



The Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission
“Celebrating Dr. King Beyond the Holiday”
2014 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.

“The Celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.”

- ④ Saturday, January 11, 2014
4:00 PM (Gathering and March)
Crossett High School Parking Lot, 301 9th Avenue Crossett, AR 71635
5:00 PM (Program)
Gates Chapel A.M.E. Church, 305 West Third Avenue Crossett, AR 71635
Guest Speaker is Mr. DuShun Scarbrough
Announcement of street change from Florida Street to Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive
This event is free and is open to the public

MLK Birthday Bash 2014

- ④ In honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s birthday, the Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission collaborated with one of its area Partners in Education to host a celebration of Dr. King’s legacy, noble work, and tenets. This annual celebration is respectfully titled “MLK Birthday Bash”. This celebration took place on King’s actual Birthday, Wednesday, January 15, 2014 from Noon to 1:00 PM at a Daisy Bates Elementary located at 14300 Dineen Dr. Little Rock, AR 72206. Guest Speaker is Mr. DuShun Scarbrough. Approximately 200 youth attended this event.
- ④ This event is free and open to all who wish to attend, but RSVP was suggested and requested.

Celebration of Worship-Youth Empowerment Summit and Carnival

- ④ In honor of Dr. King’s birthday, the Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission acknowledged this historical day with a “Celebration of Worship – Youth Empowerment Summit”. This is a celebration where churches from different backgrounds gather in celebrating Dr. King. The celebration will help us to guide all generations and races to achieve his dreams of understanding and acceptance of nonviolence and human equality as a way of building common unity among all Arkansans. “Celebration of Worship – Youth Empowerment Summit” began at 5:00 PM on Sunday, January 19, 2014 at St. James United Methodist Church, 900 University Drive, Pine Bluff, AR 71601, featuring special guest keynote speaker from the hit Nickelodeon TV Show “Keenan and Kel” and Blockbuster movie “Good Burger,” Kel Mitchell. Approximately 500 youth attended this event.

Special Guest Kel Mitchell from Nickelodeon hit TV Show, “Keenan and Kel” and Blockbuster Movie, “Good Burger”

This event is free and open to all who wish to attend, but RSVP is kindly suggested and requested



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2014 Interfaith Unity Prayer Breakfast

- ④ Mark your calendar for the observance of the congressionally legislated Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, a United States holiday marking the birthday of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., observed on the third Monday of January each year, around the time of King’s birthday, January 15, 1929. In honor of the King Holiday, the state’s Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission (AMLKC) held its annual 2014 Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Celebration: “Interfaith Unity Prayer Breakfast” featuring special guest keynote speaker, Rabbi Kalman Winnick (Congregation Agudath Achim) at 7:30 am on Monday, January 20, 2014 at Shorter College, 604 Locust Street, North Little Rock, AR 72114. Approximately 300 and various vendors attended this event.

A Day of Service-A Day On, Not A Day Off 2014

- ④ On Monday, January 20, 2014, the Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission (AMLKC) will held the “Celebratory Component” of “A Day of Service – A Day On, Not Day Off” at 11:00 AM at the Pine Bluff Convention Center, which was located at One Convention Center Plaza Pine Bluff, AR 71601. The featured guest keynote speaker for this event was Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s nephew, Mr. Isaac Farris. Immediately following, the AMLKC will held the “Service Component” of “A Day of Service – A Day On, Not Day Off” to feed the homeless and other worthwhile service activities such as health screenings, job counseling, and hygiene kits. “A Day of Service – A Day On, Not Day Off” was free and open to the public, and was sponsored in part by a grant from the Arkansas Humanities Council and the National Endowment for the Humanities. Approximately 2000 youth attended this event.

Other services provided included food provided by Olive Garden, and drinks provided by Coca-Cola, Bounce Houses for the youth were inside the Common Lobby of the Pine Bluff Convention Center, employment opportunities through the DWS Mobile Unit, hygiene kits were distributed. Cumulus Radio Broadcast by Power 92.3 was live onsite, free bus rides sponsored by the State of Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission, CATA Little Rock, Pine Bluff Transit, and SEAT and many other various resources and vendors

- ④ This event is free and open to all who wish to attend, but RSVP was kindly suggested and requested.

