

Honoring the legacy of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

“ The time is always right to
do what is right -MLK



Martin Luther King Jr. Day is more than a holiday or day-off. It is an opportunity to remember the life and legacy of MLK and reflect on how we can be involved in curbing injustice in the world around us. As a church family, we desire to use this moment as an opportunity to act in advocating for the marginalized, under-resourced, and forgotten around us. Below are a few ways you can respond today!

Get Involved With The Dream Center, A Woodside Partner

Woodside Bible Church founded the Dream Center (Pontiac, MI) in 2014 to advocate for people living in under-resourced communities. The Dream Center engages low-income individuals, at-risk-youth, and struggling families with the love of Jesus, partnering with them to thrive and move toward self-sustainability.

As a non-profit, volunteer-driven organization, the Dream Center listens, learns, laments, and leads in the communities served, reconciling people to God and people to people. Determining to break the generational cycle of poverty by providing resources, opportunities, and relationships that heal brokenness, infuse justice, and provide equity.

Equity and life-transformation require access to quality education, living wage employment, and housing. To that end, the Dream Center offers an after-school program for kids K-grade 5, workforce development and social enterprise programs, housing for young men with discipleship and leadership development opportunities, and a food pantry.

You can join the team and help us serve and encourage the people of Pontiac!

- Volunteer in the after-school tutoring program
- Provide meals for residential housing ministry
- Mentor individuals through workforce development
- Serve in the food pantry
- Help with administrative needs or planning events

Get involved today: dcofmi.org/volunteer

Connect With A Friend, Neighbor, Or Colleague From A Different Culture Or Race

Taking time to listen and learn from different perspectives and backgrounds can help us better understand the unique stories behind injustice issues in our world (Acts 10:34-35).

- Consider hosting a family dinner or Zoom call with someone of a different cultural or racial background to begin a path toward healing and understanding.

Impact Children And Families In Under-resourced Communities

The burden of living in a broken or impoverished community is a significant injustice that often goes unseen and inhibits families from living life to the full (John 10:10).

- Please get to know Woodside partner organizations and get involved in their work by tutoring a child, mentoring a young adult, coming alongside a family, and more.

Suggested Organizations:

Dream Centers of Michigan - dcofmi.org

Shiloh Detroit - shilohdetroit.com

Soar Detroit - soardetroit.com

Grace Centers of Hope - gracecentersofhope.org

Life Remodeled - liferemodeled.org

Provide Love And Support To Children In Foster Care

By no fault of their own, children in the foster care system are forced to face the consequences of living without a permanent home or a normal childhood. There are currently over 13,000 children in foster care in the state of Michigan.

- You can help provide a home and become an advocate for the fatherless by coming alongside organizations bridging the gap (Psalm 68:5-6).

Suggested Organizations:

House of Providence - thehofp.org

Youth Haven Ranch - youthhaven.org

Bring Spiritual Freedom To Prisoners

All of us can find freedom and a new life in Christ – even those currently incarcerated (Galatians 5:1). Help change lives and bring hope to inmates through the biblically based ministries.

Learn more:

Forgotten Man Ministry - forgottenman.org

Prison Fellowship - prisonfellowship.org

Help Restore Hope To Victims Of Human Trafficking

Human trafficking, or modern-day slavery, is when people profit from the exploitation or control of others. This global problem is not just affecting people around the world, but it is an issue that exists and happens in our local communities every day.

→ Volunteer your time to support Woodside partners as they work to restore hope to trafficking victims in Southeastern Michigan (Luke 4:18).

Suggested Organizations:

The Joseph Project - josephproject.com

Hope Against Trafficking - hopeagainsttrafficking.org

All Worthy of Love - allworthyoflove.org

Learn More About How You Can Redeem Justice And Advocate For Others

Gaining knowledge and wisdom can help us develop the appropriate approach toward advocacy for others (James 1:5).

→ This week, review Woodside recommended resources for understanding justice and reconciliation as a launching point for family discussions, broader understanding, and a biblical approach.

Start here: woodsidebible.org/stories/resources-for-understanding-racial-injustice/