

2021

Commemoration and Celebration
of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

January 18, 2021 | 9:30 a.m.



The Urgency of Creating the Beloved Community



Greetings from Governor Jim Justice



Jim Justice
Governor of West Virginia

GREETINGS FROM GOVERNOR JUSTICE

As Governor, it is a great privilege to welcome you to the Martin Luther King Jr. State Holiday Commission and the Herbert Henderson Office of Minority Affairs 2021 Ecumenical Service. This event commemorates the life and influence of the late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Dr. King is among one of the most influential leaders in our nation's history. He helped define the 20th Century with his extraordinary role in the American civil rights movement. His principles remain to lead and inspire us in implementing change and recognizing challenges in our communities. His legacy is a true testament to the strength of his vision and the purpose of his pursuit.

Each year, I am encouraged by the response on this special day of remembrance. This event is the prime example of how to properly honor such an important icon in American history.

On this day, I implore all West Virginians to pay tribute to the vision and dream that Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. had for our great nation. Please accept my best wishes!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jim Justice".

Jim Justice
Governor

Greetings from Senator Joe Manchin

Joe Manchin III
WEST VIRGINIA



United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC

GREETINGS FROM JOE MANCHIN UNITED STATES SENATOR

On behalf of the Citizens of the Mountain State and as your United States Senator, it is my distinct honor to welcome you as we are virtually joined together to celebrate Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s life and legacy.

In memory of this inspiring man, let us reflect on the challenges that have faced our nation, as well as on the countless individuals who fought valiantly for years to overcome them. As we honor and pay tribute to the great Dr. King, it is vital that we remain united in all that we accomplish, in order to continue his legacy of promoting tolerance and equality for all. This year in particular has presented us with many challenges. What cannot be ignored is the countless people who have stood up in the face of adversity, who have gone above and beyond the call of duty to help a neighbor in need, and who have embodied the ideals that Dr. King inspired in so many of us.

Our state and entire country celebrate Dr. King because he was a man of conviction and an international symbol of strength and perseverance. His actions and speeches for civil rights truly changed the world. However, he was more than just an advocate for one issue. He promoted volunteerism and education and he challenged everyone, regardless of their circumstances, to embody the change they wanted to see in the world. Dr. King understood that we must constantly strive for unity in order for all to achieve the American Dream.

In fitting with the 2021 MLK Holiday theme, The Fierce Urgency of Building the Beloved Community, we are reminded of the words of Mrs. King who described the "Beloved Community" as a society where "caring and compassion drive political policies that support the worldwide elimination of poverty and hunger and all forms of bigotry and violence. At its core, the "Beloved Community" is an engine of reconciliation."

To this day, West Virginia and this great nation have countless strong leaders who – in the spirit of Dr. King – are inspiring others and making substantial contributions to their communities and our entire nation. Thank you for your passion and for your innovative ideas that honor Dr. King's memory every single day.

With warmest regards,

A stylized, handwritten signature of Joe Manchin III in blue ink.

U.S. Senator Joe Manchin III

Greetings from Senator Shelley Moore Capito

SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO
WEST VIRGINIA

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4805

COMMITTEES:
APPROPRIATIONS
COMMERCE, SCIENCE,
AND TRANSPORTATION
ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS
RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

January 18, 2021

Dear Friends,

It is an honor to be a part of the annual commemoration of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. which unfortunately cannot be celebrated in person due to the COVID pandemic. I want to commend the efforts of Jill Upson and the Martin Luther King, Jr. State Holiday Commission for not letting the pandemic deter this most important event to all West Virginians and the nation.

One of the greatest and most admired Americans in history, Dr. King's life and legacy continue to inspire us today. He led the charge during the Civil Rights Movement, facing great opposition, but creating positive and lasting change throughout our country. His bold leadership and commitment to what is right will never be forgotten.

