



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



The 2016 Annual Interfaith Prayer Breakfast

Monday, January 18, 2016, 7:00 AM

UALR Jack Stephens Arena, 2801 South University, Little Rock, Arkansas 72204

- The Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission kicked off the highly anticipated MEGA KINGFEST with the 2016 Annual Interfaith Prayer Breakfast at 7:00 AM. The Prayer Breakfast was co-sponsored by the Beta Pi Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha, Little Rock. Keynote speaker was Presiding Elder Jimmy Lee Thompson of Lakeland, Florida. Presiding Elder Jimmy Thompson is a gifted and powerful preacher from the Episcopal District of the African Methodist



Episcopal Church, Lakeland, Florida. His Pastoral Experience: 32 successful years (from Loxahatchee 1member to Bethel Lakeland with 1,500 members) In September of 2011 he celebrated 40 years in the ministry

- The event attracted hundreds of attendees including city officials, area clergy, dignitaries and prominent interfaith, business and community leaders.
- Interfaith Leaders recited a Litany honoring Dr. King extracted from “Letters from the Birmingham Jail.”
- Governor Asa Hutchinson provided King Holiday reflections during the breakfast and King Holiday Commemorative musical selections were provided by Arkansas native DC Washington and legendary gospel music recording artist Melvin Williams of the Williams Brothers.
- Mayor Mark Stodola welcomed Mayors from visiting cities and issued a proclamation
- Other Noteworthy speakers included US Senator Tom Cotton, US Congressman French Hill, State Representative Jeremy Gillam, Speaker of the House, Senate Pro Tempore Jonathan Dismang, Attorney General Leslie Rutledge, John Thurston, State Land Commissioner, Colonel Nate Todd
- The Interfaith Prayer Breakfast was free and open to the public

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(Last Updated by – Diana Shelton on April 7, 2018)



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The 2016 MEGA KINGFEST - A Day Of Service “A Day On, Not A Day Off

Monday, January 18, 2016, 9:30 AM

UALR Jack Stephens Arena, 2801 South University, Little Rock, Arkansas 72204

The Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission presented the 2016 MEGA KINGFEST “A Day of Service” Celebratory Component at 9:30 AM.

The MEGA KINGFEST full day observance paid tribute to the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. through life, love, and laughter. Highlights included the keynote speaker, Arun Gandhi, grandson of the late Mohandas Gandhi and a free family comedy show featuring Marlon Wayans. The 2016 “A Day of Service” MEGA KINGFEST was an event-filled day providing attendees and volunteers the opportunity to participate in one of several FREE programs including:

The 2016 “A Day of Service” MEGA KINGFEST delivered a star-studded event with daytime television’s Eric Braeden returning to the program as the Master of Ceremonies. Thousands poured into the Benton Event Center to hear keynote speaker Eric Braeden also known as *Victor Newman* of the “Young and the Restless” as he shared his reflections and memories of his parents sending him to the United States on a boat when he was 14 years-old.



Commemorative Music selections were performed by Gospel recording legend Melvin Williams of the Williams Brothers

The 2016 “A Day of Service” MEGA KINGFEST keynote speaker was Arun Manilal Gandhi, grandson of the late legendary champion for nonviolence Mohandas Gandhi.

Gandhi was introduced by legendary local civil rights activist Dr. Annie Abrams, who was instrumental in hosting the state’s first King Holiday program on the steps of the state capitol and renaming a street in Dr. King’s honor.

The event included a Cleanup at Macarthur Park and Fletcher Park

Health Screenings were coordinated by Baptist Health, Saline Memorial

American Cross Blood Drive

Free Lunch was provided by Safelite, FedEx, Kosmic Kids Outreach. The Olive Garden, Coca-Cola and Tyson Foods

During the 2016 “A Day of Service” MEGA KINGFEST festivities several individuals and organizations were honored for community service and contributions to their communities:

- Pastor Mark DeYmaz and the members of Mosaic Church, 2016 Economic Development Award
- Reverend Hezekiah Stewart, 2016 Humanitarian Award Recipient
- The City of Harrison, 2016 Dream Keepers Award Recipients
- Kathy Byrd, Nettleton Junior High School, The 2016 L.E.A.D Award Recipient

