9   A n n u a l   E v e n t   R e p o r t

*"Building a culture of citizenship, service, and responsibility in Colorado."*

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## Remembering

# Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

**Martin Luther King, Jr.**, (January 15, 1929-April 4, 1968) was born in Atlanta, GA. His birth name was Michael King, Jr., but later had his name changed to Martin Luther King, Jr. King attended segregated public schools in Georgia, graduating from high school at the age of fifteen; he received the B. A. degree in 1948 from Morehouse College. After three years of theological study at Crozer Theological Seminary in Pennsylvania, where he was elected president of a predominantly white senior class, he was awarded the B.D. in 1951. With a fellowship from Crozer, he enrolled in graduate studies at Boston University, completing his residence for the doctorate in 1953 and receiving the degree in 1955. In Boston he met and married Coretta Scott, a young woman of uncommon intellectual and artistic attainments. Their marriage produced two sons and two daughters.

In 1954, Martin Luther King became pastor of the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in Montgomery, Alabama. Always a strong advocate of civil rights for members of his race, King was, by this time, a member of the executive committee of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), the leading organization of its kind in the nation. He was ready, then, early in December, 1955, to lead the bus boycott of Montgomery, AL, the first great African American nonviolent demonstration of contemporary times in the United States. The boycott lasted 382 days. On December 21, 1956, the Supreme Court of the United States declared the laws requiring segregation on buses as unconstitutional. During the days of boycott, King was arrested, his home was bombed, he was subjected to personal abuse, yet he emerged as a leader of the civil right movement.

In 1957, King was elected president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, an organization formed to provide new leadership for the now burgeoning civil rights movement. In the eleven-year period between 1957 and 1968, King traveled over six million miles and spoke over twenty-five hundred times, appearing wherever there was injustice, protest, and action. During this time, he wrote five books as well as numerous articles. In these years, he led a massive protest in Birmingham, Alabama, that caught the attention of the entire world, providing what he called a coalition of conscience. and inspiring his "Letter from a Birmingham Jail", a manifesto of the African American revolution; he planned the drives in Alabama for the registration of Black voters; he directed the peaceful march on Washington, D.C., of 250,000 people to whom he delivered his "I Have a Dream" address. He conferred with President John F. Kennedy and campaigned for President Lyndon B. Johnson; he was arrested upwards of twenty times and assaulted at least four times; he was awarded five honorary degrees; was named Man of the Year by *Time* magazine in 1963; and became not only the symbolic leader of African Americans but also a world figure.

At the age of thirty-five, King was the youngest man to have received the Nobel Peace Prize. When notified of his selection, he announced that he would turn over the prize money of \$54,123 to the furtherance of the civil rights movement.

On the evening of April 4, 1968, He was assassinated while standing on the balcony of his motel room in Memphis, Tennessee, where he was to lead a protest march in sympathy with striking garbage workers of that city.

\*Biography of Martin Luther King Jr. from:

The Nobel Prize website at [nobelprize.org/nobel\\_prizes/peace/laureates/1964/king-bio.html](http://nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/peace/laureates/1964/king-bio.html)

The King Center website at [www.thekingcenter.org/mlk/bio.html](http://www.thekingcenter.org/mlk/bio.html)



Above: This famous picture of Dr. King was taken in Denver, CO only months before his assassination. In honor of his contribution to this state and the nation as a whole, an oil-painted portrait of this picture hangs in the Colorado State Capitol.

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Bill Ritter, Jr.  
Governor of Colorado

**Governor's Commission on  
Community Service**

Toya M. Nelson, Executive Director  
Mark Skinner, Sr. Program Officer  
Terri Jutzi, Program Officer  
Janet Mickish, Community &  
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Jovan Melton, Program Assistant  
Serena Ennis, Intern Student

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Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service

# About the Commission

**The Governor's Commission on  
Community Service, under the Office of  
Lieutenant Governor Barbara O'Brien,**

promotes the ethic of service and volunteerism throughout Colorado, and carries out initiatives in the areas of mentoring and literacy.

The Commission supports and promotes volunteer service to all citizens as an effective means to address community needs and foster a collective commitment to lifelong community service.

As administrators of the AmeriCorps\*State Programs in Colorado, the Commission builds on the dedication and expertise of individual citizens and public and private systems to expand civic participation and engagement in solving challenges faced by Colorado communities.

Mission

The Commission serves as a catalyst for the promotion and expansion of community service and volunteerism to all Colorado residents as an effective means to address civic and social issues and improve the overall well being of communities throughout the state.

Goals

- To advocate for service and volunteerism as essential components in sustaining healthy Colorado communities.
- To create mechanisms which facilitate greater cooperation, communication and partnerships among agencies working in the service and volunteerism fields.
- To promote service and volunteerism as an integral component of education at all levels and as a lifelong responsibility.
- To increase public awareness, appreciation, support and participation in service and volunteerism.
- To increase financial support for volunteer initiatives from a broad range of public and private sources.

