

Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission

2023 Executive Summary

The mission of the Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission, a Division of the Arkansas Department of Education is to promote understanding and acceptance of nonviolence and human equality as a way of building community among all Arkansans and abroad in an effort to ensure that those involved acquire enhanced knowledge of the tenets and morals of other races and cultures that co-exist within the state's borders.

The Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission is a Division of the Arkansas Department of Education empowered to serve all Arkansans. It was created in 1993 by Act 1216 of the Arkansas General Assembly to promote the legacy and philosophy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. throughout the State of Arkansas and abroad. The Arkansas MLK, Jr. Commission works closely with the King Center for Nonviolent Social Change in Atlanta, Georgia, and other social service entities alike.

Purpose and Goals

Promote racial harmony, understanding, community service, respect, and goodwill among all Arkansans and abroad.


Promote Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Six Principles Of Nonviolence

Promote awareness and appreciation of the Civil Rights movement and advocacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s philosophy, principles, and legacy throughout the State of Arkansas and abroad.

Promote awareness and appreciation of the Civil Rights movement and advocacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s principles and legacy

Develop, coordinate, and advise the Governor and General Assembly of appropriate ceremonies and activities throughout the state relating to the observance of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday and Holiday

Promote understanding and acceptance of nonviolence and human equality as a way of building community among all Arkansans.

 January 2023

All Day — [2023 Day of Service Day of Impact Statewide Service Challenge](#)

The **Arkansas Martin Luther King Jr. Commission** challenged cities, communities, organizations, and schools across the state to coordinate service projects or acts of kindness on Jan 16, 2023, and send photos/videos to KARK News 4. To spread kindness or an organized service project, they could also share it on your social media outlets using the hashtag #MLK30!

All Day – [Free Bus Rides All Day](#)

In partnership with Rock Region Metro, **the Arkansas Martin Luther King Jr. Commission** hosted free bus rides all day on January 16th, 2023, along Rock Region Bus Routes.

Celebrating 30 years of excellence and service, the Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission partnered with Rock Region Metro to host free bus rides all day on King Holiday, Monday, January 16, 2023! Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. championed for access to transportation during the Montgomery Bus Boycott of 1955. His role would catapult him to prominence as a major force in the Civil Rights Movement. To honor this legacy, Arkansans were able to ride on the Rock Region Metro buses all day for free!

Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission

2023 Executive Summary

The mission of the Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission, a Division of the Arkansas Department of Education is to promote understanding and acceptance of nonviolence and human equality as a way of building community among all Arkansans and abroad in an effort to ensure that those involved acquire enhanced knowledge of the tenets and morals of other races and cultures that co-exist within the state's borders.

Rock Region METRO

King Holiday 2023

Day of Service Day of Impact

Free Bus Rides All Day

*along Rock Region Bus Routes

Monday, January 16, 2023

"If transportation systems in American cities could be laid out so as to provide an opportunity for poor people to get to meaningful employment, then they could begin to move into the mainstream of American life."

-Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

In partnership with the Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission

POWER 92.1 FM KOKY PRAISE 107.9 FM

The Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission hosted several events – one of them being a “Day of Impact Food Giveaway”

11 a.m. – 2 p.m. – [MLK Day Food Giveaway](#)

12,000 pounds of food given away for Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

[Hundreds of families receive food for Martin Luther King Jr. Day | thv11.com](#)

[\(18\) Arkansas MLK Commission gives out food to those in need - YouTube](#)

[Martin Luther King Jr. Day celebrated across central Arkansas | KLRT - FOX16.com](#)

The **Arkansas Martin Luther King Jr. Commission** hosted a massive food giveaway to commemorate the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The event included a drive-through food giveaway, vendor showcase, and onsite community service projects. It was first come-first served scheduled from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 906 Broadway in Little Rock.

