



The 2011 Annual Report



Dear Friends,

2011 has been a dynamic year for the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center.

We entered the year with new leadership, an empowered and exhilarated staff, and a lot of work to do. In reaching out to other agencies, we found new collaborations that broadened our programming. We reestablished relationships with past supporters and applied for grants with new funders. We've made new relationships with neighbors, creating a stronger volunteer base for our services. We've also been busy working on the infrastructure of the Center. We have a new gas boiler, a new website, a new server, a new sign and a Facebook page!

The staff and board have been focused on making the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center a Center of excellence. Change does not always come easily. We have had to make some hard decisions regarding where to focus our energy and money. We are still working with a very lean staff, so our focus has been on maintaining and expanding the programs that most impact our clients. We have added new preschool and after school classes and have expanded the age groups for Summer Camp, so that our youngest students were able to get a head start on both lit-

eracy and math before beginning kindergarten, and our older students could continue to focus on academics during the summer. A motivated group of women from last year's Strong Woman Series began discussing the desire to start businesses, so we added a new Strong Woman Series focused on entrepreneurship. We realize the importance of teaching our families to live a healthy lifestyle, so in addition to providing food for our hungry neighbors through the food pantry, we have expanded our nutrition education to include food pantry clients and have modified the pantry to help clients meet their dietary and cultural needs.

While the Annual Meeting is a perfect time to look back on all that we've accomplished, it's also a great time to look ahead to the coming years and set some new goals. We eagerly look toward 2012 to see what opportunities lie ahead for the Center and its clients.

We've been very blessed to have the support of so many foundations, supporters, donors and volunteers. Many of you have made the same statement as Roy, one of our long-term donors, "I wanted to make a difference in my own backyard." We thank you all for helping us be a catalyst for change in so many people's lives.

With gratitude,

Muga There

Marilyn Warren, Executive Director

Dear MLKCC Community,

Welcome to our first expanded Annual Report. This past year has been an exciting one at the Center. Beside the excitement, it has been an extremely successful year as well. The Center has stabilized its finances by reducing costs and increasing revenue. We have become more energy efficient and therefore reduced energy costs. We have worked with our lenders to refinance the mortgage on our building. In short, we have analyzed all aspects of our expense side and reduced expenses by over \$200K. The Center is lean and nimble.

On the revenue side, we have increased enrollment in our educational programs while maintaining our rigorous reading standards. We have reached out to all our major benefactors, individual donors, and foundations to reconnect and reestablish our good name. The result of those efforts has yielded a number of increased gifts as well as relations with new funders.

On the program side, we continue to offer our Breakfast program and we have become a client choice food pantry with recently expanded evening hours to meet the food needs of working families. Our Strong Woman Series and Strong Woman Business Series continue to grow in popularity and their impact on women in the community.

On the administrative and governance side, we have undertaken an ambitious strategic planning process that will culminate in a renewed commitment to our mission and renewed vigor on how best we can serve our community.

2011 will be remembered as the Renaissance of the MLKCC. Our 90th year serving Newport County is just around the corner, and the Center stands strong ready to be a vital force in the service of Newport County.

We would like to thank our loyal supporters and welcome our new friends; our future is bright and will remain so with your continued commitment to our mission.

Sincerely,

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Whitney Slade, Chair, Board of Trustees





2011 Highlights and Accomplishments

The Lighthouse Preschool added a 3rd class in Sept. 2011, serving 32 children from Newport and Middletown, Bristol, and Portsmouth.

The *Move Up Math* program, piloted in Summer Adventure Camp, has been expanded into the After School program.

Be a Buddy, Not a Bully, a countywide day-long program aimed at preventing bullying, was held in April.

The *Feed a Friend Food Pantry* in March adopted a client-choice model so that clients can choose food that meets their cultural and dietary needs. An expanded network of donors allows clients to have more fresh produce and meat choices.

The Strong Woman Series expanded, adding a Strong Woman Business Series.

Enrollment increased in the *Summer Adventure Camp* from 40 campers in 2010 to 62 campers in 2011.