It seems that now, more than ever, we need Dr. King's words of compassion, peace, and equality here in the United States. In his 1963 book, *Strength to Love*, he wrote, "Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that." His calls for compassion and peace in the face of darkness and adversity demonstrate the great strength of his character and convictions. His dream of an America in which all are welcome and everyone is equal is something to which we continue working toward today.

As we continue to honor the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., it is important that we do not forget his words of compassion, peace, and equality, and it is vital that we continue to unite behind his dream for America. Thank you all for inviting me to be a part of this important commemoration. It is truly an honor to serve you in the United States Senate.

Sincerely,

Shelley Moore Capito
United States Senator

WASHINGTON, DC
172 RUSSELL SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510
(202) 224-6472

CHARLESTON
500 VIRGINIA STREET, EAST
SUITE 950
CHARLESTON, WV 25301
(304) 347-6372

BECKLEY
220 NORTH KANAWHA STREET
SUITE 1
BECKLEY, WV 25801
(304) 347-6372

MARTINSBURG
300 FOXCROFT AVENUE
SUITE 202A
MARTINSBURG, WV 25401
(304) 262-8285

MORGANTOWN
48 DONLEY STREET
SUITE 504
MORGANTOWN, WV 26501
(304) 292-2310

www.capito.senate.gov



Greetings from Congressman Alex Mooney



ALEX X. MOONEY
2ND DISTRICT, WEST VIRGINIA

FINANCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
INVESTOR PROTECTION, ENTREPRENEURSHIP
AND CAPITAL MARKETS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4802

CHARLESTON OFFICE:
405 CAPITOL STREET
SUITE 306
CHARLESTON, WV 25301
(304) 925-5964

MARTINSBURG OFFICE:
300 FOXCROFT AVENUE
SUITE 101
MARTINSBURG, WV 25401
(304) 264-8810

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
2440 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-2711

<http://mooney.house.gov>

Greetings from Alex Mooney United States Congressman

In honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

It is an honor to join you in commemorating the life and legacy of the great Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. It is fitting that the 2021 King Holiday theme is "The Fierce Urgency of Building the Beloved Community." Mrs. King described the "Beloved Community" as "an engine of reconciliation." In West Virginia, our "Beloved Community" is strong. Mountaineers are good and faithful people who believe in equality.

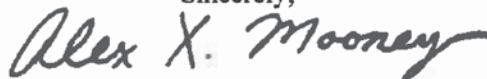
The profound words of Dr. King resonate with us today. He said, "The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy." I commend the great citizens of West Virginia for living by the words of Dr. King. It gives me immense pleasure as the elected representative for West Virginia's Second Congressional District to see, first-hand, the spirit, charity, faith and character of our Mountaineers. I'm honored to represent each of you in Congress.

Thanks to Dr. King's dedication and resilience, we are able to be together, as one, to honor his life on this important day. Let us pray that history never forgets his legacy. Dr. King lived a remarkable life, filled with courage and conviction, and he inspires us all today. May we too fight for what we believe with honesty, reason and dignity.

My fellow West Virginians, we must continue to grow together. Dr. King believed, as I do, that we are all created in the image of God. God so loved the world that he sent his son who died on the cross for all people. We should remember the words and the faith of Dr. King and always strive to see each other as our creator intended, as equals created in his loving image. Dr. King's dream was that his "four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character."

God bless you and your families. May the spirit of Dr. King guide our hearts forever. I hope history will forever honor Martin Luther King Jr's legacy as we are today – with truth, compassion and unity.

Sincerely,



Alex X. Mooney



Statement of Purpose



The Martin Luther King Jr. State Holiday Commission is pleased to bring you our 2021 commemoration and celebration of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

This year's national theme and call to action is:

"The Urgency of Creating the Beloved Community!"

As we enjoy this virtual event, may we also commit ourselves to rise to the challenge of "creating the beloved community."

Cordially,

Jill Upson

Executive Director, Herbert Henderson Office of Minority Affairs
Chair, Martin Luther King Jr. State Holiday Commission

"I HAVE A DREAM..."