MLK Community Empowerment Summit and Carnival

- ④ On Monday, January 20, 2014, the state’s Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission (AMLKC), NAACP (Jacksonville Branch) and the City of Jacksonville will hold the “MLK Community Empowerment Summit & Carnival” at 2:00 pm at the Jacksonville Boys and Girls Club, which is located at 1 Boys Club Dr. Jacksonville, AR 72076. “MLK Community Empowerment Summit & Carnival” was held to clean up Jacksonville, provide job counseling, homeowner’s information, education resources, FREE food and drinks were provided, breakout sessions, carnival for the kids, various vendors and resources: DWS Mobile Unit, SNAP Mobile Unit, Live cumulus radio broadcast on site, Petting Zoo for the youth, Scrap



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Booking Contest for all ages, Live Music and other engaging activities for the youth.

“MLK Community Empowerment Summit & Carnival” was free and open to the public, and is sponsored in part by a grant from the Arkansas Humanities Council and the National Endowment for the Humanities. Approximately 1000 youth attended this event.

6th Annual Candlelight Vigil and March” and “Unity Arts Celebration

For years, the Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission has carried the tradition of hosting the Commemorative Vigil honoring the life and legacy Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. at the State Capitol. We are pleased to announce that we are moving the location of this year’s Commemorative vigil from the State Capitol to Harrison City Hall, 116 South Spring Street, Harrison, Arkansas 72601. On Tuesday, April 1, 2014, the first event to kick off this extraordinary celebration is the “Unity Arts Celebration.” This historic event will take place at The Lyric Theater, 113 West Rush, Harrison, Arkansas 72601 at 6:00 PM. The theme for this event will commemorate The Beatles’ 50th Anniversary, their musical contributions to the Civil Rights Movement and their shared message of love and peace. All of the performances that evening reflect a song or album recorded by The Beatles.

Immediately following the “Unity Arts Celebration,” we once again commemorate the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and a march starting at The Lyric Theater located at 113 West Rush Avenue, Harrison, Arkansas 72601 at 7:15 PM and ending at Harrison City Hall located at 116 South Spring Street, Harrison, Arkansas 72601.



Following the march, the “6th Annual Statewide Commemorative Vigil” began at Harrison City Hall. Thus, The Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission commemorating the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and cordially invited all to be a part of this tradition. Approximately 600 youth attended this event.



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The Candlelight Vigil was concluded with a funeral to bury racism and Hatred and a celebration in the city known to have an affiliation with the Klu Klux Klan and a celebration that continued past sunset.

Nonviolence Youth Summit Part X-LIFE AFTER HATE SERIES

- There are many advantages to partnerships in the community, especially in the area of community awareness. The State of Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission, with the assistance of the Arkansas Department of Human Services, has implemented a program designed to encourage youth to engage in positive leadership development and roles within their communities. Therefore, the State of Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission hosted the “Nonviolence Youth Summit Part X – Life after Hate Series” at the North Arkansas College Durand Conference Center, 303 N Main, Harrison, AR, 72601, on Wednesday, April 2, 2014 from 7:30 AM to 2:00 PM. This event was free and open to all, but prior confirmation of attendance was requested. Free lunch was provided. The Keynote Speakers were Arnold Michaelis, Former “White Supremacist” who shared his story of Hate to Love with hundreds of youth and families in Harrison, Arkansas and Mr. Daryl Davis, Race Relations Expert. Approximately 600 youth attended this event.





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“Nonviolence Youth Summit Part XI-STOP THE VIOLENCE”

- ④ Friday, May 16, 2014
- ④ 7:30 AM to 3:00 PM
- ④ Pine Bluff Convention Center, One Convention Center Plaza Pine Bluff, Arkansas 71601
- ④ *Special Guest Speaker, Tracy Martin, father of the late Trayvon Martin*
- ④ Free Food
- ④ **“Stop the Violence”** March from the Pine Bluff Convention Center to the Pine Bluff City Hall

- ④ The Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission, with the assistance of the Arkansas Department of Human Services, has implemented a program designed to encourage youth to engage in positive leadership development and roles within their communities. Therefore, the Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission hosted **“Nonviolence Youth Summit Part XI – STOP THE VIOLENCE”** at the **Pine Bluff Convention Center, One Convention Center Plaza, Pine Bluff, Arkansas 71601**, on **Friday, May 16, 2014** from **7:30 AM to 3:00 PM**. **This event is free and open to the public.**