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- The Hoxie 21 of Lawrence County, The 2016 Humanities Award Recipients
- Chris Massingill, Delta Regional Authority, 2016 Salute to Greatness Award Recipient
- Attorney Phil Kaplan, 2016 Lifetime Achievement Award Recipient
- All events were FREE and open to the public

The 2016 Annual MLK Birthday Bash and Nonviolence Youth Summit XV

- **Monday, January 18, 2016, 12:00 PM**
- **UALR Jack Stephens Arena, 2801 South University, Little Rock, Arkansas 72204**
- **The Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission presented the 2016 MLK Birthday Bash and Nonviolence Youth Summit celebrating the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. through life, love, and laughter.**
- The Commission hosted the event targeted towards youth and community service initiatives on
- The Commission incorporated Computer Literacy and Economic Development strategies into youth programming to align with the goals of the new administration under the leadership of Honorable Governor Asa Hutchinson.
- L.E.A.D. interns presented Dr. King’s Six famous principles of Nonviolence
- The Commission hosted a free family comedy show featuring actor, model, producer, comedian writer and director, Marlon Wayans. Wayans has starred in films such as *Scary Movie*, *Scary Movie 2*, *A Haunted House*, *A Haunted House 2*, *Requiem for a Dream*, *G.I. Joe: The Rise of Cobra* and *The Heat* in addition to *In Living Color* and *The Wayans Brothers*.




MEGA KINGFEST
Honoring the Legacy of
Dr. King through
Life, Love and Laughter

Free Family Comedy Show

COMEDY
Featuring actor and Comedian

Marlon Wayans

Monday, January 18, 2016
UALR Jack Stephens Center 2801 South University
Little Rock, Arkansas 72204
*Free Event to the Public

For more information
Contact DuShun Scarborough, Chief Executive Officer
(501) 683-1300

- **During the 2016 “A Day of Service” MEGA KINGFEST festivities several individuals and organizations were honored for community service and contributions to their communities:**

- **Pastor Mark DeYmaz and the members of Mosaic Church, 2016 Economic Development Award**
- **Reverend Hezekiah Stewart, 2016 Humanitarian Award Recipient**
- **The City of Harrison, 2016 Dream Keepers Award Recipients**
- **Kathy Byrd, Nettleton Junior High School, The 2016 L.E.A.D Award Recipient**
- **The Hoxie Integration of Lawrence County, The 2016 Humanities Award Recipients**
- **Chris Massingill, Delta Regional Authority, 2016 Salute to Greatness Award Recipient**
- **Attorney Phil Kaplan, 2016 Lifetime Achievement Award Recipient**
- **Dr. Jim Carr, Vice-President of Harding University, 2016 Community Service Award Recipient**



January 2016



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- ❶ The Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission was recognized by CheapTickets.com, a national online travel outlet.
- ❷ The Commission’s King Holiday “MEGA KINGFEST was ranked fourth in nation as a volunteerism hot spot for the King Holiday weekend. CheapTickets.com released the following press release through several national media outlets:

CHICAGO, Jan. 11, 2016 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) -- In the spirit of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (Monday, Jan. 18), CheapTickets.com®, a leading seller of discounted travel products, has identified five historic U.S. locations and volunteer service opportunities for the long holiday weekend and will give a dedicated volunteer the chance to win a service trip.¹ Less than a quarter of Americans have taken a volunteer service trip, but nearly 60 percent would consider taking one and cite time and money as the two biggest prohibitions.

“Many times when people think of service trips they picture a long and expensive trip outside of the U.S.,” said Brian Wolf, general manager of CheapTickets.com. “However, there are so many opportunities to make an impact in communities within the United States, without the steep travel costs, especially on a nationally recognized day of service like Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.”

Top Destinations to serve over the King Holiday Weekend

CheapTickets.com editors searched the United States for destinations with historic significance and service events commemorating what would have been Dr. King’s 87th birthday. MLK service events over the holiday weekend can fill up quickly, so those planning on volunteering or attending an event should check in beforehand to reserve a spot.