Keynote Speaker

Dr. Chiquita D. Howard-Bostic is the Associate Vice President of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusivity and department chair of Sociology, Criminology, and Criminal Justice at Shepherd University (SU) in Shepherdstown, W.Va. She is a certified life coach, girl scout and 4-H leader, and founder of a program called “Help Bridge,” providing leadership and social justice education in the community.

Dr. Howard-Bostic educates the community about anti-human trafficking, multicultural justice, dating violence prevention, and financial/environmental sustainability. She was born and raised in Buffalo, New York, where she began serving the community at the age of 14 working with city legislatures and later working at community organizations as a grant writer and advocate for marginalized youth and adults.

Dr. Howard-Bostic earned a bachelor’s degree in Legal Studies and a master’s degree in Urban Planning at the State University of New York at Buffalo. She received a Ph.D. in Sociology, teaching certificate in Women’s Studies, and a Race and Social Policy research certification at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. She is a former college director of institutional assessment and has served as an executive director of housing and human services.

Thousands of school-aged youth and community stakeholders benefit from her justice trainings, intervention projects, events, food drives, service projects, and community workshops. Dr. Howard-Bostic was the first recipient of Shepherd’s Storer College Award, which recognizes faculty who incorporate diversity and social justice into his or her classroom, research, scholarship, and interaction with students. She also received the 2015 SU Outstanding Teacher Award.

In 2017, Howard-Bostic received the Outstanding Service Award, and in 2020, was awarded the Outstanding Academic Advisor Award. In 2018, she was honored as the 2018 Distinguished Alumni for the State University of New York at Buffalo Educational Opportunity Program (EOP). Most recently, Howard-Bostic was recognized by American Mothers as the 2020 West Virginia Mother of the Year.





Order of Ecumenical Service



PRESIDERS

Deputy Commissioner Jacqueline A. Proctor

Bureau of Senior Services

Commissioner, Martin Luther King, Jr. State Holiday Commission

The Honorable Jill Upson

Chair of the Martin Luther King, Jr. State Holiday Commission

Executive Director, Herbert Henderson Office of Minority Affairs



Call to Worship and Invocation

Reverend Joseph Jarrett

Pastor, Asbury United Methodist Church

Traditional Hymn

Lift Every Voice And Sing

Choir

Greetings

The Honorable Jill Upson

Chair of the Martin Luther King, Jr.

State Holiday Commission

Executive Director,

Herbert Henderson Office of Minority Affairs

Remarks

West Virginia Governor Jim Justice

United States Senator Shelley Moore Capito

United States Senator Joe Manchin

United States Representative Alex Mooney





Order of Ecumenical Service



Musical Selections
Family

Capital High School VIP
(Voices in Perfection) Choir

Meditations and Prayers

Dr. Ibetsam “Sue” Barazi
*Vice President of the
Islamic Association of West Virginia*

Rabbi Victor Urecki
Congregation B’nai Jacob

Bishop Willie Schofield
Pastor, Glorious Liberty Church

Musical Selection
Total Praise

Martin Luther King Jr. Male Chorus

Living the Dream Awards Presentation

Mrs. Patricia Wilson
*Chair of Education Department,
West Virginia State University
Commissioner, Martin Luther King, Jr.
State Holiday Commission
Chair of the Living the Dream
Awards Committee*

Soloist
He's Got The Whole World In His Hands

Curator Randall Reid-Smith
*West Virginia Department of
Arts, Culture and History
Commissioner, Martin Luther King, Jr.
State Holiday Commission*





<h1>Order of Ecumenical Service</h1>



Introduction of Keynote Speaker

Deputy Commissioner Jacqueline A. Proctor
*Bureau of Senior Services
Commissioner, Martin Luther King, Jr.
State Holiday Commission*

Keynote Speaker

Dr. Chiquita D. Howard-Bostic
*Associate Vice President of Diversity, Equity,
and Inclusivity and Department Chair of
Sociology, Criminology, and Criminal Justice
at Shepherd University*

Musical Selections

Martin Luther King Jr. Male Chorus

**Hymn of the Movement
We Shall Overcome**

Choir

End of Service



Advocate of Peace Award

Dr. LaRee Naviaux
Charleston, W.Va.

