



Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service – Library Project Tip Sheet January 19, 2009

The King Day of Service is a way to transform Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s life and teachings into community service. **Community libraries offer a unique place to gather your neighbors to discuss our history and to create solutions for today's social problems.** How ambitious you choose to be depends on you—and on your community's resources. For example, you could:

- Hold a workshop on Dr. King's life and examine issues in your community that you can address
- Hold a forum on the future of civil rights/minority rights in your community. Invite community leaders to serve as panelists
- Bring a can of food, participate in MLK Day learning experience
 - Can of food goes to local food bank
 - MLK program might include things like:
 - A speech, video, or discussion group
 - Listen to MLK audio from his speeches
 - Story hour for kids focused on MLK and the civil rights movement
 - Create a display case featuring books on civil rights (see attached suggested bibliography)
- Work with local schools to have kids paint a mural celebrating civil rights or community history. Display the artwork in public spaces, at hospitals, in local businesses, etc.
- Recruit volunteers through the www.mlkday.gov website for special library projects:
 - General library maintenance
 - Dust the shelves
 - Organize one of the sections
 - Sort out/dispose of worn materials

For more information about creating a successful volunteer opportunity, visit:
<http://mlkday.gov/resources/tips/index.asp>

Also, remember to begin thinking soon about MLK Day 2010. Even if you're unable to hold a service project this year, we still welcome your participation as we bring people together next year. Make sure you have a place at the table by contacting us about your interest!

Contact the Iowa State Office for more information. We'll help you publicize your event and offer suggestions from event planning experts. You can reach us at (515) 284-4816 or at ia@cns.gov