<u>Destination</u>	<u>Historic Site</u>	<u>Service Opportunity</u>	<u>Avg. Airfare</u>	<u>Avg. Daily Hotel Rate</u>
Memphis, Tenn.	National Civil Rights Museum Radcliffe College	Clean Memphis and Leadership Memphis’ MLK Day of Service	\$ 200	\$ 129
Boston, Mass.	Yard	Boston Cares’ MLK Day of Service	\$ 189	\$ 172
Washington, D.C.	MLK Memorial & National Mall	MLK Day of Service with City Year Washington, D.C.	\$ 194	\$ 149
Little Rock, Ark.	Little Rock Central High School	MEGA KINGFEST’s A Day of Service	\$ 297	\$ 123
San Francisco, Calif.	GLBT History Museum	Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy MLK Day of Service	\$ 226	\$ 200

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Nonviolence Youth Summit XVI: “Remember Hoxie”

Monday, February 22, 2016, 8:00 AM

Carl Reng Student Union at Arkansas State University, 101 North Caraway Road, Jonesboro, Arkansas 72401

- Hundreds of students Southeast Arkansas students joined elected officials, law enforcement and the public at the Nonviolence Youth Summit XVI: “Remember Hoxie” at Arkansas State University.
- Ethel Tompkins, the first African-American graduate of Hoxie Public Schools, was the keynote speaker.

Dr. Annie Abrams, a political activist who worked directly with the desegregation of Central High School in Little Rock, also spoke at the Summit about the events of 1957. Dr. Annie Abrams, a well-known activist and living witness to the 1957 crisis of Little Rock Central High School also attended and spoke at the event.



MONDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2016 *ASU JONESBORO *SAVE THE DATE
2016 NONVIOLENCE YOUTH SUMMIT XVI

Marlyn Tate, Ethel Tompkins, Larry Watkins, Norris Watson
 Linda Warnick, Betty Waterman, Ruth Ann Wells, Jeannita Whidow

REMEMBER HOXIE

*Vendor Showcase *Breakout Sessions Monday, February 22, 2016
 *Arkansas State University *Reng Student Union
 Centennial Hall, 101 North Caraway Road, Jonesboro, Arkansas 72401
 8:00 AM-2:00 PM *Free Registration and Admission *Free Lunch

For more information:
 DuShun Scarborough, Executive Director
 The Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission
 (501) 683-1300 dushun.scarborough@arkansas.gov

Ms. Ethel Tompkins, Keynote Speaker
 First African-American to Graduate
 from Hoxie Public Schools

NONVIOLENCE YOUTH SUMMIT
 ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

- The summit also included an interactive “Remember Hoxie” exhibit hosted by The Lawrence County Chamber of Commerce, vendor showcase and breakout sessions which including computer coding classes, entrepreneurialism for youth, a film screening of the documentary “Hoxie: The First Stand” and a law enforcement interaction course entitled “Respond I-bility.”
- Additional program presenters included Mayor Harold Perrin, Dr. Maurice Gibson, Arkansas State University, The Lawrence County Chamber of Commerce and Hoxie High of Class of 1961.
- Nettleton Junior High School Gentlemen’s Club presented songs and artistic presentations
- The Event was free and open to the public

Nonviolence Youth Summit XVII: The Power of Forgiveness and Commemorative Vigil

Monday, April 4, 2016 10:00-12:00 PM

Arkansas State Capitol, 500 Woodlane, Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

- The event included breakout sessions on the Dr. King’s Six Principles of Nonviolence and a Commemorative Vigil and dove release honoring the legacy of the late Dr. Martin Luther King.