The commission was joined by community leaders, local Partners in Education, organizations, and a surprise helping hand from Arkansas' new first family Governor Sarah Sanders, First Gentleman Bryan Sanders, and children. This

Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission

2023 Executive Summary

The mission of the Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission, a Division of the Arkansas Department of Education is to promote understanding and acceptance of nonviolence and human equality as a way of building community among all Arkansans and abroad in an effort to ensure that those involved acquire enhanced knowledge of the tenets and morals of other races and cultures that co-exist within the state's borders.



5:30 p.m. – [2023 Night of Unity](#)

The **Arkansas Martin Luther King Jr. Commission** hosted a night of celebration that began at 5:30 p.m. at North Shore Riverwalk Park, Riverfront Drive in North Little Rock. A candlelight ceremony began with musical presentations from students of Sylvan Hills High School and Westwind School of Performing Arts in the park filled with a diverse audience including an international group of individuals from several other countries. The vigil was followed by Arkansas' 1st ever MLK Unity fireworks. This event was free and open to the public.

February 2023

Executive Director, DuShun Scarbrough joins other city, state, and community leaders, along with other community stakeholders in a round table discussion focused on reducing crime and violence in the Little Rock area lead by Governor Sarah Sanders.

[Sanders, leaders meet to focus on Little Rock crime \(arkansasonline.com\)](#)

[Gov. Huckabee Sanders hosts roundtable with LR mayor and law enforcement | KATV](#)

Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission

2023 Executive Summary

The mission of the Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission, a Division of the Arkansas Department of Education is to promote understanding and acceptance of nonviolence and human equality as a way of building community among all Arkansans and abroad in an effort to ensure that those involved acquire enhanced knowledge of the tenets and morals of other races and cultures that co-exist within the state's borders.



March 2023 Dream Keepers Civil Rights Tour

Arkansas MLK Commission Travels to Selma, Alabama to recognize the The Selma Bridge Crossing Jubilee of 1965.

[Arkansas MLK Commission gathers in Selma, Alabama | KARK](#)

Each year, the Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission participates with thousands from across the country in the “Bloody Sunday” Reenactment and Selma Bridge Crossing Jubilee. This annual event in Selma, Alabama, commemorates "Bloody Sunday," which occurred March 7, 1965, when a group of about 525 African American demonstrators gathered at Browns Chapel to demand the right to vote. Two weeks later, the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr. and 3,200 civil rights protesters marched the 49 miles from Selma to the state capital, Montgomery—an event that prompted Congress to pass the Voting Rights Act.

Every year on the first weekend in March, the Bridge Crossing Jubilee commemorates both the bloody confrontation at the Pettus Bridge and the March from Selma to Montgomery that followed.

Arkansas Martin Luther King Commission working to change the lives of youth

April 2023

The Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission had the honor of hosting the Keynote Session for the Arkansas Association of Student Councils State Conference

Saturday, April 1, 2023, Harrison High School

Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission

2023 Executive Summary

The mission of the Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission, a Division of the Arkansas Department of Education is to promote understanding and acceptance of nonviolence and human equality as a way of building community among all Arkansans and abroad in an effort to ensure that those involved acquire enhanced knowledge of the tenets and morals of other races and cultures that co-exist within the state's borders.



Friday, April 21, 2023

The Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission proudly presented a session for state leaders during the Arkansas Fair Housing Commission Conference.

This session included an interactive introduction of the Commission and MLK trivia by Executive Director, DuShun Scarbrough, the importance of home ownership by Walter Washington, and A Moment in History with Historian, Tiffany Pettus.



Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission

2023 Executive Summary

The mission of the Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission, a Division of the Arkansas Department of Education is to promote understanding and acceptance of nonviolence and human equality as a way of building community among all Arkansans and abroad in an effort to ensure that those involved acquire enhanced knowledge of the tenets and morals of other races and cultures that co-exist within the state's borders.