In addition to its national and community service charge, the Commission works to promote and expand volunteerism and civic participation through initiatives such as *Colorado Cares Day*, a statewide day of service.

2009 AmeriCorps State Programs

- CARENET  
Commerce City, CO  
720.322.8113
- Colorado HIPPY AmeriCorps  
Statewide  
303.860.6000
- Colorado Youth Corps Assoc.  
Statewide  
303.863.0600
- Community Building Partnerships  
for Youth in Transition  
Denver, CO  
720.944.1006
- Healthy Lifestyles Mentoring,  
Steamboat Springs, CO  
970.879.2135
- Mesa College AmeriCorps Program  
Grand Junction, CO  
970.248.1874
- Mile High Youth Corps  
Statewide  
303.433.1206
- Saguache United Methodist  
Church AmeriCorps Program  
Center, CO  
719.256.4662
- Weld County Youth Conservation  
Corps  
Greeley, CO  
970.353.8300, Ext. 3400

Dear Volunteers and Community Partners,

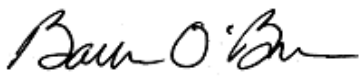
I would like to offer my gratitude to all of the organizations and individuals who contributed to the 2009 Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service.

Martin Luther King Jr. served as an example to all Americans to dedicate their time and energy back to their communities in order to make this a greater nation. We celebrate his memory by giving back to our neighbors and fellow Coloradoans on this national day of service.

This year, Colorado helped set a standard of volunteerism by participating in a number of service projects that took place across our state. We proved once again the very spirit of Dr. King; that regardless of our differences, we can join together and make a positive impact on so many.

We hope that you will continue to help make Colorado a better place to live this year and again thank you for your great work!

With sincere appreciation,



Barbara O'Brien  
Lieutenant Governor  
State of Colorado



Dear Partners in Service,

On behalf of the Governor's Commission on Community Service, I would like to commend the many volunteers and project managers that helped make the Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service a great success.

Dr. King once said, "Everybody can be great because everybody can serve." The Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service is so important because it encourages all us to bring purpose to this holiday by connecting it with the philosophies and teachings of a great individual.

This year there is a cause for celebration. Through your time and hard work, we saw more people touched by your generosity and kindness than in any other previous years. Your support is greatly valued and appreciated. Together we made this holiday a day on, not a day off. It is my hope that you will continue this tradition throughout the entire year.

Sincerely,



Christine Benero  
Chair  
Governor's Commission on Community Service



Barbara O'Brien  
Lt. Governor of Colorado



Christine Benero  
Chair of the Governor's  
Commission on Community  
Service

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Peter Groff  
Colorado State Senate President  
&  
Terrence Carroll  
Colorado State House Speaker

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service

# The Colorado General Assembly

Members of the Colorado General Assembly contributed their share to making the Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service a success in the state. Senate President Peter Groff lent his voice by calling on all Coloradans to get involved in a service project as a way to celebrate the holiday. State House Speaker Terrence Carroll spoke at the Parade Ceremony and helped lead the thousands in attendance along the parade route.



Senate Chamber  
State of Colorado  
Denver

## NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

Friday, January 16, 2009

**CONTACT**

Alejandra Garza de Gutierrez (303)866-5288  
Abigail Vacanti (303) 866-4882

### **PRESIDENT GROFF ENCOURAGES COMMUNITY SERVICE ON MLK DAY**

*"We need your service, right now, in this moment-our moment-in history. I'm not going to tell you what your role should be; that's for you to discover. But I am going to ask you to play your part; ask you to stand up; ask you to put your foot firmly into the current of history."*  
Barack Obama, Colorado Springs, July 2, 2008

"In 1994, Congress dedicated the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Holiday as a National Day of Community Service, in recognition of the life, legacy and dedication to public service exemplified by Martin Luther King Jr. Since 1994, millions of volunteers across the country have taken part in the MLK Day of Service – a call to action, to: "Make it a day on, not a day off."

This year, the Martin Luther King Day of Service falls on the eve of a historic and transformative time in our nation's history. To honor Dr. King's legacy, President-elect Barack Obama has called upon this day as a day to "Renew America Together" and to ignite the spirit of service in our nation by asking all Americans to make a lasting pledge to serve.

These times are somber and sobering – and challenging for us all. Despite these times of uncertainty, we should remember that the strength of America comes from its compassionate, generous and loving citizens.

I invite all Coloradans to come together on this day of service, on the King Holiday and throughout the year, in service to your community.

I commend the many organizations – schools, businesses, churches, non-profit organizations, workers' groups - that are planning King day of Service projects.

On this day we can all celebrate the spirit of service.

On this day we can honor Dr. King's memory, and celebrate his legacy.

On this day, and every day, we can come together, united in service, to help make Colorado a better place to live."