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- Breakout presenters (10:00 AM-10:45 AM) included **State Senator David Cooper, District 21**
State Representative Nate Bell, District 20
State Representative David Meeks, District 70
Doyle Webb, Republican Party Chairman, Andre Cook, IT Consultant, Dr. Annie Abrams

Dr. Fran Kelley,
Kelley
Enterprises
Imam Johnny
Hasan
Muhammad
Rasheed



- The event was free and open to the public
- Students from across the state were in attendance
- The event included a



commemorative dove release during spoken words by poet **Anjerrio Kameron**

- Commemorative **Deborah Rhodes, Martin Luther King, Jr. Elementary School**
- and presentations **Jazz Band, Amanda Hood –Armstrong, Alexandra Beard, Little Rock Job Corps Center, Parkview High School Madrigals, The Little Rock Fire Department.**
- The **Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission** collaborated with the **North Little Rock and Jacksonville Chapters of the NAACP** to promote **National Youth Community Service Day.**
- Lunch was provided to all attendees by **Coca-Cola, Safelite, The Watershed, Moody Chapel AME**
- State Farm** commemorated **National Youth Service Day** by encouraging students to practice safe driving habits.
- State Farm Agent Charlotte Potts** presented **DuShun Scarbrough, Executive Director** with a check for **\$9,000.**
- Fidelity Cable Communications** recorded the event for delayed broadcast.

2016 Nonviolence Youth Summit 18: Back to School Bash McGehee, Arkansas

- Dr. King once said that “intelligence plus character are the true goals of education.” He placed a lot of value on education and in his speeches he encouraged audiences to “get educated.”
- Through a partnership with **The Arkansas Department of Human Services** and community partners in **McGehee** to provide much needed outreach to the **Southeast Arkansas region** encouraging nonviolence,



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education, community involvement and a positive start to the new school year, the Arkansas MLK Commission hosted a Nonviolence Youth Summit: Back to School Bash.

- ❶ In the wake of the recent events, The Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission also collaborated with the Arkansas State Police to provide community outreach to improve law enforcement and community relations at this program. The Arkansas State Police provided activities to raise awareness about drinking and driving as well as a brief presentation about “what to do when you are pulled over by law enforcement.
- ❷ The Event was free and open to the public
- ❸ There was free food, computer-coding classes, a basketball tournament hosted by the Arkansas National Guard, kickball games and free health screenings. Under the direction of Tim Scott, the Pine Bluff High School Marching Band performed a tribute to late music legend Prince.
- ❹ The Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission also honored several Southeast Arkansas residents for community service and excellence including: Mayor Jeff Owyong, Chief Jim White and the McGehee Police Department, Amber Pambianchi, Mr. Richard Smith of C.B. King Child Development Center, Bob Ware, University of Arkansas, Monticello, First Natural State Bank of McGehee, Ruby and Leroy Emerson, the Eta Upsilon Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha.
- ❺ Bill Dunklin of Dunklin Farms was honored with the Economic Development Award along with the Pine Bluff High School Marching Band and the Boys and Girls Club of McGehee.
- ❻ More than 1,000 youth and families attended the event and received free school supplies and services.

ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

ON THE 9TH OF AUGUST, 2016

BACK 2 SCHOOL BASH

BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB OF MCGEEHEE @ 12PM TO 6PM
 205 WASHINGTON AVENUE

Free RSVP @ www.AMLKC.eventbrite.com
 Free School Supplies • Activities • Free Food

• WWW.ARKINGDREAM.ORG •
 DUMAS • MONTICELLO • LAKE VILLAGE • DERMOTT • MCGEEHEE
 Please call DuShun Scarbrough for more information • phone: 888-290-KING

G.O.T.V-Get Out to Vote

- ❶ On Wednesday, August 24, 2016, 12:00 PM at the Arkansas State Capitol, 500 Woodlane Drive, Little Rock, Arkansas 72201, Old Supreme Court Chamber,



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LITTLE ROCK - In 1964, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. organized a voter registration drive in Selma, Alabama. That day ended in violence, however, it set the foundation for the passing of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. There are many advantages to partnerships in the community, especially in the area of community awareness. As a state agency organized to teach Arkansans about the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., the Commission honors this historic event by cordially inviting the public to assist us by participating in our Celebrate America G.O.T.V. (Get Out to Vote) Voter Registration Campaign.



The commemoration of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 will include a launch of G.O.T.V. – “Get Out to Vote”, a nonpartisan, cooperative initiative to register more voters in response to recent reports of low voter turnout in local elections.