May 2023

May 3, 2023 - The Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission Celebrates Its 30th Anniversary

The event was free and open to the public and included a band showcase, educational and artistic presentations, tributes to fatherhood, and collections of items for displaced victims affected by the most recent tornado. The band showcase included our partners in education that paid tribute to fifty years of hip-hop music.

Media personalities from all media outlets presented on the program. Craig O'Neill, legendary broadcaster and news anchor at THV11, delivered the keynote address and shared his experience as a teenager witnessing the iconic moment in Arkansas and American History when Governor Winthrop Rockefeller held the first vigil on the State Capitol steps honoring the memory of Dr. King following his passing.

Ashlei King, Victory Over Violence KARK/FOX 16; Ryan Houston, KATV morning anchor; and Broadway Joe Booker, Power 92 and the Broadway Morning Show, assisted the Commission in promoting nonviolence, led the group in a Pledge of Nonviolence, and recognized unsung community leaders and their acts of community service.

Zonique, singer and TV personality spoke about the importance of fatherhood and the great impact it has had in her life.

Hip-hop artist and advocate Yolanda "YoYo" Whitaker and social media icon Zonique also shared the importance of fatherhood, and the positive impact it has on our community.

Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission

2023 Executive Summary

The mission of the Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission, a Division of the Arkansas Department of Education is to promote understanding and acceptance of nonviolence and human equality as a way of building community among all Arkansans and abroad in an effort to ensure that those involved acquire enhanced knowledge of the tenets and morals of other races and cultures that co-exist within the state's borders.



In promoting Dr. King's call to serve, we ask that all attendees bring canned goods and hygiene items to help our neighbors affected by the tornado.

More than 1500 youth delegates from across the state lined the steps of the Arkansas State Capitol to celebrate and participate in artistic presentations, musical performances, and tributes honoring Dr. King.

Secretary Jacob Oliva provided words of welcome and inspiration to the group as the state's new education leader.

Not just reserved for January, February: Arkansas MLK Council pursues year-round support

[‘Not just reserved for January, February:’ Arkansas MLK Council pursues year-round support | News | uatrav.com](#)

Nonviolence Youth Summit

[Stuttgart school promotes unity through Nonviolence Youth Summit | KARK](#)

Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission

2023 Executive Summary

The mission of the Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission, a Division of the Arkansas Department of Education is to promote understanding and acceptance of nonviolence and human equality as a way of building community among all Arkansans and abroad in an effort to ensure that those involved acquire enhanced knowledge of the tenets and morals of other races and cultures that co-exist within the state's borders.



“Parenting does not have anything to do with how much money you make. There are healthy examples all around you. There are many men, like me, who although we did not have any of these children, they show up! Just because a father does not live in the home, does not mean that he is not present. Mothers are important. So are fathers. From local communities to state government and leaders, we have to encourage healthy fatherhood examples. Too many fathers are not here.
Let’s keep the father in the home!”

Lamman Rucker - American Actor known for his career on the daytime soap operas "As the World Turns" and "All My Children", before roles in "The Temptations", Tyler Perry's films "Why Did I Get Married?," "Why Did I Get Married Too?," and "Meet the Browns" and its television adaptation. In 2016, he began starring as Jacob Greenleaf in the Oprah Winfrey Network drama series, "Greenleaf." Rucker is married to Kelly Davis Rucker, a graduate of Hampton University. As of 2022, he stars in the BET+ drama "The Black Hamptons."

The Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission continues a legacy of

🌍 June 2023

Juneteenth:

The Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission announced its Juneteenth Food Giveaway. A combination of “June” and “nineteenth,” Juneteenth is a holiday that recognizes when slaves were informed that they were free two years after the Emancipation Proclamation of 1863. Juneteenth is the oldest known celebration commemorating the ending of slavery in the United States. In 2021, President Joseph Biden recognized Juneteenth as a federal holiday.

Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission

2023 Executive Summary

The mission of the Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission, a Division of the Arkansas Department of Education is to promote understanding and acceptance of nonviolence and human equality as a way of building community among all Arkansans and abroad in an effort to ensure that those involved acquire enhanced knowledge of the tenets and morals of other races and cultures that co-exist within the state's borders.



The Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission observed Juneteenth as a day to give back and promote the importance of families and service by distributing more than 10,000 lbs. of food free of charge to the community to commemorate the federal observance of the Juneteenth holiday. Known as America's second Independence Day, Juneteenth is a special celebration for communities across the United States.

The fathers and father figures from across the state served as volunteers as a part of the Commission's statewide initiative with Arkansas Better Dads

promoting the importance of fatherhood and men.

State leaders, Secretary of State, John Thurston, Secretary of Education Jacob Oliva, and Secretary Daryl Bassett greeted the attendees and spoke about the importance of fatherhood, service and unity. The legendary Broadway Joe, a radio personality at Power 92 Jams spoke as the leader of the first Juneteenth Celebration on the history of Juneteenth and its importance.

Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders issued a proclamation honoring the Juneteenth holiday. It was an honor to have the proclamation read in its entirety during the opening ceremonies of Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission's Juneteenth Food Giveaway in Jacksonville by Mr. Alex Flemister, a representative who appeared on behalf of Governor Sanders who at the time was out of the country. DuShun Scarbrough, Executive Director accepted the proclamation from Mr. Flemister.

July

Pre-Fourth of July Food Giveaway - In honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and his example of serving others, the Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission held a Pre-Fourth of July Food Giveaway event on July 3, 2023.

Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission

2023 Executive Summary

The mission of the Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission, a Division of the Arkansas Department of Education is to promote understanding and acceptance of nonviolence and human equality as a way of building community among all Arkansans and abroad in an effort to ensure that those involved acquire enhanced knowledge of the tenets and morals of other races and cultures that co-exist within the state's borders.

Through the heat, rain and storm of the day the Commission's staff and volunteers worked tirelessly to serve total of over 10,000 pounds of food and produce to thousands of Arkansans at the drive-through, first-served event, which was held at St. Luke Baptist Church, 8205 Highway 161 North, North Little Rock, AR from 11 a.m. until supplies lasted past 2 p. m.

The Commission is a Division of the Arkansas Department of Education, and partnered with Power 92 Jams, Praise Network, KOKY, Tyson Foods, Arkansas Food Bank, Pettus Foundation, Anderson Taekwondo, Arkansas Department of Corrections, and St. Luke Baptist Church to host the event.



5 tons of food given away during North Little Rock event

Partnership with King Commission helps hundreds of residents in NLR region by Arkansas Democrat-Gazette [Paige Eichkorn](#) | July 4, 2023 at 7:23 a.m.

The massive amount of donations came from the Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission's partnership with the Arkansas Food Bank and Tyson Foods. Others who participated were the Pettus Foundation, Anderson Taekwondo, the Arkansas Department of Corrections, and St. Luke Baptist Church, where the event was held.

Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission

2023 Executive Summary

The mission of the Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission, a Division of the Arkansas Department of Education is to promote understanding and acceptance of nonviolence and human equality as a way of building community among all Arkansans and abroad in an effort to ensure that those involved acquire enhanced knowledge of the tenets and morals of other races and cultures that co-exist within the state's borders.

Cars started lining up at 7 a.m. to beat the line that stretched down the Jacksonville Highway, backing up regular traffic. The crowds were similar to another food giveaway the King Commission hosted in Jacksonville in honor of the Juneteenth holiday. At this event, 10,000 pounds of food were distributed to the community in a matter of a few hours.

See the full story at https://www.arkansasonline.com/news/2023/jul/04/5-tons-of-food-given-away-during-event/?utm_campaign=magnet&utm_source=article_page&utm_medium=related_articles

<https://www.nwaonline.com/news/2023/jul/04/5-tons-of-food-given-away-during-event/?news>