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service

# President Barack Obama

Remarks of President-Elect Barack Obama

Day of Service Luncheon at Coolidge High School - January 19, 2009 - Washington, DC

I want to start by thanking all of you for coming together from across this community – people who are young and old, of every race and background and faith – and taking part in the great American tradition of giving of yourselves to lift up your community.

We meet at a moment when this work could not be more urgent. Today, we face challenges like never before in our lifetime. A lot of folks here in DC and across America are hurting and filled with uncertainty about what the future holds. And as I prepare to take that oath tomorrow, I know my Administration has our work cut out for us.

But I also know this: that however well government does its job; however hard we work to make good plans and policies and restore a sense of responsibility to Washington, our problems cannot be solved by government alone – or even mostly by government. It's going to take all of us, putting our shoulder to the wheel, doing our part to remake this nation.

That's why we've called on the American people to come together and devote their time and effort to work in their communities today. And that's why we chose this particular day, when we honor a man who lived his life as a servant to his fellow citizens – and whose greatness can be measured not just in his own extraordinary contributions, but in how he inspired others to contribute.

Dr. King taught us that we could no longer view our own day-to-day cares and responsibilities as somehow separate from what was happening in the wider world that we read about in the newspaper and saw on TV. Because ultimately, for each of us, our own story and the American story are not separate, they are shared. And they are both strengthened and enriched each time we stand up and answer the call to help meet the challenges of our new century.

So today, I am asking you to roll up your sleeves and join in the work of remaking this nation. I pledge to you that government will do its part to open up more opportunities for citizens to participate. And in return, I ask you to play your part – to not just pitch in today, but to make an ongoing commitment that lasts far beyond one day, or even one presidency.

And to those who are skeptical about whether this will happen – to anyone who thinks that the American people are selfish or apathetic – I invite them to come here to Coolidge High School and to the more than 11,000 other places across this country where people have spent today fixing up schools and renovating homes and organizing food drives and blood drives and so much more. I see what the American people are doing today and every day. So don't tell me that we can't usher in a new spirit of service in this country.

I know we can do this. America is a great nation precisely because Americans have been willing to stand up when it was hard; to give when they had little left to give; to rise above moments of great challenge and terrible trial.

And I know that I am here today – as are so many of you – because somebody, at some point, decided that loving their community and their country meant doing something to change it. That's what we are called to do once again, in this moment – our moment – in history. So today, in the words of Dr. King, "Let us rise up...with a greater readiness. Let us stand with a greater determination. And let us move on in these powerful days, these days of challenge to make America what it ought to be."

Thank you, God bless you, and God bless America.

\*Remarks from: [http://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/dr\\_king\\_service/](http://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/dr_king_service/)



Barack Obama  
President of the United States of  
America

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Martin Luther King Jr.

# Day of Service Overview

In honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s dedication to community service and volunteerism, Congress passed an initiative in 1994 to dedicate the MLK Jr. Holiday as a National Day of Service and encourages all Americans to give back to their communities.

This year Colorado did its part in participating in this national day of service by planning and participating in various statewide service projects. These events ranged from:

- Arts & Culture
- Children & Youth
- Collections (Food, Clothing)
- Food Preparation
- Human Services
- Public Safety
- Beautification/Clean Up
- Civic Engagement
- Education
- Health
- Renovation
- Poverty Fighting



Thousands came together at the Martin Luther King Statue in Denver's City Park for the 2009 MLK Parade.





The GCCS staff (from left to right) Mark Skinner, Jan Mickish, Terri Jutzi, Toya M. Nelson, and Jovan Melton prepare to join the thousands at the MLK Day Parade in Denver.

Many youth joined the celebration to learn about the teachings of Dr. King.

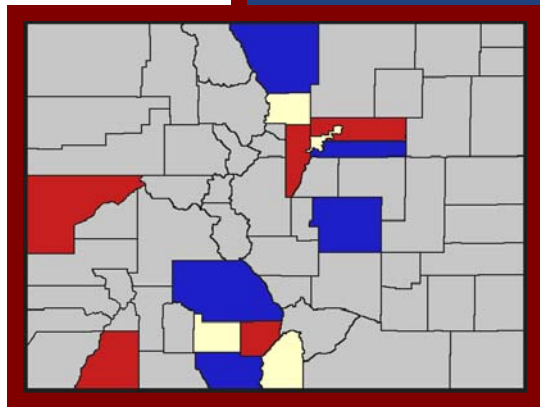


State House Speaker Terrence Carroll and Lt. Governor Barbara O'Brien marched with others.



This year's Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service saw over 33 separate statewide projects that took place in 14 Colorado Counties.

- Adams County
- Alamosa County
- Arapaho County
- Boulder County
- Costilla County
- Conejos County
- Denver County
- El Paso County
- Grand Junction
- Jefferson County
- La Plata County
- Larimer County
- Saguache County
- Rio Grande County



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# The MLK Jr. Marade



The Martin Luther King Jr. Marade has been a long-standing tradition in the City of Denver for over 20 years. The Marade is one of nation's largest MLK Jr. Holiday celebrations of its kind.