The Commission also recorded public service announcements encouraging citizens to exercise their voting rights. “We have invited all of the political parties to come out and help us observe this milestone in history. On Wednesday, we will be 75 days away from the general election. Dr. King’s goal was for people of all races, all ages, to be active; he wanted them to get involved. In commemorating the Voting Rights Act of 1965, that is what we are doing, we are encouraging others to get people involved. We will also unveil our nonpartisan campaign, G.O.T.V. The “Get Out to Vote” Celebrate America campaign will be a nonpartisan collaborative effort to encourage citizens to contact the Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission for questions at 888-290-KING and we will be able to steer them in the right direction to get those questions answered. We will also host a Voter Education Clinic to serve as conduit to help voters obtain information or get registered to vote to commemorate this great and important event in history.”

The Voting Rights Act of 1965 applied a nationwide prohibition against the denial or abridgment of the right to vote on the literacy tests on a nationwide basis. The Act was signed into law on August 6, 1965, by President Lyndon Johnson. It outlawed the discriminatory voting practices adopted in many southern states after the Civil War, including literacy tests as a prerequisite to voting.

The Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission commemorated two (2) historic events in the Civil Rights movement; the 51st Anniversary of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and the 53rd Anniversary of Dr. King’s iconic “I Have A Dream” speech.



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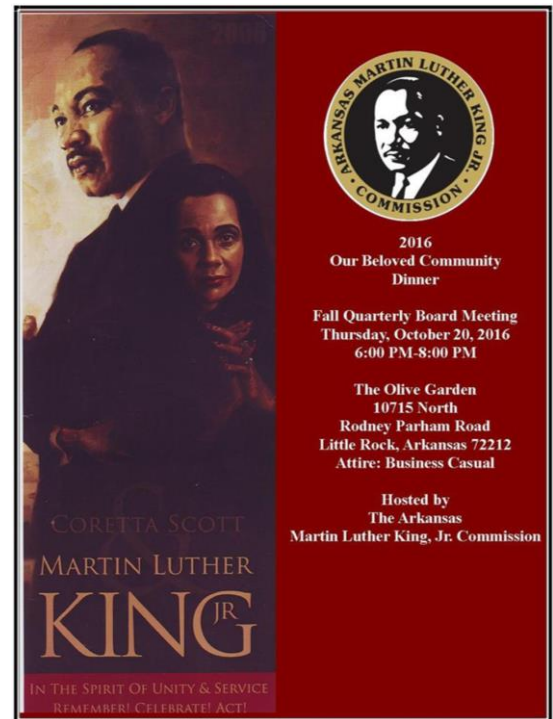
The event was attended by a hundred young voters who came out to hear about the importance of voting.

Featured Presenters: Dr. Kermit Parks, Senator Joyce Elliott, Dr. Mike Pakko, Libertarian Party, Heather McKim, Arkansas State Board of Election Commissioners, Leonard Boyle, Pulaski County Election Commissioner, Dr. Annie Abrams, Colonel Nate Todd, Stuart “Stu” Soffer.

Our Beloved Community Dinner: 2016 “Our Beloved Community Dinner” is held as a token of our appreciation, but as a reminder to the leaders and citizens of Arkansas the importance of their continuous participation, contributions, and support.

Therefore, this event was held on **Thursday, October 20, 2016, 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM** at the **Olive Garden** located at **10715 North Rodney Parham Road, Little Rock, AR 72212** and was attended by individuals from across the state.

The agenda included musical selections by Kendall Collins and discussions on the 2017 King Holiday Programs (MEGA KINGFEST, 2017 Annual Interfaith Prayer Breakfast, Nonviolence Youth Summit); Nonviolence 365 Training; Commissioners and Reappointments; License Plate Update; Introduction of Sponsors; Dream Keepers Tour to Washington D.C.; Status of Scholarship Funds



MLK Toy Drive:

December 2016

Each year the Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission is registered site and distributes toys to needy families throughout the state of Arkansas. This is an annual collaboration with Marine Toys for Tots foundation.

In 2018, the Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission will mark a milestone in its history and kickoff several events commemoration twenty-five years of excellence.

