



**The Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission**  
**“Celebrating Dr. King Beyond the Holiday”**  
**2012 Executive Summary**



**About the Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission**

The Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission (AMLKC) was created by Act 1216 of 1993. The AMLKC is an offspring of the Martin Luther King Federal Holiday Commission. It was established under former Governor Bill Clinton by executive order and then signed into legislation by former Governor Jim Guy Tucker. The Commission was created to promote the legacy and philosophy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. In 1997, a formal mission statement, a stated purpose, goals and objectives, and the Commission Board were developed. Because of its limited resources, a consensus determined that the Commission would focus on youth oriented projects first, and then expand. Violence and crime among youth was one of the critical concerns with the people of Arkansas. The Commission also formed the Youth Commission Board, which is composed of Arkansas high school and college students who have demonstrated strong qualities of leadership and community service. The Youth Commissioners have particular influence in advising the Commission in projects dealing with youth. The mission of the Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission is to promote understanding and acceptance of nonviolence and human equality as a way of building community among all Arkansans. The purpose and goals of the Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission are to promote racial harmony, understanding, community service, respect and goodwill among all citizens, to promote principles of nonviolence, promote awareness and appreciation of the Civil Rights movement and advocacy of the principles and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Develop, coordinate and advise the Governor and General Assembly of ceremonies and activities throughout the state relating to the observance of Dr. King’s Holiday.

**Mission**

- ④ Promote racial harmony; understanding; community service, respect and goodwill among all citizens.
- ④ Promote principles of nonviolence.
- ④ Promote awareness and appreciation of the Civil Rights movement and advocacy of the principles and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
- ④ Develop, coordinate, and advise the Governor and General Assembly of ceremonies and activities throughout the state relating to the observance of Dr. King’s Holiday.

**Vision & Goals**

The Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission is guided by Dr. King's teachings and philosophy of love, tolerance, and nonviolence. The Commission strives for social improvement in Arkansas, helping communities and organizations achieve new levels of leadership and public service. The Commission works directly with youth and others, encouraging them to embrace alternatives to violence and discover their common humanity. Through activities that stress racial and cultural diversity, the Commission offers the youth of Arkansas a new understanding of the important roles they play in the communities, now and in the future. The Commission advocates creating social change through changing public policy by providing training and technical assistance to developing and established organizations with similar goals. Whether working with



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the Arkansas State Capitol or at small community centers across the state, the Commission strives to build alliances. The Commission brings people together to better focus on common goals and increase their collective strength.

### **2012 MLK Birthday Bash**

- ④ The 2012 MLK Birthday Bash was held on Friday, January 13, 2012 from 1:00 PM to 2:00 PM at Booker Arts Magnet Elementary School in Little Rock, AR. The Booker Arts Magnet Dream Keepers coordinated this event. The entire student body of 700+ students, teachers, staff, faculty, parents, and other guests attended.

### **A Day of Service – Bethel AME 2012 Prayer Breakfast**

- ④ A Day of Service – Bethel AME 2012 Prayer Breakfast was held in Monday, January 16, 2012 from 7:30 AM to 9:00 AM at Shorter College in North Little Rock, AR. The guest speaker was Arkansas Representative Darrin Williams of District 36. Other guests were Bishop Samuel L. Green, Bishop Donne L. Lindsey, Pastor Nate Stewart, Prophetess Brenda Henton-Price, & Rev. William Robinson, as well as Governor Mike Beebe. There were 250 attendees in attendance.

### **A Day of Service – A Day On, Not A Day Off – 2012**

- ④ The Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission hosted both the “Celebratory Component” and the “Service Component” of “A Day of Service – A Day On, Not Day Off” on Monday, January 16, 2012, the AMLKC at 12:30 PM in the University of Central Arkansas Farris Center in Conway, AR. Service activities such as feeding the homeless, free health screenings, free job counseling, free hygiene kits, free haircuts, free glaucoma screenings, and a blood donor drive took place. A crowd of approximately 1500 was there in attendance.

### **A Day of Service – MLK Carnival at the Boys and Girls Club of Faulkner County**

- ④ The Boys and Girls Club of Faulkner County held a MLK Carnival on Monday, January 16, 2012 following the “A Day of Service – A Day On, Not A Day Off” at their center in Conway, AR. A massive crowd of youth and other guests attended. While there, youth volunteers put together care kits as well as received free haircuts.

### **Nonviolence Youth Summit Part VI – A New Beginning**

- ④ The Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission hosted “**Nonviolence Youth Summit Part VI – A NEW BEGINNING**” at the North Arkansas College Durand Conference Center, 303 N Main, Harrison, AR 72601, on Friday, February 24, 2012. The Keynote Speaker was civil rights icon, Dr. Bernard LaFayette. Hundreds from around the state witnessed history being made, as this summit was the first African American History program ever held in Harrison. A Peace Rally March from the Durand to Harrison City Hall took place as well to further celebrate this monumental occasion. Approximately 700 were in attendance.

### **G.O.T.V. (Get Out to Vote) 2012**



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- ❶ G.O.T.V. encourages all Arkansans to vote, while providing voters a voice to be heard during local, state, and national elections. On Saturday, February 25, 2012, the AMLKC kicked off the 2012 G.O.T.V. during the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Midsouth Summit Black Expo at the Clear Channel Metroplex Event Center in Little Rock, AR.