Tens of thousands of Coloradans gathered at the Martin Luther King Jr. Statue in Denver's City Park to hear speeches from Lt. Governor Barbara O'Brien, State House Speaker Terrence Carroll, State and City elected individuals, and other community leaders.

Following the ceremony, participants marched from the statue to Civic Center Park, which sits between the state capitol and the City and County building. The parade route is approximately two-miles.

Hundreds of volunteers helped in the organization, promotion, setup, and security for the event. Their dedication helps us all remember Dr. King's teachings of the value of community service in bring all Americans together.



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Thousands of MLK Marade participants marched along Colfax Avenue.



Lt. Governor Barbara O'Brien accepting the Martin Luther King Torch at the opening ceremony of the Marade.

Commissioner Johanna Garton and Vice Chair Lindsay Morgan Tracy at City Park the morning of the Marade.



Marchers gathering at Civic Center Park in Downtown Denver.



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# AmeriCorps

AmeriCorps Members came out in great numbers to provide marshaling services for the MLK Jr. Parade in Denver. They assisted local police and emergency responders in maintaining public safety along the parade route. Their help was invaluable to organizing the thousands in attendance. The AmeriCorps programs that participated in the event were:

- AmeriCorps NCCC
- CARENET AmeriCorps
- Colorado HIPPYCorps
- Community Building Partnerships for Youth in Transition
- Weld County Youth Conservation Corps



Members of AmeriCorps NCCC gathering to assist in the Parade in Denver.



Above: Lt. Governor O'Brien with members of the Community Building Partnerships for Youth in Transition team at the MLK Jr. Marade.



Left: Members of the Weld County Youth Conservation Corps. Above: Members of CARENET AmeriCorps. Below: Members of Colorado HIPPY Corps.



Above: Members of AmeriCorps NCCC outside of the Colorado State Capitol along the Marade route.



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Commissioner Walt Beckert helped participants get the Marade route ready.

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## “Get to Cleanin’ Remembering Memphis”

In 1968, Martin Luther King Jr. went to Memphis, Tennessee, to assist the Memphis Sanitation Workers in a labor dispute for union rights and better working conditions. It was during this trip that he was assassinated on his motel room balcony.

The “Get to Cleanin’ Remembering Memphis” project, was held in honor of the Memphis Sanitation Workers that fought for their civil rights while they fought for their union rights. Participants joined in remembrance by walking the Marade route and picking up trash before the event started the following Monday.



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# Fort Lewis College

Students and faculty at Fort Lewis College in Durango, Colorado celebrated the Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service through a number of activities they offered to their surrounding communities. Students read and perform civil rights speeches, letters, poetry and writings.

The FLC Campus and the Durango community showed their solidarity through a march across campus. The march ended at the CUB Ballroom where participants were invited to share their reflections on MLK Day. FLC President Brad Bartel delivered comments and led in the serving of a birthday cake honoring Dr. King.

Later that day, the FLC Campus and Durango community came together in a discussion on social justice and inclusive communities to consider the true meaning of Martin Luther King Day. The featured speaker, Dr. Rev. Jamie Washington, engaged the audience in the essence of creating effective change in our personal and organizational lives as we strive to realize King's Dream in our communities.



FLC President Brad Bartel marches with students from the college as well as members from the Durango community.

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# MLK Day Health Fair



Kaiser Permanente, in partnership with Metro Volunteers, sponsored the MLK Day Health Fair. The event was held at Manual High School. The fair provided health and medical services to over 1,200 people from the surrounding northeast Denver community. Attendees also received education on a host of health topics from nutrition to early detection of breast cancer.

The fair received large numbers of volunteers that included health experts, doctors, nurses, and health advocates.

Volunteers provided the following free medical services:

- **275** women's screenings including pap tests and pelvic exams
- **180** pediatric physicals and health screenings
- **100** vision screenings
- **470** immunizations
- **500** diabetes and cholesterol tests
- **340** dental screenings and dental services for children and adults
- **90** pairs of free eye glasses
- **30** mammography screenings (**50** additional free mammography exams were scheduled)



Volunteers show the spirit of service as they give their time at Manual High School.





Health professionals lend their talents to serve underprivileged Colorado residents. Members of the community get life saving information.



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## Denver Broncos' Boys & Girls Club

Volunteers came together with the Denver Broncos' Boys & Girls Club in Denver to provide a day of education and fun for children and youth.

At the Denver Broncos Boys and Girls Club, volunteers completed arts and crafts projects with 150 youth, providing them with opportunities to build connections with positive adult role models. Children at the center were taught about the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. They received free lunches and entertainment by the dozens of volunteers and project sponsors.

This extra care and attention provided both the kids and adults with fun memories from the day. The event demonstrated that by giving a little bit of time, the outcomes last a lot longer and benefit so many.



