

My business will support the community observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day by donating the following to be used at the lunch after the March for Unity in Our Community:

Name of business:

Contact information:

\_\_\_ Will deliver it ourselves to the Lakota West cafeteria by noon on 1/16/2017 OR \_\_\_ Will need it to be picked up by 11:15 a.m. on 1/16/2017.

Please forward your response, or address any questions to:

**Gail Webster, event coordinator**

**(513) 860-4049  
confusion@fuse.net**

**4308 Tylersville Road  
West Chester, OH 45011**

To have your business listed as one of the official sponsors of this event, with your logo included in our printed materials, please email your logo, or permission to access it, no later than 1/9/2017, to Melanie, the assistant administrator of Liberty Township, at:

**MHermes@liberty-township.com  
(513) 759-7500**



The officially sanctioned observance of Martin Luther King Day in West Chester and Liberty Townships began in 2000, and has been held annually ever since on the designated national holiday.

The purpose of this celebration is to provide a family-friendly, community-wide event to focus attention on why we celebrate this national holiday; to consciously examine the values and ideals that Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. gave his life to defend; to allow our community a time and a place to consider how his dream lives on in our lives today; and to evaluate how effectively we are reaching the goals of mutual benefit that he proposed.

This coming together is most effective when every facet of the community agrees to participate. You and your business are invited to join the celebration.

## Who supports the **Live the Dream: Our Declaration of Unity** events on Martin Luther King Day?

West Chester Township is the major financial sponsor. They also provide in-kind assistance in preparation for the day's activities, and television coverage by West Chester Cable TV.

Liberty Township gives in-kind assistance in planning and carrying out the events of the day.

Lakota Local School District allows the committee to offer students a contest relative to the holiday. Hearing from the winners is a large portion of the program.

Choice Hotels provide the prize money for the contest winners.

Lakota also has begun hosting the lunch and program, and provides students to help with various aspects of the lunch in exchange for them receiving community service hours.

MidPointe Library hosts a follow-up program during Black History Month, which is a direct result of one man's involvement with these events.

Various churches and civic organizations also provide assistance, in the form of choir members, baked goods, ushers, greeters, and behind-the-scenes help.

Mostly, however, ordinary community members who have a passion to see the Dream become more of a reality, volunteer to organize and coordinate the day's events. We are not an official organization or group, just a hodge-podge of a few citizens whose one task is to allow our towns to have something local and special to honor the memory of Rev. Dr. King and the causes for which he stood.

Local businesses become involved by donating food for the lunch (typically a dish that serves 50-75), or tabletop decorations, and by displaying publicity posters in their establishments. You are invited to become one of our sponsors this year with such a donation.

Thank you for your kind consideration of this request.

## **The March for Unity In Our Community**

In 2003, a half mile march was added to the annual MLK program, as a means to connect with some of the historical aspects of the Civil Rights Movement, and to give families a chance to take "one small step" toward racial reconciliation with neighbors they might not yet know. The bonds formed in a brisk January hike, while singing *We Shall Overcome*, continue to be forged at a casual lunch at the end of the walk. Beginning in 2017, the formal program will follow immediately after the lunch.

### **Why we march today:**

**Not because we must, but because we may.  
Not as a protest to change what is not fair,  
but as a celebration of the positives,  
for which we are thankful.**

**We are members of a community, coming together peacefully to demonstrate that ours is a town that strives toward racial reconciliation, and hopes to express that goal symbolically in a tangible way.**

The March for Unity begins at noon on Martin Luther King Day at the Clocktower at The Square at Union Centre, and arrives at the Lakota West High School cafeteria, where marchers are invited in for a free hot lunch, donated by various local restaurants, and live jazz provided by the Lakota West Jazz Combo. The program, which will begin around 1:15 p.m., will include a keynote speaker, special music, and student contest winners sharing their entries, as well as a time for focused table discussions.

Restaurants and other establishments that donate food or goods for the lunch will be acknowledged in our printed materials, which include program bulletins, table tents, posters, as well as in a Powerpoint slide. This is one way that businesses can be recognized for supporting efforts toward racial equality and justice within our community. We invite you to be one of them.