



The Huron Valley MLK Day Committee Community Events to Celebrate MLK Day in Milford

The 21st annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day celebration in downtown Milford returns in January for another community-wide observation of the Dr. King National Day of Service. All residents of Huron Valley and the surrounding communities of Metro Detroit are invited to take part in the events put on by the HV MLK Day Committee, from donating to their meal drive to benefit Community Sharing Outreach Center's food pantry, submitting to their Art/Writing/Multimedia Contest, attending one of their educational discussion events, to participating in the March on Main Street and the Meal Assembly. The theme for this year's events is "The Great Force of Nonviolence," and the committee of volunteers hopes to see many area residents make the connection between the Civil Rights Movements and our current lives while supporting the dream of Dr. King for a just society founded on equality and peace. All events are free and open to the public, and details can be found at www.HVMLK.org. The HV MLK Day Committee is also on Facebook and Instagram.

The Great Force of Nonviolence - Art/Writing/Multimedia Contest Submissions due Friday, January 9th

The first opportunity to participate in MLK Day activities is the annual Art/Writing/Multimedia Contest. Held each year in the months preceding the holiday, the contest awards prizes in three age groups for submissions based on a specific theme, this year's theme being "The Great Force of Nonviolence." Submissions can be in any creative medium, including visual art, speeches, poems, songs, and essays. Individuals must register their pieces at www.HVMLK.org under the Contest tab and drop them off at the Carls Family Y by the Friday, January 9 deadline. Selected submissions and winners will be on display at The Suzanne Haskew Arts Center (The SHAC), located at 125 South Main Street, Suite 700. Winners will be highlighted and awarded, and all participants will be recognized for their efforts at the conclusion of the March on Main Street.

**Smithsonian Traveling Poster Display: City of Hope
The Suzanne Haskew Arts Center (The SHAC), January 4 through 24**

Throughout January, The SHAC will feature *City of Hope: Resurrection City and The 1968 Poor People's Campaign*, a traveling poster display curated by The Smithsonian Institute. While the United States emerged as a superpower in the 1960s, poverty prevented access to opportunities for people of every race, age, and region of the country. Although President Lyndon B. Johnson declared a "war on poverty" in 1964, tens of millions of Americans were denied livable wages, adequate housing, nutritious food, quality education, and healthcare. Led by Drs. Martin Luther King Jr. and Ralph David Abernathy, the Southern Christian Leadership Conference planned the Poor People's Campaign—a grassroots, multiracial movement that drew thousands of people to Washington, D.C. For 43 days between May and June 1968, demonstrators demanded social reforms while living side-by-side on the National Mall in a tent city known as Resurrection City. The National Museum of African American History and Culture and the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service organized this poster exhibition to honor Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s daring vision for economic justice and opportunity for every U.S. citizen. The exhibit can be experienced firsthand at The SHAC throughout January.

Film Appreciation Night: *The Third Harmony* at the Milford Independent Cinema (Q&A with author/director Michael Nagler and presentation on nonviolence to follow) Monday, January 12th – 7:00 p.m. (doors open at 6:30), Free admission

The HV MLK Day Committee is sponsoring January's FAN (Film Appreciation Night) at the Milford Independent Cinema, located at 945 East Summit, with a screening and discussion of *The Third Harmony*, a 44-minute documentary exploring the important role that nonviolence plays in the wider struggle to develop humanity's personal growth and fulfillment while benefiting society. Following the film's screening, the committee will facilitate a brief Q&A with author/director Michael Nagler, and then the evening will conclude with a presentation and discussion of nonviolence led by Dr. Bill Warters, retired, award-winning professor and Director of the Master of Arts in Dispute Resolution program at Wayne State University. FAN night at the Milford Independent Cinema is free to the public, but attendees are encouraged to donate \$5 in support of the cinema and concessions will be available for purchase.

**Envisioning a Just Future: Lessons from the Civil Rights Era
Featuring June Manning Thomas, Author of *Struggling to Learn* and U of M Professor
Saturday, January 17 at Milford Public Library – 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.**

The HV MLK Day Committee is partnering with the Baha'i Community of Huron Valley to offer a special presentation and discussion with June Manning Thomas, Professor Emerita of Urban Planning at the University of Michigan and author of several notable books on racial and social justice, including *Struggling to Learn*, her memoir about growing up during desegregation and the struggle to unite the divided communities of our nation's past. This talk will explore practical but gradual strategies that may help modern society overcome many of its contemporary challenges to create a future characterized by improved social and economic justice. As someone who experienced the Civil Rights Movement as well as desegregation efforts firsthand, Professor Thomas is sure to

provide illuminating insight regarding overcoming the challenges related to racism and discrimination. The event will be in the Community Room of Milford Public Library.

**21st Annual March on Main Street Sunday, January 18th - 1:00 p.m. (line-up at 12:30 p.m.)
Prospect Hill Shopping Center to River's Edge Brewing Co.'s The Warehouse**

The 2026 March on Main Street begins at Prospect Hill in Milford (Kroger parking lot) to The Warehouse (formerly The SHAC) on Sunday, January 18. Line up for the march starts at 12:30 with a special ceremony beginning promptly at 1:00 p.m. The march travels through downtown Milford, and all participants are encouraged to arrive at the event with signs showing their support of the ideals and values associated with Dr. King and the Civil Rights Movement. A concluding ceremony will commence at The Warehouse, including hot beverages and light refreshments, music in celebration of MLK Day, and a brief presentation of this year's contest winners. In addition, the HV MLK Day Committee will provide information about how to be a part of their ongoing efforts to continue Dr. King's vision of the Beloved Community where citizens of all ages and backgrounds are asked to donate their time, effort and energy to promote peace and unity.

Now thru January 19th - Meal Drive Meal Assembly at The Warehouse - January 19th, 5:00 to 8:00 p.m.

All area residents are invited to observe the MLK Day National Day of Service by purchasing and donating special non-perishable chili ingredients included in the recipe below to assist local families in need. As in previous years, Community Sharing Outreach Center has partnered with the HVMLK Day Committee to design a family-friendly community service event to support efforts to combat food insecurity faced by local families. Red bins from Community Sharing are placed at collection sites throughout Milford and Highland where residents can leave their donated chili ingredients. Volunteers will pick up item donations from the bins and transport them to The Warehouse for the Meal Assembly event. People can also make a direct monetary donation to the HV MLK Day Committee to support their yearlong effort to donate supplies to Community Sharing's food pantry. The committee recommends a \$20 donation to support this effort, and checks can be made payable to HV MLK Day, or made at their website, www.HVMLK.org.

The HV MLK Day Committee invites everyone to participate in assembling the ingredients into individually decorated bags on the national holiday, Monday, January 19 from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. at The Warehouse. Alternatively, families can opt to decorate bags and assemble their meal donations at home, dropping off their donation at The Warehouse during the event on Monday evening.

Chili Ingredients:

1 pkg McCormick Chili Seasoning
14.5 oz can diced tomatoes, undrained
15.5 oz can kidney beans, undrained
15.5 oz can black or pinto beans, undrained
1 box Marie Callender's Original Corn Bread Mix (just add water)
1 bag tortilla chips
(Community Sharing will provide beef for their families)

Collection Sites:

Matti's Fresh Market The SHAC

Carls Family Y River's Edge Brewing Co.
Earth -N- Soul

Be sure to make a donation of ingredients and attend the weekend's events so that you can be a part of this community-wide effort to answer what Dr. King identified as life's most urgent and persistent question: What are you doing to help others?