Children worked on crafts and projects to celebrate the life of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.



Volunteers have fun by entertaining and mentoring children and youth in their service project at the Boys and Girls Club.



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# MLK, Jr. Early College



At Martin Luther King, Jr. Early College in Denver, volunteers completed a project that had been on hold for 20 years – sorting and labeling hundreds of books by grade level; thus, giving students access to new educational resources.

Participants helped in cleaning and painting assignments. They also transformed a storage room to meet the Army's requirements to host an ROTC program, which will bring \$150,000 to Denver Public Schools.



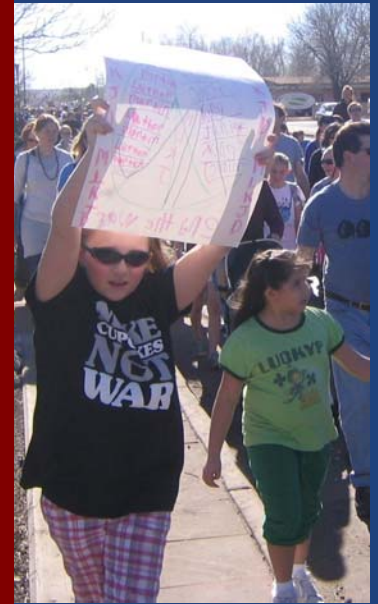
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## MLK Jr. March for Peace and Celebration

Lafayette's annual Martin Luther King, Jr. March for Peace and Celebration was originally conceived by service-learning students at Pioneer Elementary School.

This year marked the fourth anniversary of the celebration, convening an estimated 750 community members. Primarily organized by Project YES and in partnership with the City of Lafayette and the Lafayette Youth Advisory Committee, the event included youth presentations, a performance by Slam Poet Andrea Gibson, a service and resource fair, and a youth-created art gallery.

In addition, University of Colorado and Centaurus High School students developed a documentary of the event, which will be unveiled in April 2009. Also a community mural to honor the legacy of Martin Luther King, Jr. and the promise of President Barack Obama will be presented at the time. Colorado Campus Compact made the projects possible.



People of all ages took to the streets in Lafayette, CO to celebrate Dr. King's contribution and life.



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# Denver Children's Home



A group of neighborhood volunteers had a successful day of service at the Denver Children's Home. They painted one of the commons area to make it seem brighter and larger. The 12 volunteers were able to finish the job in a few hours and had time to tour the home and eat lunch with some of the residents and staff.

Denver Children's Home has a long standing history of working with Colorado's most vulnerable children and families: those that struggle with the effects of poverty, abuse, neglect, exposure to violence and suffer from chronic mental health problems and learning disabilities related to these experiences.



Volunteers worked hard painting and renovating to help kids and families.

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## Warren Village Basic Needs Drive

In the spirit of community service and the MLK Jr. Day of Service, Warren Village's Basic Needs Drive was a huge success for its single parent and previously homeless residents.

More than 45 volunteers helped count, sort and organize thousands of urgently needed donated items. The goods will help feed over 90 single parent families in the coming months.

Warren Village helps motivated low-income, single parents move from public assistance to self-sufficiency through subsidized housing, on-site childcare, counseling, and education or job training.



Volunteers sort and pack supplies for the Warren Village resident families.

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# Colorado HIPPY Corps

Colorado Home Instruction Program for Preschool Youngsters (HIPPY) Corps celebrated the Martin Luther King Holiday with a variety of activities. In the month leading up to MLK Day, the Metro-area HIPPY Members distributed information to families about Martin Luther King, Jr. and worked with 428 families to create "I Have a Dream Time Capsules." The capsules captured both parent and child goals for the year and the future. Parents had fun tracing their child's foot & hand and measuring how tall they were. The activity of finding a newspaper article that not only interested them, but was important to what was going on in the world today, was a fun and challenging activity for them. The families were very excited that their children were able to understand that they are a part of a bigger world.







Not only did 27 Metro area HIPPY Members, six staff, and one HIPPY Alum participate in the Denver MLK, Jr. Parade, but also there were eight parents and 27 children from HIPPY families who marched along side. Since this was the first march for many of the HIPPY Members and families, they were impressed to see the number of people that came out for it. The Members were very excited to see other AmeriCorps "gray sweatshirts" like theirs and felt it was a good opportunity for people to think about the importance of helping others and volunteering.

The San Luis Valley HIPPY sites serves five counties: Alamosa, Conejos, Costilla, Rio Grande and Saguache. Their 13 HIPPY Members prepared and served lunch at La Puente, a homeless shelter in Alamosa, Colorado. The menu included chili beans, corn bread, vegetables and fruit cocktail. These HIPPY Members also collected canned goods from 160 of their HIPPY families to donate to local food banks. They enjoyed the opportunity to get out into the community and serve in a new way for the day!



