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Greater Ithaca Activities Center's
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration
Saturday, January 13, 2024, 9:00 am – 2:00 pm
at Beverly J. Martin (BJM) School Gymnasium
(302 W. Buffalo St, Ithaca – Buffalo St. Entrance)

[Ithaca, NY, December 14, 2023] – The Greater Ithaca Activities Center will be hosting its Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Celebration on January 13, 2024, from 9:00am - 2:00pm at the Beverly J. Martin School (BJM) Gymnasium. This year's celebration will feature keynote speaker Executive Director of Florida Rights Restoration Coalition, Desmond Meade, a light breakfast, several educational workshops, special performances, a recognition of recent ancestral leaders, and a luncheon. Childcare will be provided (ages 4+). Registration is required. To register, visit bit.ly/giacmlk23 or call (607) 272-3622.

Each year our MLK Celebration theme is represented by a quote from Dr. King and reflects the salient issues facing citizens of color, particularly Black citizens, in our country. Dr. King was a staunch advocate for voting rights. Given that 2024 is a major election year in our country and because Black people continue to fight for modernized and legally strengthened voting rights, our Breakfast theme will center the right to vote. Dr. King addressed this issue in his 1957 speech, Give Us The Ballot.

The theme for the 2024 MLK Breakfast is taken from that speech, **Give Us The Ballot – "So long as I do not firmly and irrevocably possess the right to vote I do not possess myself."** We have invited and are excited to have Desmond Meade as our keynote speaker for the celebration. Desmond Meade is a formerly homeless returning citizen who overcame many obstacles to eventually become the Executive Director of Florida Rights Restoration Coalition (FRRC). He is a graduate of Miami Dade College, Florida International, University College of Law and a Ford Global Fellow. He led a successful campaign to re-enfranchise 1.4 million returning citizens in Florida. His efforts led to him being named one of TIME Magazine's 100 most influential people in the world in 2019, and a 2021 MacArthur "Genius" Fellow. Mr. Meade continues to lead efforts to empower and civically re-engage local communities across the state, and to reshape local, state, and national criminal justice policies.

Facilitated educational workshops include:

1. You Can Go Home Again: Dismantling the Injustices Behind Re-Entry (Part 2)
    a. Richard Rivera, Endeavor House Program Coordinator, OAR of Tompkins County
2. Words Have Meaning – A DEI & Belonging Terminology Workshop
    a. Charlene Holmes, Chief Equity and Diversity Officer
3. Black Women's Mental Health: Impact of Unjust Killings
    a. Dr. Leslyn McBean-Clairborne, Executive Director of the Greater Ithaca Activities Center

This program is made possible thanks to a grant from the Just Community Fund and Tompkins Today and Tomorrow Fund of Community Foundation of Tompkins County; the Ben and Jerry's Foundation; and Tompkins Community Bank. For questions or more information, call (607) 272-3622 or email giacmain@cityofithaca.org.