*The Advocate of Peace Award is awarded to a person who has
been an advocate of social change in a non-violent way.*

Dr. Naviaux has been passionate and devoted to make the world a better place for all. She has been an activist focusing on social justice, human/civil rights, education, music and visual arts for over 50 years. Her motto for success is imagination, organization, planning and hard work. Dr. Naviaux has had a distinguished professional life that includes leadership positions and accomplishments in academics, public service and private sectors.

In 1964 Dr. Naviaux volunteered as a visiting professor to Tuskegee University. In 1965 she took leave from her job to participate in the Selma to Montgomery March. She realized that reducing social/economic inequality required education and intervention at an early age to prevent inequities. This realization paved the way for her support for education and the Head Start programs. She supported many international programs which promoted peace such as CARE, Doctors Without Borders, and Youth for Understanding which places foreign high school children with United States families. Dr. Naviaux organized, funded, and led the 50th anniversary of the Selma March Commemoration in Charleston, marching from the East Side to the West Side of Charleston, taking social action to unify our communities as Martin Luther King, Jr. called upon us to do.

Dr. Naviaux moved to Charleston, W.Va. in 1973 and currently serves as a spiritual supervisor for The West Institute for Spirituality. Dr. Naviaux donated all the proceeds from her two meditative CDs to charity. Her song "In the Moment" leads the listener to reflect on breath, letting go, acceptance, love, joy, peace, freedom, stillness, and silence.

 Click here for
2022 Living the Dream Award
Nomination Form 

Sharing of Self Award

Mrs. Edna Vereina Thomas Green
Charleston, W.Va.

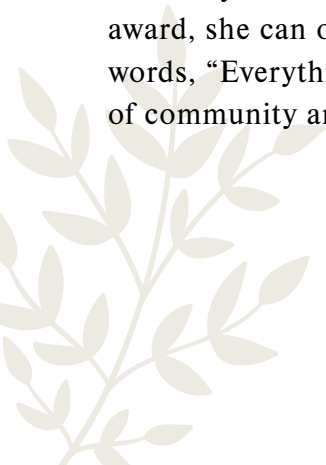
*The Sharing of Self Award is presented to a person who has
rendered to others in the private or public sector.*


Mrs. Edna Green is a native of Charleston, W.Va. and was born and raised in the predominantly African American Community which is now referred to as the Triangle District. She and her deceased husband, Richard Green, Sr. were the proud parents of two children, Rikkinia and Richard, Jr.

After working at the C&P Telephone Company from 1974-1999, Mrs. Green was employed by the Partnership of African American Churches (PAAC) in 1999. For the last twenty-one years, she has been blessed to fulfill her purpose by serving others through her affiliation with PAAC. She was trained by the Global Methodist Health Ministries and Marshall University to establish lay health ministries and worked for three years in this capacity throughout the state of West Virginia. During this time, she also became a Master Trainer for the Stanford University Chronic Disease Self-Management Curriculum. Through this curriculum she was able to travel around the state and country providing information to support people in gaining self-efficacy in health-related issues.

In 2007, Mrs. Green became the Director of PAAC's Communities Closing the Gap (CCtG) 21st CCLC Afterschool Program. This initiative, which is in its 16th year, has as its main purpose to help the whole child overcome challenges and excel to their fullest potential. She notes that the recent COVID-19 outbreak has posed significant academic challenges for many children. The amazingly dedicated CCtG staff responded immediately by continuing to offer afterschool services, implementing virtual tutoring and an all-day E-Learners facility at King Community Center. Through the hundreds of children and young people that have participated in this program over the years, she has been blessed to pour into others the love and support that others poured into her.