HIPPY Corps members work diligently to serve others on MLK Day.

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# Johnson & Wales University

Johnson & Wales University students completed a total of 205 volunteer hours at five different sites on MLK Day, including:

Nutrition education for the Kaiser Permanente Health Fair @ Manual High School

Johnson & Wales University, Denver Campus

The SAME Cafe (on Colfax Avenue)

The Habitat for Humanity Outlet Store

Community Leadership Institute students and Manual High School students jointly walked in the Denver Parade carrying a banner about non-violence.

Furthermore, Johnson & Wales University (JWU) collaborated with Volunteers of America and expanded the day of service to incorporate the “40 Day Commitment to Nonviolence” at Manual High School, honoring the life and legacy of Martin Luther King, Jr.



Students proudly display their Commitment to Nonviolence pledge forms at Manual High School.



The program commenced at Manual High School on January 16th with a viewing of *"Rebels Remembered,"* a film that documented the civil rights movement in Colorado. Dick Alweis, the film's director, followed the showing with a Q & A session. JWU students then visited with Manual students in their high school advisory groups to witness Manual students' signing of non-violence pledges and a banner that was carried in the Parade on the 19th. JWU students also shared their experiences as college students (supporting ACCESS Colorado grant objectives to increase high school graduation and college access).

During the 40-day commitment to nonviolence, JWU will host a series of workshops for Manual High School students that further educate participants about non-violence and community organizing principles including facilitators from West High School trained by the ADL and related mural projects with 2Kool Productions.

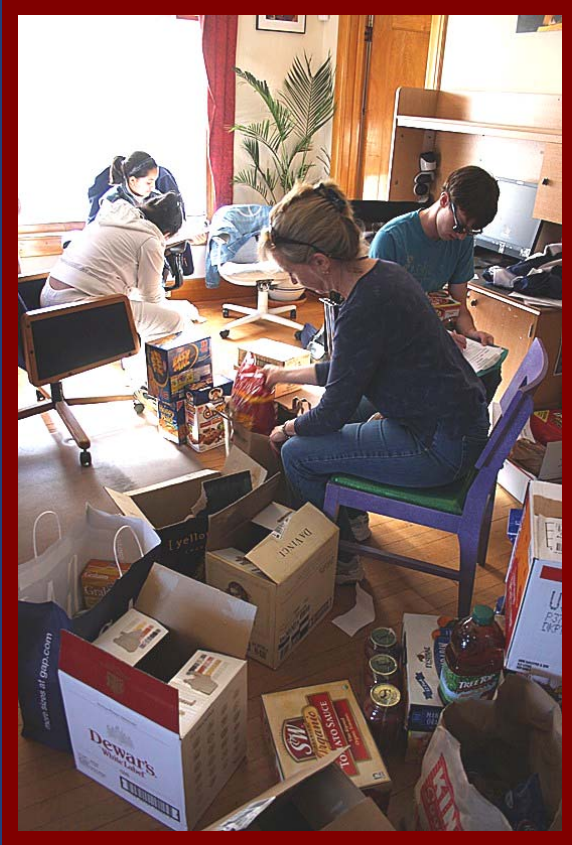
A major objective of the JWU MLK Day programming now and in the future is to bring together a variety of community resources and partners in service to the community.



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# Colorado Campus Compact



AmeriCorps\*VISTA members from Colorado Campus Compact completed several service projects across the state at many different college and university campus communities.

VISTA Members organized canned food and clothing drives for at need families, mentored high school youth, and led a group of youth in the MLK, Jr. Day Parade in Denver.

AmeriCorps VISTA is the national service program designed specifically to fight poverty. Founded as Volunteers in Service to America in 1965 and incorporated into the AmeriCorps network of programs in 1993, VISTA has been on the front lines in the fight against poverty in America for more than 40 years.

Members dedicate themselves for a year or more to not only fight poverty but also build sustainable capacity among those that they help.



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# Food Bank of the Rockies

People from communities all across the Denver Metro Area joined together at the Food Bank of the Rockies. Volunteers helped AmeriCorps Members from Community Building Partnerships for Youth in Transition collect donations, pack boxes, clean store rooms, and organize the centers warehouse.

Food Bank of the Rockies has extended its reach across Northern Colorado and Wyoming, providing food supplies to more than 1000 hunger-relief programs. Food Bank of the Rockies has provided nearly 305 million pounds of food to our member agencies, which translates to more than 230 million meals for people in need.



AmeriCorps Members demonstrate the fun in serving others as they proudly display the donations given to the Food Bank of the Rockies.





Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service

## The MLK Humanitarian Awards

Since 1990, the non-profit Martin Luther King Holiday Committee has sponsored the Martin Luther King Humanitarian Awards. These awards are given annually to community members who have “given freely from their hearts to others, given the time, talent and energy to meet unmet needs, stir hope, speak for the voiceless and build a better world, if for only one person at a time.” Recipients of the MLK Humanitarian Awards help to bring about Dr. King’s dream of an equal chance for all persons to build a better life. They demonstrate the spirit of the MLK Jr. Day of Service through their everyday lives.

