



The Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission
“Celebrating Dr. King Beyond the Holiday”
2013 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.

2013 Day of Service Celebratory and Service Component

- ④ “Day of Service Celebratory and Service Component” targets homeless veterans as well as the homeless and less fortunate. We offer each person a free meal and personal hygiene kit as well as many other services such as health screenings and job counseling. “Day of Service Celebratory and Service Component” was held on Tuesday, January 15, 2013 from Noon to 2:00 PM at Philander Smith College, 900 West Daisy L. Gatson Bates Drive, Little Rock, AR 72202. The Honorable Mayor Jeff Crockett of Harrison was the guest speaker.

2013 Martin Luther King Birthday Bash

- ④ “Martin Luther King Birthday Bash” was held on Friday, January 18, 2013 from Noon to 1:00 PM at King Interdistrict Magnet Elementary, 905 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive, Little Rock, AR 72202. There were several performances like singing, rapping, and a speech performed by several different youth groups. Mr. Dwayne Yarbrough was the guest speaker.

King Holiday Getaway part II, Four More Years Tour

- ④ Welcome to a new day, going forward! The Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission sponsored a “King Holiday Get Away II”, Four More Years Tour to watch the Presidential swearing ceremony. The Presidential “Swearing in Ceremony” was held on January 21, 2013 and the Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission chartered six (6) buses and about 350 Arkansans to Washington, D.C. for this memorable and joyous occasion. This was our second trip to Washington, D. C.

2013 Obama/King Celebration Ball

- ④ 2013 Obama/King Celebration Ball was held in Washington D.C at the Embassy Suites in Ashburn, Virginia sponsored by The Arkansas Martin Luther King Jr. Commission. This ball was held in honor of those who traveled with the King Commission from Arkansas to Washington D.C. to witness the inauguration of President Obama. U.S. Senator Mark Pryor right along with other dignitaries attended the ball.

G.O.T.V. (Get Out to Vote) 2013

- ④ 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 23, 2013, the AMLKC kicked off the 2013 G.O.T.V. during the 9th Annual Mid-South Summit Black Expo at the Clear Channel Metroplex Event Center in Little Rock, AR.

2013 Commemorative Vigil and Arkansas Youth Community Service Day



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- 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. This vigil serves as a celebration in remembrance of the noble works and tenets of Dr. King. We invite the community to participate and join us as our agency takes great pride in fulfilling Dr. King’s philosophies of social equality and multiculturalism. The 2013 Commemorative Vigil Presented by: The Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission is in memory of the 45th Year Anniversary of Dr. King’s assassination.

20th Year Anniversary Celebration

- Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission celebrated their 20 years of existence as a commission on Tuesday, April 23, 2013 from 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM at Arkansas Governor’s Mansion located at 1800 Center Street, Little Rock, AR 72206. Cost was \$35. Governor Jim “Guy” Tucker was one of the guest speakers.

Nonviolence Youth Summit Part VIII

- “Nonviolence Youth Summit Part VIII” was held on Friday, May 3, 2013 from 7:30 AM to 3:00 PM at the El Dorado Conference Center in El Dorado, AR. This event was focused around anti-bullying and encouraging kids to focus on staying positive, being a leader, and speaking up when you see something that is not right. Mrs. Veronica Creer of El Dorado was the Guest Speaker. Approximately 400 youth attended this event.

2nd Annual Coretta Scott King Women’s Conferences Series

- In the spirit of Dr. King, and to honor his right hand and beloved wife, Mrs. Coretta Scott King, the Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission hosted its 2nd Annual Coretta Scott King Women’s Conferences Series on Tuesday, July 30, 2013 from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM at the Wrightsville Correctional Unit in Wrightsville, AR. These conferences target women in our state correctional system. Each conference in the series is geared toward helping them regain some of their self-esteem as well as the goals and dreams they have lost due to their current circumstances while assisting them in leading productive lives. This event featured motivational and educational workshops that range from living a positive life in spite of the bars to dressing for success, self-esteem, and living the principles of Nonviolence as espoused by Dr. King. We also treated them to make up lessons, chair massages, dancing, and exercise as well as a special catered lunch and a roundtable discussion. Approximately 300 inmates attended this event.

Unity in the Community Outdoor Extravaganza

- This worthwhile community service was held at St. James United Methodist Church at 12:30 PM, which is located at 900 North University, Pine Bluff, AR 71601. This event followed the



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2013 Executive Summary



Annual Men’s Day Celebration featuring Guest Speaker UAPB Chancellor Dr. Laurence Alexander who spoke at the 10:00 AM service. Approximately 500 youth attended this event.

Nonviolence Youth Summit Part IX

- There are many advantages to partnerships in the community, especially in the area of community awareness. As a state agency, the Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission, with the assistance of the Arkansas Department of Human Services, has implemented a program that is designed to encourage youth ages 10 to 18 to engage in positive leadership development and roles within their communities. Therefore, the Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission hosted a “Nonviolence Youth Summit” on Friday, September 20, 2013 from 7:30 AM to 3:00 PM at the Fine Arts Center located at the Phillips Community College of the University of Arkansas, 1000 Campus Road, Helena-West Helena, AR 72342, featuring special guest keynote speaker from the hit TV Show Kenan and Kel, and Blockbuster movie “Good Burger”, Kel Mitchell. This event was free to the public with free lunch being provided. Approximately 600 youth attended this event.