Mrs. Green credits her parents and grandparents with providing love, encouragement and support in her desire to serve others. She has also served as Youth Director, Sunday School Director and Financial Secretary at Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church. When she thinks of receiving the "Sharing of Self" award, she can only be humbled because so little of who she is has anything to do with self. In her words, "Everything that I am is what other people poured into me to be-- their love, support, time, sense of community and most of all what God purposed me to do."





2021 Martin Luther King, Jr. Living the Dream Awards



Human and Civil Rights Award


Anne Olivia Weeks
Huntington, W.Va.

The Human and Civil Rights Award is given to a person who has been actively involved in the pursuit of equality for others and is an advocate for social change.


Anne Olivia Weeks is the President and Chief Executive Officer of Mountain State Centers for Independent Living (MTSTCIL) and the fund raising arm of the Center, the Foundation for Independent Living, which is a community-based organization providing advocacy, networking, and resources to people with disabilities and their families.

Ms. Weeks has been involved with the organization since its beginning in 1981, becoming the Executive Director of the Huntington Center for Independent Living in 1983. She was successful in a national competition to establish additional centers, and in 1988, the Beckley Center for Independent Living was established. In 1991 the Centers merged their names and became Mountain State Centers for Independent Living (MTSTCIL), and Ms. Weeks became President and CEO. In 1992 she became the first chairperson of the West Virginia Statewide Independent Living Council, holding that position three times. She is also vice-chair of the Tri-State Literacy Council. Ms. Weeks was honored as a charter inductee into the West Virginia Independent Living Hall of Fame in 2002 for her guidance, direction, and contributions to the movement. After retirement on December 31, 2020, Ms. Weeks will be continuing as an advocate in the West Virginia Independent Living network.

Ms. Weeks learned early in life to value all people, to work hard, and to make positive changes in the world where she could, as has done so by eliminating barriers, changing attitudes and improving the lives of West Virginia with disabilities.



Click here for
2022 Living the Dream Award
Nomination Form





2021 Martin Luther King, Jr. Living the Dream Awards



Scholarship Award

Mrs. Cheryl Plear
Dunbar, W.Va.

The Scholarship Award is presented to a person who has made significant contributions in the area of education.

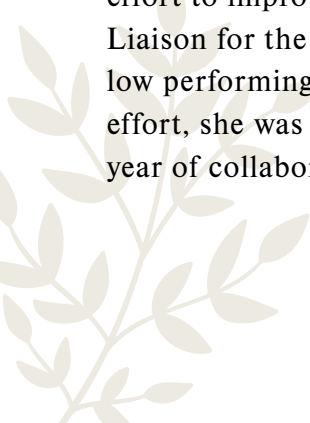
Cheryl Plear was born, raised, and educated in Eastern Kanawha County. She earned a Bachelor of Science in Education from West Virginia State College (University) and a Master of Arts in Leadership Studies from Marshall University.

Mrs. Plear began her career in Education as an Elementary School teacher in 1977 at Pratt Elementary School. She developed a deep passion for teaching that continued while serving at Roxalana Elementary and Dunbar Intermediate Schools. She was able to share her passion for teaching beyond the classroom as a presenter of Best Practices at the West Virginia State Teachers Academy and on the Gifted Task Force of the West Virginia Department of Education. Mrs. Plear was also selected for a special assignment to study under the tutelage of Dr. Madeline Hunter at the University of California, Los Angeles.

Her intense passion for education also extended to Higher Education where she served as an Instructor/Facilitator for the Summer Day Camp for Future Educators at West Virginia State University. A self-designed presentation, “TEACHing as an Act of the Heart” was developed and presented to students at Marshall University School of Education where she served as a Guest Lecturer.

With the introduction of NO Child Left Behind legislation, Mrs. Plear felt the need to pivot her passion for teaching and student achievement into educational administration which would allow her the opportunity to broaden her impact in education and also in the community. As an administrator, her key areas of focus were recognizing the needs of disadvantaged children and finding innovative and effective ways to support low performing schools.

