

As a tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s legacy of service to others, City Year considers MLK Day as a day "on," not a day "off." Each Martin Luther King Jr. Day, City Year mobilizes its 3,000 AmeriCorps members and thousands more volunteers for a day of service in communities across the nation.

In New Hampshire, City Year is partnering with various organizations, including Volunteer NH, Corporation for National and Community Service, YWCA, Currier Museum of Art, Southern New Hampshire University, Manchester MLK Coalition, Senior Corps, and VISTA. City Year NH aims to create an active family friendly intergenerational event, with multiple offerings, that complements (not competes with) the efforts of the other participating organizations and especially to engage young people to participate in celebrating MLK and his vision.

Our activities will include an inspiring kick off hosted by AmeriCorps members, presented by Mayor Joyce Craig and keynote speaker Rev. Eric Jackson, Senior Pastor of the Brookside Congregational Church. Following the kick off participants will have various choices of activities, including learning more about volunteer options by visiting non-profit info tables; joining in various community service activities (friendly for all ages) such as writing thank you letters to veterans; making bookmarks for Manchester Library; and writing letters of support for refugees through the Letters of Love project; making a blanket for Project Linus, which benefits children who are seriously ill, or traumatized.

Participants also have the option of attending several short workshops to help deepen their understanding of, and increase their capacity to positively engage in, difficult subjects such as racism. Bruce Mallory, the Co-Director of New Hampshire Listens at the Carsey School of Public Policy, University of New Hampshire, who will be facilitating one of the workshops, shared this with us: *"The mission of NH Listens is to help people have informed conversations that can lead to stronger communities. To do that, we strive to bridge the differences that often divide us, whether those are about politics or economics or social issues like race and racism. The only way to bridge such differences is to honestly and openly talk about them, hearing from all sides. This workshop is part of that effort."*

Among Dr. King's most compelling visions is that of a Beloved Community – a community in which people of different backgrounds recognize their interconnectedness and how individual well-being is inextricably linked to the well-being of others. This vision of inclusiveness and fostering mutual understanding is the inspiration for this event.

We are looking forward to hosting nearly 200 of the currently serving National Service members from across our state, as well as students and community members from Manchester and beyond, to a day of celebration of our shared humanity.

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