The event kicked off with a VIP breakfast at 7:30 a.m., a vendor showcase of various support and outreach organizations and presentations by several performing arts groups during the opening session. Highlights include a “Peace March at Lunch” for Southeast Arkansas Youth at 11:00 a.m. led by DuShun Scarbrough, Executive Director of the Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission and Tracy Martin, Father of the late Trayvon Martin. The March will end at Pine Bluff City Hall where there will be a Peace Rally. Tracy Martin, the Keynote Speaker, addressed Pine Bluff during the Peace Rally. Pine Bluff is known for crime but the King Commission will host *the Stop The Violence Summit* to address the ongoing violence from the standpoint of the victims’ families. In 2013, *Forbes* Magazine ranked Pine Bluff among the top ten most dangerous cities in the country for women. *Forbes* analyzed data from the [FBI Uniform Crime Report](#), which tallies crime data for each of the country’s metropolitan statistical areas, regions that usually consist of a large city and its suburbs or clusters of closely linked smaller cities, and metropolitan divisions, which are core areas within some of the larger metropolitan statistical areas. The CQ Press also ranked Pine Bluff as the second most dangerous city, with a population just under 50,000 residents.

“Our goal is to promote “Stopping The Violence” from the victims’ standpoint and to show the youth that violence affects all, says Scarbrough. These victims were parents, sons, daughters, employees;



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they all had stories. Once the warm weather brings more people out which translates into more social gatherings and the possibility of more conflicts. School will be out soon so more youth will be out. We want the youth to start thinking about what they will be doing and how they are spending their time. Our goal is to challenge them to think ahead and steer them into occupying this time with positive things and not get into trouble.” Our theme, “Stop The Violence” may sound a little cliché but we are arming students from across the state with lifelong skills to deter violence based on Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s principles of Nonviolence. Fifty years later, Dr. King’s six principles of nonviolence are still applicable. He faced violence every day of his life on a different scale and he was able to use these principles to change lives and subsequently he changed history.” Managing conflict is difficult for many people because they have not been taught how to resolve differences in cooperative non-violent ways,” said AMLKC Executive Director DuShun Scarbrough. “However, appropriate responses other than violence can be learned.” During the Summit, The Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission will award Educational Ambassadors Awards to Dr. Linda Watson, Superintendent of Pine Bluff School District and Mr. Bobby Acklin, Superintendent of Dollarway School District for their positive leadership and efforts in educating youth about violence in a heavily populated crime area.”



Following the opening session, the Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission hosted a “Peace March at Lunch” that began at the Pine Bluff Convention Center and terminated at Pine Bluff City Hall. The Keynote speaker was be **Tracy Martin**, father of the late Trayvon Martin. Tracy Martin was catapulted into national attention when his son, Trayvon, an unarmed teenager was shot and killed by George Zimmerman in Sanford, Florida. Today, Tracy Martin is the co-founder of the The Trayvon Martin Foundation. The Foundation’s purpose is to create awareness of how violent crime affects the families of the victims and to provide support



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and advocacy for those families in response to the death of his son, Trayvon Martin. “Tracy Martin will speak to citizens about the importance of nonviolence,” says Scarbrough. The King Commission wants to join with local government, organizations and churches to promote nonviolence in this city. Lunch will be provided by Tyson Foods, Coca-Cola, Entergy Arkansas, the Holiday Inn Presidential of Arkansas and Safelite Glass. Pine Bluff Transit will provide free transportation to the convention center all day within the Pine Bluff metro area. The Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission has also partnered with the City of Pine Bluff, The Pine Bluff Convention Center and Complete Home Care of El Dorado to present this tour of the 2014 Nonviolence Youth Summits.

This project is supported in part by a grant from The Arkansas Humanities Council and The National Endowment for the Humanities.

L.E.A.D. Summer Youth Apprenticeship Program 2014-

④ **June 19- July 31, 2014**

④ **8:00 AM-4:30 PM**

④ **Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission**



④ The Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission coordinates a summer program to teach young adults ages 11-19 to become leaders and productive members of society by engaging them in an array of learning experiences, life skills instruction, critical thinking and character development exercises. **L.E.A.D.** is a mentorship and leadership program designed to enhance our youth through social, academic and community leadership. Within this group of youth, the AMLKC introduces the Six Principles of Non-Violence authored by the late Rev. Dr. Martin



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Luther King, Jr. In addition, the Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission also utilizes group discussions, workshops and special presentations/speeches, offsite team building, educational field trips and informative sessions to build experiences for tomorrow’s young leaders participating in the L.E.A.D Program. The 2014 L.E.A.D. Summer program included a Humanities Workshop, public speaking classes, Marketing campaigns to promote the King Commemorative license plate and motivational speakers.