

MLK Day Project Initiative Project Summaries

Organization: American Red Cross of Mass Bay

Project Name: King Day of Service Community Disaster Education

Location: Cambridge

Project Summary

American Red Cross of Massachusetts Bay would like to host their 2nd annual King Day of Service event, which would begin with volunteers conducting door-to-door outreach promoting fire safety to over 30,000 homes in the high-risk communities of Brockton, Dorchester, Lawrence, Lowell, and Somerville, and would culminate in a volunteer appreciation reception. ARCMB expects to recruit over 1,200 volunteers (600 new) from within their network, the HOPE *worldwide* network, and the community at large, and to reach 10,000 more homes than last year's project.

Organization: Barnstable County's AmeriCorps Cape Cod

Project Name: Cataumet Shelter Revitalization

Location: Barnstable

Project Summary

AmeriCorps Cape Cod proposes to partner with the Housing Assistance Corporation to address the conditions of transitional housing in Barnstable County by recruiting 50-75 new community volunteers to transform 17 family units, common areas, and grounds of Cataumet Shelter. Volunteers would be recruited from local churches, scout troops, school groups, and ACC alumni to perform such tasks as replacing old mattresses, shower curtains, and carpets, installing energy efficient lighting, building bookshelves and picnic tables, stocking bookshelves with books, and creating and installing inspirational art within the shelter. ACC hopes this project will bring to life the teachings of Dr. King regarding equal rights for marginalized populations.

Organization: Boston Cares

Project Name: MLK: A Day on in Boston and Metro/West

Location: Boston

Project Summary

Boston Cares proposes to expand their existing MLK Day event in Somerville from engaging 150 volunteers last year, to engaging 250 volunteers this year. Volunteers would participate in "portable volunteer projects" at the Somerville Boys and Girls Club, including such projects as making fleece blankets for newborns served by Welcome Baby, writing letters to soldiers in Iraq, creating indoor recess books and flashcards for local schools, and making cat bedding and toys for the MSPCA. The goal is for volunteers of all ages to be recruited from the local community to create over 2600 of these items to donate.

Organization: Citywide Board of Community Centers, dba BCYF

Project Name: Adopt a Community Center

Location: Boston

Project Summary

Boston Center for Youth & Families proposes to work with their Urban Youth Leadership Corps AmeriCorps program to sponsor the beautification of two Boston community centers. The project will utilize 40 to 50 community volunteers to not only clean the community centers and make simple repairs, but also to create a mural commemorating Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. at each center. Volunteers will also learn more about the life and work of Dr. King and the BCYF mission through a community celebration.

Organization: Community Teamwork, Inc (CTI)

Project Name: Martin Luther King Day Head Start Program Enhancement Project

Location: Lowell

Project Summary

The CTI Senior Corps and Volunteer Programs would like to recruit over 50 intergenerational volunteers (school-age, young adults, and older adults) to update the Houlares Center, a Head Start program serving over 300 children under the age of 5. The project at the center would include cleaning and repairs, building a gross-motor skills indoor activity room, creating an inviting age-appropriate reading room, and having volunteers continue on to be "community readers" to children in the new reading room throughout the year.

Organization: East End House

Project Name: MLK Community Service Day

Location: Cambridge

Project Summary

The East End House proposes to engage the students from the Middle School program along with other community volunteers to complete tasks for elder people and people with disabilities in the Cambridge Community. They aim to engage 15-20 youth and 25-30 community members.

Organization: Fitchburg State College Foundation, Inc.

Project Name: Everybody Gets Served

Location: Fitchburg

Project Summary

Fitchburg State College's Upward Bound program proposes engaging at least 15 youth and adult volunteers in compiling food basket donations for 30 low-income families. Volunteers, who will be recruited from the Upward Bound program as well as the Cleghorn Neighborhood Center and LUK's Intensive Foster Care program, will shop for and package baskets with essential food staples. They will also be encouraged to participate in a community-sponsored MLK Day event before helping to deliver the food baskets and participating in an end-of-day celebration.

Organization: Friends Of The Children

Project Name: Blanket Buddies: MLK Day Celebration!

Location: Boston

Project Summary

Friends of the Children plans to recruit up to 30 new volunteers in addition to the 37 families already engaged in their Family Friends program. Volunteers will make blankets and cards for children in need to be donated to the Great Boston Project Linus. In addition, Friends of the Children hopes to recruit additional families to join their Family Friends program by providing information on the program to MLK Day volunteers.

Organization: Greater Fall River re-Creation Committee, INC. dba Community Development Recreation

Project Name: The CommUNITY Service Project

Location: Fall River

Project Summary

Team FRESH (Fall River Extends Supportive Hands) is looking to unite the various school, church, and neighborhood youth leadership groups of Fall River and instill them with a sense of civic duty. Their project will bring together different youth leadership groups from Fall River to create and execute 5 service projects throughout the city on the weekend of January 16-19, as well as supporting a youth-driven MLK, Jr. celebration on the 19th that will include an oratory contest for and civil rights skits by middle-school students, a motivational speaker, and multicultural music, dance, and food.

Organization: Green Decade / Cambridge Inc.

Project Name: Home Energy Efficiency Team Weatherization Barnraising

Location: Cambridge

Project Summary

Green Decade/Cambridge proposed barnraising project which will assess weatherization needs of the Cambridgeport School, will identify tasks that volunteers can perform with guidance from skilled team leaders, and will mobilize and organize volunteers to perform the weatherization tasks during MLK Day weekend. The event will comprise of 5 work hours followed by a festive party with food and a live band. Anticipated weatherization tasks include airsealing wall penetrations with caulk and foam both on the interior and exterior, weatherizing exterior doors, installing window devices to decrease heat loss, and sealing and insulating the heating delivery system.