Governor Bill Ritter, Jr. and Community Service/Human Rights Advocate Tamara Banks presented this year’s awards at Boettcher Concert Hall the evening of January 13, 2009.

At a special reception, Lt. Governor Barbara O’Brien and Denver Mayor John Hickenlooper gave congratulatory remarks to the honorees.

The 2009 Award honorees:

**Christie Donner**

**Pastors Leon and Yvonne Emerson**

**Russ Nesiba**

**Tracy Jenkins Winchester**

**Calvin Natt**

**Maria Guajardo, Ph.D.**

The 2009 MLK Lifetime Achievement Award recipients:

**Jean and Sam Guyton.**



Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service

# 2009 Celebration Events

## **Monday, January 12, 2009**

Press Conference/Launching of the MLK, Jr. Torch

## **Tuesday, January 13, 2009**

19<sup>th</sup> Annual MLK, Jr. 2008 Humanitarian and Lifetime Achievement Awards

## **Friday, January 16, 2009**

The 18<sup>th</sup> Annual MLK Peace Awards & Breakfast

The 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual MLK Social Business Responsibility Awards Luncheon

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration

## **Saturday, January 17, 2009**

Marade Marshall Training

“Get to Cleanin’ - Remembering Memphis”

Community Meet & Greet Dinner Reception

## **Sunday, January 18, 2009**

Highlands Ranch, Community 2009 Unity Walk and Reception

Dr. King Annual Ecumenical Service

Community Meet & Greet Dinner Reception and Registration

## **Monday, January 19, 2009**

Martin Luther King Jr, Day of Service – Make it a day ON, not a day off

10<sup>th</sup> Annual Dr. King Jr. Breakfast Celebration Arapahoe Community College

24th Annual MLK, Jr. Marade 2009

The 24th Annual “Dinner For Those Who Hunger”

Let Freedom Ring

MLK Jr. African American Heritage Rodeo of Champions

## **Wednesday, January 21, 2009**

17<sup>th</sup> Annual Denver Federal Executive Board (DFEB) - MLK Diversity Training Seminar

## **Friday, January 23, 2009**

BEST's 26th Annual MLK Scholarship Awards



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# List of Projects

Opportunity/Project Name	County	Type of Opportunity
"Back to 'Cleanin' - Remembering Memphis"	Denver	Beautification / Clean up; Children & Youth; Civic and Community
"I Have a Dream" Family Time Capsules – Colorado HIPPIY Corps	Denver, Jefferson, Adams, Alamosa, Costilla, Conejos, Saguache, Rio Grande	Education / Tech
40 Day Commitment to Nonviolence - Johnson & Wales University	Denver	Children & Youth; Civic and Community; Education / Tech
4th Annual MLK March for Peace - University of Colorado at Boulder	Boulder	Arts & Culture; Children & Youth; Civic and Community
Bike Tune-ups - Assisted Cycling Tours	Jefferson	Children & Youth; Health; Human Services
Denver Soup Kitchen – Weld County Youth Conservation Corps	Denver	Human Services
Estes Earth Fest	Larimer	Arts & Culture; Civic and Community; Education / Tech
Food Bank of the Rockies – Community Building Partnerships for Youth in Transition	Denver	Distribution (food, clothing, etc.)
Fort Lewis College Celebrates Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.	La Plata	Civic and Community; Education / Tech
Growing Gardens MLK Day Project	Boulder	Beautification / Clean up; Children & Youth; Civic and Community
Habitat for Humanity - Denver	Denver	Civic and Community; Human Services
Habitat For Humanity – Wheat Ridge	Jefferson	Civic and Community; Human Services
Marade Route Cleanup - CARENET AmeriCorps	Denver	Beautification / Clean up; Children & Youth; Civic and Community
MLK Day at the Denver Broncos Boys & Girls Club	Denver	Children & Youth
MLK Day Health Fair - Kaiser Permanente/Metro Volunteers	Denver	Civic and Community; Health; Human Services



