

OPINION

THE CHRONICLE

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Celebrating
41
Years
of Community Journalism

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Our Mission

The Chronicle is dedicated to serving the residents of Winston-Salem and Forsyth County by giving voice to the voiceless, speaking truth to power, standing for integrity and encouraging open communication and lively debate throughout the community.

Keep helping community after MLK Jr. Day service

The Martin Luther King Jr. holiday sparked numerous service events to honor Dr. King.

For the first time, Winston-Salem city workers donated some of their time during working hours to help 12 organizations, for instance. And for the seventh year, local colleges united to provide an opportunity for students to volunteer to help elementary school students learn about the values Dr. King espoused as a required project for the holiday.

The day of service to honor Dr. King has become popular. People volunteer to work on projects that help people in various ways. Most of the organizations that benefit are nonprofits. It's nice for the nonprofits to get help during this time, but they need help year-round.

The elementary school students who learned about Dr. King's values and the Civil Rights Movement need to know that they can keep reading the books and learning the values after the holiday event. The 12 organizations the city workers helped wouldn't mind if more came to continue helping after the holiday. The day of service should be the beginning of volunteer service, especially in these times of change for many nonprofits.

For instance, the United Way, a major source of money for nonprofit programs, has changed its focus in allocating grants to nonprofit organizations. Organizations such as the Urban League and Salvation Army are losing large sums of money from the year before because of this change. It's not that the programs being funded have changed; the United Way's funding formula has. So, the programs are still deserving of help.

The nonprofits now have to find a way to make up the lost funding and gain new funding to stay ahead. One nonprofit leader lamented recently that her organization has no person designated to raise money, so with cuts in grants, the organization has to begin determining how to replace those funds. The organization could use a volunteer who knows about raising money.

We remember the man Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. during the time to honor his birthday, but his legacy transcends that time. Let's keep working now that it's after the holiday to really honor him.



Photo by Tevin Stinson

Winston-Salem Human Relations Director Wanda Allen-Abraham explains that Martin Luther King Jr. Helping Hands Day, "basically, is to provide a venue for city employees to have hands-on experiences with community service and giving back to the community in the spirit of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. So, our goal is to encourage city employees to make a tangible effort and make a tangible difference in the very community that we serve."



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Thank you, sponsors of Peace Toys Exchange program

To the Editor:

On Saturday, Dec. 19 from noon to 4 p.m., hundreds of boys, girls and their parents came to exchange violent toys for peace toys at the Peace Toys for War Toys Exchange. Peace toys exchanged included computers, basketballs, footballs, bikes, gift cards, cash prizes, bike helmets and remote control cars. I would like to thank God for the following sponsors: Winston-Salem Recreation and

Parks Department, Winston-Salem Federal Credit Union, Carolina Cruiser Motorcycle Club, Buffalo Soldiers MC Winston-Salem Chapter, Coy M. Martin Jr., Venable Tax Service, Neil Batchlor and Wayne Belcher Sr. and family, William Penn, Keith and John Byrd, Bow-Tie Boyz and Girlz Automobile Club, Cooks Flea Market Inc., Terrance and Fentress Gerald, Bill Jackson Sr., and Bill Jackson Jr., R. J. Clark, John Miles, Cheryl D. Scales, Winston-Salem Sanitation Department, Johnny Taylor, Glory of God Church, Union Baptist Church's Men's Ministry, Union Chapel Baptist Church's Men's Ministry, 2012 Class of Prince Hall Masons, 2015 Class of Prince Hall Masons, Kevin Thompson, Ben Creamer of State Farm Insurance Co.,

ED Stars of the Enrichment Center, Paul Harrell, Schwinn Bike and Fitness, DNNVA, D. HJ. Bag and D. J. Count it Up, Winston-Salem Police Department, Winston-Salem Fire Department, Jamie Wilkes Trophies and Awards, Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity Inc. (Delta Sigma Chapter), Sigma Beta Club, Shawn Hawkins, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc., Council Member D.D. Adams, Donald "Sarge" Naylor, Winston-Salem Fairground Annex and Wanda Reid.

Ben Piggott,
visionary for the
Peace Toys for War Toys
Exchange
Winston-Salem



Submitted photo
The Winston-Salem Recreation and Parks Department was a sponsor of the Peace Toys for War Toys Exchange. Personnel are shown here.

Dr. King inspired me to keep going in life



Donna Rogers
Something To Talk About

The Chronicle asked people how Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. affected their lives. I want to add my voice to the conversation.

I was in the second grade in Columbia, S.C., when Dr. King was killed on April 4, 1968 at age 39. Days later, my second-grade teacher, Miss Wheeler, brought in a television to let us see his funeral during class.

I really didn't know who Dr. King was then. I learned more about him as I grew older. He inspired me to keep trying to reach my goals.

My first meaningful introduction to Dr. King was when I had to read "Letter from a Birmingham Jail" as part of an English class in high school. I marveled at how eloquent he was. I was destined to be a journalist, so English was an important subject for me. I felt like he was someone I needed to know more about.

Over the years, I did learn more about Dr. King, through his books and other writings and through movies. I learned that he studied the tactics of Mahatma Gandhi, who practiced non-violence as he led a victorious movement to gain freedom for India from British rule.

Dr. King brought non-violent tactics to the Civil Rights Movement in the United States and was victorious, too. I learned that Dr. King had to lead a movement that had several divisions that often clashed, but the movement continued to make gains.

But most of all I learned that he was a man that did not quit, until he was killed. He kept taking the movement to higher levels.

I am still learning about Dr. King. I advocate reading and learning for everyone, especially young people. I hope the MLK Jr. holiday will spark new adventures and goals for young people so that they will be victorious leaders in their lives and the lives of others.

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