Organization: Just-A-Start Corp

Project Name: "I Have A Dream" Musical Theater

Location: Cambridge

Project Summary

Just-A-Start Corporation (JAS) is partnering with Phillips Brooks House Association (PBHA) to have JAS students and PBA students create and perform in a variety show for members of the Cambridge Senior Center. After the show there will be a reception for the students and seniors to mingle.

Organization: Lowell Association for the Blind

Project Name: LAB/YMCA Collaboration

Location: Lowell

Project Summary

Lowell Association for the Blind will partner with the YMCA Youth Leaders Clubs. They propose to host a variety of events of MLK day week starting with Saturday workshops on various topics such as diversity, leadership, and the teachings of MLK. Sunday all the students in the workshops will participate in a community service project that is to be determined. The two days would end with a "prom" event for all participants.

Organization: North Central Charter Essential School

Project Name: MLK Day of Awakening Opportunity in North Central MA

Location: Fitchburg

Project Summary

Members of the NCCES' Commonwealth Corps Program are proposing to sponsor a Day of Awakening Opportunity on Saturday, January 17th. The event will gather people from all ages across the North Central Region to offer a variety of practical, productive and entertaining activities. Activities include: **Math Mania** to share fun and engaging math activities for children and parents to do together; **FASFA and Income Tax help**; **Community Garden Planning**; **Knit-A-Thon** and **Crafts Table**, **Oral History Project** and **Healthy Community** principles; Multi-cultural music and dance performances; and samplings from various ethnic restaurants in the region.

Organization: Northeastern University's Center of Community Service and the Mass Promis Fellowship

Project Name: King Day of Leadership and Service

Location: Boston

Project Summary

Northeastern University and the Massachusetts Promise Fellowship propose to embody the spirit of Dr. King by addressing community needs in a multi-faceted event that would include service projects, skill-building workshops, and relationship building amongst a diverse group of individuals. NU and MSP would issue an RFP to small local nonprofit organizations to determine the most effective service projects to fit the needs of the Boston community. MLK Jr. Day would open with a reflection on the life of Dr. King and a networking activity, followed by an afternoon of service projects and leadership skills trainings at the choice of each participant, and ending with a group reflection on the days' events. Volunteer participants would include the 30 Mass Promise Fellows, 70 youth, and 200 college students.

Organization: Old Colony Y City Pride/Leaps in Literacy

Project Name: Martin Luther King Jr Day of Service

Location: Brockton

Project Summary

Old Colony Y City Pride/Leaps in Literacy is proposing to collaborate with Massasoit Community College's President's Advisory Council to co-host a comprehensive and exciting MLK celebration. They will be able to bring the Brockton community together for the common goal of celebrating Martin Luther King. In addition they will also be able to continue their program goal of promoting literacy by expanding outside of the classroom setting to a non-traditional learning environment. The event will have two major areas. First, the adults will be entertained by a number of area performers and speakers including a keynote guest speaker and a reenactment of MLK's "I have a Dream Speech" performed by a Brockton student. The second major area is the children's room where students ages 4-12 will gather together and hear about the life of MLK.

Organization: People Making a Difference (PMD)

Project Name: "I Remember Martin..." Intergenerational Luncheon & Activities

Location: Boston

Project Summary

PMD proposed to organize a special luncheon and "I remember Martin..." intergenerational activities for People Making a Difference volunteers and formerly homeless, frail elders who live at the Ruggles affordable Assisted Living community in Roxbury's Dudley Sq. The celebration will include "festive lunch" for elders and volunteers followed by the "real" conversation and thought about Dr. King.

Organization: Roca

Project Name: Roca's Martin Luther King Jr. "Be Hope" Celebration

Location: Chelsea

Project Summary

Roca proposes engaging at least 60 young people as volunteers to prepare an MLK Day Peace March and celebration to promote the "Be Hope" anti-violence campaign. Volunteers would be primarily high-risk youth recruited from a variety of schools, youth centers, and other organizations. At least 150 community members will be involved in the celebration and receive materials to take with them to continue to promote the "Be Hope" message.

Organization: Step Up Springfield (SUS)

Project Name: The Content of Our Character

Location: Springfield

Project Summary

SUS proposes that the Forest Park Middle School students- the Character Council, on MLK weekend, host a special event for Kensington Avenue Elementary School students, staff and family members

designed to get Kensington involved in their character campaign. The project will blend many elements including community service, school-to-school and peer-to-peer mentoring, student inspired program design and family involvement.

Organization: The Hilltown Cooperative Charter Public School

Project Name: City School and Country School Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service and Celebration

Location: Hadenville

Project Summary

The Hilltown Cooperative Charter Public School proposes to collaborate with the Martin Luther King Charter School of Excellence and the Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center to add a service project to their fifth annual MLK Day Celebration. About 450 students from both schools will be engaged as volunteers, conducting a food drive and coming together the Friday before MLK Day to sort and package the food to be delivered to the MLK Center. After a celebration of their food drive success, some students will go into younger students' classrooms for a day of tutoring. On MLK Day itself, after delivery the food students will participate in a city-wide MLK Day celebration.

Organization: Upham's Corner Community Center Dba Bird Street Comm. Ctr

Project Name: Bird Street MLK Community Paint Day

Location: Dorchester

Project Summary

Bird Street Community Center plans to conduct outreach to community members through a service project of painting the Teen Center and a side of the building. About 200 youth and adult volunteers recruited from other youth-serving agencies as well as local business will break into teams to participate not only in painting but also in ice breakers, discussions, and group activities. Bird Street hopes many of the volunteers will sign up to become tutors and mentors for the youth at the Center.