As Assistant Principal for School Improvement for Weimer Elementary School, an Identified School of Choice for Improvement, Mrs. Plear collaborated with Principal Linda McCall in a successful effort to improve student achievement and attendance. Her next role, as Closing the Achievement Liaison for the West Virginia Department of Education, afforded her the opportunity to work at two low performing schools-- Stonewall Jackson Middle School and Glenwood Elementary. Through this effort, she was successful in helping each school make Annual Yearly Progress (AYP) during the first year of collaboration.





2021 Martin Luther King, Jr. Living the Dream Awards




In 2006, retirement called and Mrs. Plear answered, however not for long. Dunbar Intermediate needed support as a School of Choice. With much encouragement from the staff and community, she was selected as Principal. This led to another successful effort with Dunbar Intermediate being named as a Title I Distinguished School in 2008.

In 2010, after the untimely death of her husband and mother, retirement called again. Once again, she answered and again not for long. In 2016, Mrs. Plear became the principal of Mary C. Snow West Side Elementary, a recently consolidated school. The school had several major issues including stagnant test scores, high poverty, high staff turnover, and behavior problems. Although many of the problems the school faced would need much more support and time to solve, progress was made in the three years Mrs. Plear served at the school; improvement in all areas improved incrementally each year

An afterschool program was implemented that focused on tutoring in reading and math for low performing students. Enrichment activities centered around science, technology, and the arts and students were provided a safe and nurturing environment and nutrition for two hours. Working in conjunction with Stonewall Jackson Middle School, a Sixth Grade Summer Academy was initiated which offered students the opportunity to work with teachers from the feeder schools to ensure a smooth transition to Middle School.

Mrs. Plear now works at West Virginia State University as an Adjunct Professor and as a University Supervisor for Student Teachers.



Click here for
2022 Living the Dream Award
Nomination Form



Governor's Living the Dream Award

Dr. Chiquita Howard-Bostic

This award is presented to a person who best exemplifies all of the characteristics of justice, scholarship, sharing of self, human and civil rights, and advocacy of peace.

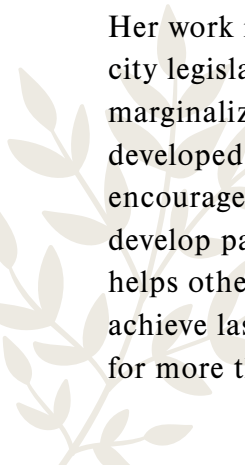
Dr. Chiquita Howard Bostic has lived a life of service as exemplified by her work in academia to ensure that any child has the opportunity to successfully enter college. Through her work with the Shepherd University TRIO-Upward Bound program and as a mentor to staff and students, alike her passion for equitable education is evident in her work—Shepherd University-TRIO Upward Bound Program and Student Letter from Zora Muhammad. She shares with others by giving freely of her time, talent and treasure whether it is through her service to Girl Scouts or organizing community forums on Human Trafficking or Community Diversity.

Dr. Howard Bostic uses her gifts in community collaboration to empower people to recognize and advocate for human and civil rights. Her work on the campus of Shepherd University, as described by President Mary J.C. Hendrik, Ph.D. supported her recent appointment as Associate Vice President for Diversity, Equity and Inclusivity.

Professionally, Dr. Howard-Bostic serves as Associate Vice President for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusivity at Shepherd University and is the Chairperson and Associate Professor in the Department of Sociology, Criminology, and Criminal Justice. She received her Ph.D. in Sociology at Virginia Tech. She founded a business call “Help Bridge” to provide leadership and social justice education in the community.

Through her work with HelpBridge, Dr. Howard-Bostic created The Empowerment Project, an initiative designed to ensure that students cultivate an atmosphere of peace, while increasing the capacity for academic excellence. Her work with youths in the Eastern Panhandle is encouraging to the youth in the community. She is a fierce advocate for building opportunities for others to become engaged in the service. Whether it is with her sorority or building a committed team of volunteers to raise awareness about inequality, Dr. Howard-Bostic uses her influence for the greater good.