**4<sup>th</sup> Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemorative Vigil & Arkansas Youth Community Service Day**

- ❶ Part of the mission of the Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission is to promote and preserve the life and legacy of Dr. King in our state. Therefore, we acknowledge the anniversary of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr by presenting a commemorative vigil, timed to coincide with King’s last day of life, April 3, 1968. It was held on the steps of the state capitol on Wednesday, April 4, 2012 at 10:00 AM. This vigil serves as a celebration in remembrance of the noble works and tenets of Dr. King. The 2012 Commemorative Vigil Presented by the Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission and Co-Presented by the Winthrop Rockefeller Centennial Coalition.

**AMLKC TV Show**

- ❶ The Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission airs its programs, events, and television shows on Comcast Community Channel, Conway Corporation, UAPB-TV, LRTV, YouTube, and various other stations throughout the State of Arkansas. Please contact your local cable provider to find out how the AMLKC TV Show can be aired in your area.

**Special Note about “Nonviolence Youth Summits”**

- ❶ Part of the reason that number of entrants into the Department of Youth Services (DYS) has declined is due to the “Nonviolence Youth Summits”, which are sponsored by the Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission (AMLKC) and co-sponsored by the Arkansas Department of Human Services (DHS).

**Rhythm of the Arts Festival**

- ❶ Members of L.E.A.D. ® staffed an informational table at Pine Bluff High School’s Annual Rhythm of the Arts Festival. This event took place on the front lawn of their campus (between the McGeorge and Patterson buildings) on Friday May 11, 2012 from 1:45 PM until 3:15 PM. This event was in effort to encourage the community to support the youth and the approaching graduation so that students will reach their fullest potentials in life.

**White House Tour with 60+ Youth**

- ❶ The Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission collaborated with I.C.E. (Ivy Center of Education) to chaperon 60+ youth on a tour of the White House in Washington, D.C.

**2012 Summer L.E.A.D. ® Apprenticeship Training Workshop for Youth**



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- During the week of Monday, June 25, 2012 through Friday, June 29, 2012, the Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission held a weeklong youth training workshop for students ages 6 to 16, free of charge, and open to the public. Small group sessions focusing on education, financial literacy, preparing for college, history, conflict resolution and much more, were held Monday through Thursday. Friday was Grand Finale and featured guest speaker, Mr. Bruce Moore, Little Rock City Manager, followed by a BBQ and exciting activities. The workshop was held at the Martin Luther King Legacy Center at 3012 Dr. Martin Luther King Drive, Little Rock, AR 72206 from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM each day.

**2012 Summer L.E.A.D. @/Dream Keepers Tour to the National Civil Rights Museum**

- Members of L.E.A.D. Dream Keepers toured the National Civil Rights Museum in Memphis, TN on Thursday, July 12, 2012.

**Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Nonviolence Youth Extravaganza 2012**

- The “Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Nonviolence Youth Extravaganza” was held at Ivra Clark Park in Camden, AR from the 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM on Tuesday, July 24, 2012. Please visit [www.Camden.AR.Gov/Images/Uploads/Ivra%20Clark%20Park.PDF](http://www.Camden.AR.Gov/Images/Uploads/Ivra%20Clark%20Park.PDF) for a map and directions.

**Head of the Class Bash 2012**

- There are many advantages to partnerships in the community, especially in the area of community awareness. That is why, in honor of the new school year, the Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission (AMLKC) will be participating in this year’s “Head of the Class Bash – Back-to-School Celebration” at the Clinton Presidential Center on Saturday, August 18, 2012 from 9:30 AM to 2:00 PM! In addition to the "Head of the Class Bash," there will be free admission to the Clinton Presidential Center in celebration of President Clinton’s 66th birthday. This festival will not only include free haircuts and free immunizations for students, but the first 1,200 students to enter the library will also receive backpacks stuffed free school supplies from 3M. Children will also be able to participate in activities such as face painting, rock climbing, and inflatable bounce equipment.

**Nonviolence Youth Summit VII – Anti-Bullying Conference Forrest City, AR 2012**

- “Nonviolence Youth Summit – Anti-Bullying Conference” was held on Friday, October 5, 2012 from 7:30 AM to 3:00 PM at East Arkansas Community College (EACC), 1700 Newcastle Road, **Forrest City, AR 72335**. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s nephew, Isaac Newton Farris Jr. served as the keynote speaker. He spoke with the youth during the summit's luncheon. Farris is President and CEO of the Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Non-Violent Social Change in Atlanta.

**Toys for Tots (Third Annual)**



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- Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission will be a registered site to distribute to 25 needy families throughout the state of Arkansas. This is our third year collaborating with Marine Toys for Tots foundation.

**Arkansas African American History Makers Civil War and Reconstruction Era Coloring Book (Fourth Edition)**

- The Arkansas African American History Makers Civil War and Reconstruction Era is the fourth edition. It was released on December 15, 2012 and is a very remarkable way to show commemorative African American hero's at their best. Arkansas children will benefit from this edition by receiving knowledge of African Americans who have bravely served Arkansas and the United States during the civil war and reconstruction era.