



The Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission
“Celebrating Dr. King Beyond the Holiday”
Executive Summary
Since March 5, 2008



Executive Summary of the
Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr Commission 2008-2009

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



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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 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.

Brief History since March 5, 2008

Founder of L.E.A.D. ® and Dream Keepers Programs

- ④ Executive Director, DuShun Scarbrough founded and created the L.E.A.D. ® and Dream Keepers Programs.

First 100 Days in Office

- ④ Executive Director celebrated 100 days in office at the Little Rock Chamber of Commerce.

Juneteenth 2008

- ④ Presented to a crowd of 10,000 at the Little Rock Riverfront Pavilion

Racial Crises

- ④ Diffused a city-wide racial crisis in Benton, AR

G.O.T.V. (Get Out to Vote)

- ④ G.O.T.V. encourages all Arkansans to vote, while providing voters a voice to be heard during local, state, and national elections.
- ④ Voters right act of 1963, we carry on his legacy to ensure that everyone has the right to vote.

New AMLKC Website

- ④ New Arkansas Martin Luther King Jr. Commission website designed and implemented. The web address is www.ARKingDream.org. The website is updated on an ongoing basis.

Inauguration Trip

- ④ Over 200 Arkansas statewide attended
- ④ Arkansas witnessed the Inauguration process of President Elect Barack Obama



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- 6 That was Dr. King’s Dream, to see change America
- 6 Partnered with Little Rock Trailways

Inaugural Ball

- 6 Celebrated the first African American President
- 6 This was for all Arkansas who couldn’t afford the opportunity to go on the trip to Washington D.C. sponsored by the MLK Commission
- 6 Through the Inaugural ball Arkansans could afford to witness history through our Co-Presentation

Vigil 2009, 41st Anniversary of the Assassination of Dr. King

- 6 This annual Vigil celebrates the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
- 6 This affords the opportunity to invite various schools and community organizations to learn about the life and legacy of Dr. King
- 6 Requested the April 4th youth community service day proclamation

Operation Appreciation I, II, III, & IV

- 6 Mission MLK Commission is committed to recognizing our citizens of Arkansas and demonstrating how much we appreciate and value them. In 2009 and 2010:
 - ▶ We participated in neighborhood clean-ups and went to nursing homes, where we read to the elderly and played bingo. We also went to the daycare and interacted with the children.
 - ▶ We empowered communities and created partnerships while breaking down racial barriers.
 - ▶ 2009 Pine Bluff, AR, Malvern, AR, and Searcy, AR each brought over 500 kids to each city from across the state breaking down racial barriers.
 - ▶ June 17, 2010, the AMLKC held Operation Appreciation IV – Official Kickoff at Crump Park in Little Rock, AR.
 - ▶ June 24th, 2010, AMLKC summer interns designed and developed first ever AMLKC Bake Sale
 - ▶ July 14, 2010, the AMLKC held Operation Appreciation IV – Grand Finale at Crump Park in Little Rock, AR.



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- ▶ June 23, 2010 Primerica gave a financial literacy presentation to the summer interns during the 1st AMLKC summer 2010 potluck.
- ▶ July 8, 2010: Read to the children at Arkansas Children’s Hospital
- ▶ June 22, 2010 the AMLKC participated in “A Summer Food Celebration” at Moody Chapel AME where Rev. Stewart is the pastor.
- ▶ We collaborated with the Arkansas Department of Corrections to clean up areas of Crump Park on June 16, 2010, and Kanis Park on July 14, 2010.

RBI (Reviving Baseball in the Inner City) year of 2008, 2009, 2010

- ④ The AMLKC help sponsor a Little League Baseball team (The Diamondbacks)
- ④ Teaching all teams the six principles of non-violence before the games and during practices.

Youth Basketball 2008, 2009 and 2010

- ④ Midnight basketball youth @ Park Hill Baptist Church in North Little Rock, AR

Executive Director, DuShun Scarbrough Founded Dream Keepers (“Hold dreams in open hands”)

- ④ Dream Keepers sponsored by local community-based organizations. They perform community service projects and pledge to a nonviolent lifestyle. Participants in this program must be between the ages of 11-17.

Executive Director, DuShun Scarbrough Founded L.E.A.D. ® (Leadership, Education & Acceptance of Diversity)

- ④ L.E.A.D. ® teaches young Arkansan of all races the principals of racial and religious harmony espoused by Dr. King. It teaches young people to resolve racial tensions, before it grows into difficult and explosive situations.

Partnership with Big Brother Big Sisters

- ④ Members of L.E.A.D. ® mentor kids and young adults in the central Arkansas region of the state. We are partnered with Central Arkansas and Northwest Arkansas division of Big Brother Big Sisters.

Partnership with Annual National Night Out

- ④ Throughout various cities, we uplift communities, unify neighborhoods, and teach Arkansas the principles of Dr. King.
- ④ Woodson Community Council-Woodson, Arkansas



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Executive Summary
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Partner with Work Programs

- ④ Giving youth and adults the opportunity to explore work experiences and community based assignments. The programs we are partnered with are AARP, Pulaski County Youth Services, City of Little Rock, New Futures, and CAPPD.

Initiated first ever MLK License Plate

- ④ First time ever, in Arkansas, a license plate honoring Dr. King
- ④ This fundraiser goes towards scholarships and the overall programs implemented by the AMLKC.

Rebirth Celebration 2009

- ④ This was a celebration of the Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission becoming anew and having a fresh start as a state agency. The event honored Senator Henry “Hank” Wilkins IV and Dr. Josetta Wilkins while recognizing our new appointed commissioners. “Rebirth” took place on September 21, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. at Copeland’s Famous New Orleans Restaurant.

Nonviolence Hotline

- ④ Any student, who is experiencing a nonviolence crisis, can call between the hours of 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. M-F. Our services are free of charge. When you call the crisis hotline, you will always speak with a trained professional. Our hotline staff is dedicated to providing the best services to every caller. Our hotline staff is trained to assess the level of individual risk and to determine the appropriate level of services. We provide services for students who may display violent episodes by nonviolence support, information, and referral.

Arkansas School Districts

- ④ We have partnered with the Little Rock School District (LRSD), eStem Public Charter School, Pulaski County Special School District (PCSSD), Fayetteville Public Schools, Texarkana Arkansas School District, and Pine Bluff School District and within the district we hold Dream Keepers Tours where we go out to various schools and introducing the L.E.A.D. ® and Dream Keepers program, while implementing the 6 principles of nonviolence espoused by Dr. King.

Dream Keepers Tour (November 2009)

- ④ There were 150-200 students from different schools to march on nonviolence around the State Capitol. The march began at 9:00 a.m. and after the march, the students were able to meet and greet some of our legislators while learning about our state government and Dr. King.