Her work is notable because she began serving the community at the age of fourteen working with city legislatures and later working in community organizations as a grant writer and advocate for marginalized youth and adults. She is a wife, mother, community advocate, and educator. She has developed activities that explore customs and values in diverse and changing environments. She encourages self-exploration about unique interactions, conversations, and observations. Her workshops develop participants’ abilities to communicate clearly, build trust, and strengthen relationships. She helps others make educated decisions about social issues. Her career goal is to encourage individuals to achieve lasting positive change. Dr. Howard-Bostic and her family have resided in Martinsburg, W.Va. for more than eleven years.



Service Organization Honor Roll Award

The Safe Haven Campaign Mt. Hope, W.Va.

Qualifying organizations must have demonstrated one or more of the principles for which Dr. King stood: the promotion of human and civil rights, providing assistance to underserved communities, promotion of tolerance, and resolving conflict in a nonviolent manner.

The goal of The Safe Haven Campaign in West Virginia (SafeHavenWV.com) is to reduce the number of infants and children negatively affected by substance use in West Virginia through rehabilitation, foster/support, and prevention/awareness. Melodi Hawley, one of the pastors at I Heart Church in Mt. Hope, W.Va., along with her husband Brandon, was the catalyst for this program after moving from Louisiana and seeing the prevalence of opioid addiction in West Virginia. Safe Haven provides food, clothing, counseling, and life skill classes for mothers and pregnant women facing the challenges of addiction and parenting. They also support foster families who step in to take care of children while parents seek rehabilitation.

The Safe Haven Campaign (SafeHavenWV.com) also includes #NotUs and #SaveWV (NotUsWV.com), online prevention, and awareness programs for elementary and middle school students to share stories about the detrimental consequences of drug addiction and the benefits of overcoming its hold on an individual and family.

One of the goals of Safe Haven is to develop a more comprehensive network of resources for foster/adoptive families and provide trained volunteers and supplies to aid local hospitals caring for infants born with neonatal abstinence syndrome (NAS).



Martin Luther King, Jr. State Holiday Commission

Commissioners

The Honorable Jill Upson

Chair, MLK, Jr. State Holiday Commission
Executive Director
Herbert Henderson Office of Minority Affairs

Rev. Micah Blanks

Pastor, Highland Avenue United Methodist Church,
Fairmont & Warren United Methodist Church, Grafton

Tammy Crockett

Manager, Bookstore Operations
Hagerstown Community College

Derrick Grant

Allegheny Regional Manager
Sizewise World Wide Medical Manufacturing

Charles Ledbetter, Ph.D.

Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Army, Retired

Ann Newcomer-Dungan

Storer College National Alumni Association
Retired Educator

Julie Palas, J.D.

Executive Director, Catastrophic Illness Commission
and WV Women's Commission

Jacqueline A. Proctor

Deputy Commissioner
WV Bureau of Senior Services

Randall Reid-Smith

Curator, WV Department of Arts, Culture, and History

Simone Thomas

Webmaster, Congressional Budget Office

Patricia Wilson

Chair of Education Department
West Virginia State University

Anthony T. Woart, MBA, MA, Ph.D.

Chair of Department of Public Health
Marshall University

We thank the following for their support and participation:

Asbury United Methodist Church
Blenko Glass Company
Capital High School VIP Choir
Christian Love Ministries
Congregation B'nai Jacob
Congressional Budget Office
Hagerstown Community College
Herbert Henderson Office of Minority Affairs
Highland Avenue United Methodist Church
Islamic Association of West Virginia
James "Tiger" Morton Catastrophic Illness Commission
Marshall University

Martin Luther King Jr. Male Chorus
Storer College National Alumni Association
Warren United Methodist Church
West Virginia Army National Guard Joint Color Guard
West Virginia Bureau of Senior Services
West Virginia Department of Arts, Culture and History
West Virginia Department of Commerce
Office of Marketing & Communications
West Virginia Office of the Governor
West Virginia Public Broadcasting
West Virginia State University
West Virginia Women's Commission