Opportunity/Project Name	County	Type of Opportunity
MLK Day Parade	Denver	Civic and Community
MLK Day Parade Marshals - AmeriCorps NCCC	Denver	Civic and Community; Public Safety
MLK Day Parade Marshals - CARENET AmeriCorps	Denver	Civic and Community; Public Safety
MLK Day Parade Marshals - CBPYT	Denver	Civic and Community; Public Safety
MLK Day Parade Marshals - HIPPYCorps	Denver	Civic and Community; Public Safety
MLK Day Parade Marshals - WCYCC	Denver	Civic and Community; Public Safety
MLK Day of Service Project - United Way of Larimer County	Larimer	Civic and Community; Human Services
MLK Early College Project	Denver	Children & Youth
MLK Humanitarian Awards	Denver	Civic and Community
Nutrition Society - Johnson and Wales University	Denver	Civic and Community; Food Preparation; Health
Painting the Denver Children's Home - The Denver HD3 West Neighborhood Team	Denver	Painting
Project Thank You	Denver	Beautification / Clean up
Rosa Parks: I'm Not Getting On Until Jim Crow Gets Off	Denver	Arts & Culture; Civic and Community; Living History/Humanities
Save Our Homes! Foreclosure Outreach Day - ACORN	Denver, Adams, Arapahoe	Civic and Community
Students in the Community - S.A.M.E. Cafe	Denver	Food Preparation; Human Services
University of Denver's College Access Day	Denver	Children & Youth; Civic and Community; Education / Tech
Warren Village Basic Needs Drive	Denver	Children & Youth; Collections Distribution (food, clothing, etc.)

# Acknowledgements

The Governor's Commission on Community Service would like to thank the following for their dedication and help in making this year's Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service a tremendous success:

Katie Bernacchi – Johnson & Wales University  
Rep. Terrence Carroll – Colorado State House of Representatives  
Emma Chambers – MLK Jr. Humanitarian Awards Committee  
Matthew Clark – Johnson & Wales University  
Mitchel Davis – Fort Lewis College  
Ellen Dumm – Office of Lt. Governor Barbara O'Brien  
Serena Ennis – Johnson & Wales University  
Julie Finley – Growing Gardens Boulder  
Sarah Flint – Warren Village  
Kathryn Gray – CARENET AmeriCorps  
Matt Gray – Johnson & Wales University  
Sen. Peter Groff – Colorado State Senate  
John Guffey – Eagle Rock School  
Jamie Gulick – Community Building Partnerships for Youth in Transition  
Ben Hanna – ACORN  
Khadija Haynes – Colorado State Senate Chamber  
Brooke Hermann – CARENET AmeriCorps  
Vern Howard - MLK Jr. CO Holiday Commission  
Lauren Karpel – United Way of Larimer County  
Pat Kelly – Colorado Humanities  
Barbara Lane – AmeriCorps\*NCCC  
Alexandra Lee – Metro Volunteers/AmeriCorps Alums  
Kathleen Martin – Johnson & Wales University  
Bob Matter – Assisted Cycling Tours  
Sue McCullough – Volunteer Connection of Boulder  
Lidia Moreno – Johnson & Wales University  
Carmen Ramirez – City of Longmont  
Sarah Rauenhorst – University of Denver  
Phil Rudy – AmeriCorps\*NCCC  
Linda Schott – Fort Lewis College  
Erica Severson – Colorado HIPPYCorps/AmeriCorps Alums  
Jacqui Shumway – MLK Jr. CO Holiday Commission  
Pinkey Sullivan – Kaiser Permanente Colorado Region  
Matthew Van Deventer – Johnson & Wales University  
Elaina Verveer – Regis University/Colorado Campus Compact  
Erik Warrington – Weld County Youth Conservation Corps  
Tenly Williams – Denver HD3

# Conclusion

Dear Friends,

Like no other year before, the 2009 Martin Luther King Jr. National Holiday has an even deeper meaning for our nation. On the eve of his historic inauguration, President Barack Obama called for national unity and service, encouraging all Americans to dedicate themselves to a day of service in honor of Dr King's life and legacy.

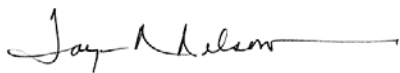
Since 1994 the Corporation for National and Community Service has promoted Martin Luther King Day as a "national day of service". This year's Congressional resolution reads, in part:

"Now, therefore, be it ...acknowledged that by serving one's country, one's community and one's neighbor our Nation makes progress in civility, equality and unity consistent with the values and life's work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr."

Here in Colorado, the Governor's Commission on Community Service and our partner organizations across the state have worked diligently to make the Martin Luther King Holiday "a day on, not a day off." We are pleased with the support for this year's statewide Day of Service. We thank the thousands of Coloradoans who participated in this national day of service, and hope that this day encourages others to participate in future Martin Luther King, Jr. day community service opportunities.

As President Obama's inauguration inspires a new era of optimism and hope, we are also mindful of the current economic crisis, and the serious human and social needs facing families and communities. By honoring the legacy of Dr King through volunteer and community service, we are actively creating the changes needed to support children, families and communities. Let us continue to work together to keep the "Colorado Promise" to make Colorado the greatest state in our nation. Please plan to join us in celebrating the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Colorado Cares Day on Saturday, July 25, 2009. I also invite you to participate in next year's MLK Jr. Day of Service on Monday, January 18, 2010.

Many thanks to all of you for your service,



Toya M. Nelson  
Executive Director  
Governor's Commission on Community Service



Toya M. Nelson  
Executive Director of the  
Governor's Commission on  
Community Service



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