The Center was the charity recipient for the *Newport International Polo Club Gala*, the *Newport County Board of Realtors*, and the *Taste of the NFL*.

We created a new website, a new Facebook page and a new sign.

We have entered into an innovative new co-location with *Literacy Volunteers of East Bay* to support family literacy and provide educational services for the whole family.

The *Healthy Kids, Healthy Families* program, taught by a registered dietician to both the children and their parents, expanded to serve the *Feed a Friend Food Pantry* clients.

Our Programs....

"I don't see a kid who doesn't like the MLK"...Alize, age 9

The Lighthouse Preschool

is an affordable DHS-licensed program for children age 3 through school age. Our program was referenced in the creation of the RI Early Childhood Education Standards and was designated a Preschool Center of Excellence by the national Early Reading First program.

One of the strengths of our program is the continuity of our staff, who have all been teaching at the Center for over 15 years. Many of the students are the children of former Lighthouse Preschool students. We have developed very strong relationships with all of our families, allowing us to meet a variety of needs of the whole family. "I like preschool because we learn our letters, sing, and play with play dough"... Chloe, age 5





"The MLK is a special place because it helps kids learn"...Owen, age 7

The Lighthouse After School Program

is an affordable DHS-licensed before and after school program for children in grades K-5 whose mission is to support the academic success of the students. The children are bused from the Newport Public schools to the Center, where the afternoon begins with a healthy snack. The program consists of homework help, nutrition classes with a registered dietician, the Move Up Math program, and enrichment workshops.

"I like the MLK because it takes care of me and makes me smart and gives me good food" ...Saudy, age 7

Summer Adventure Camp

As part of the Reading Reaps Rewards program, the goal of summer camp is to help prevent the half grade level decrease in a child's reading level that traditionally occurs over the summer. Through collaborations with Save the Bay, Ballard Park, the Naval Station Newport, International Yacht Restoration School, Norman Bird Sanctuary, and other local organizations, the day is filled with exciting field trips that integrate literacy, math, and science lessons into a full day of experiential learning and fun.

"Catching crabs and watching them move in the water was fascinating"...Kiara, age 10





Feed a Friend Food Pantry

Provides food assistance and nutritional education to anyone in Newport County who is food insecure. Non perishable food, fresh produce, bread, frozen meat and hygiene products are available. We have developed a large network of donors who hold food drives, place boxes for food donations in their places of worship or business, donate fresh eggs and produce, put a monthly food donation on their own business account, and drop off food at the Center. Our clients come to us from all over Newport County. We also provide shelter packs for our homeless neighbors and Thanksgiving and Holiday baskets for those families who need extra help.

"I started using the food pantry at one of the lowest points of my life. Now I'm back as a volunteer. The food pantry saved my life"...Linda

Breakfast Program

As the only daily mealsite in Newport County, our Breakfast Program serves a diverse group of people who enjoy socializing over a nutritious breakfast.

The Strong Woman Series

Now in its fourth year, the Strong Woman Series was developed to enlighten, celebrate, and empower women as women. A core group of 20-25 women meet monthly to discuss topics identified by the women themselves as some of the most pressing issues of their lives. Topics have included basic budgeting, healthy relationships, healthy eating on a budget, dressing for success, interview and resume writing skills, physical fitness and relaxation, how and when to access legal aid, and life-long learning. Collaborations with People's Credit Union, Newport Hospital, the Newport Public Library, and Salve Regina University have made this a popular series.





"I'm excited to be learning new ways to improve my life"...Denise

The Strong Woman Business Series

In its inaugural year, this Series was created for the woman who desires to become an entrepreneur. Over the course of a nine month program, a core group of women meet monthly to develop their individual business plans. Each session is interactive, with the women presenting and refining their ideas. Topics include visioning exercises, taking control of your finances, market research, marketing strategies, financial statements, and the final business plan presentation. This series is a collaboration with The Center for Women & Enterprise and People's Credit Union

Healthy Kids, Healthy Families

Taught by a registered dietician, this program's goal is to teach children and their families to love healthy eating and physical activity. The children participate weekly in a cooking class, learning to make healthy snacks and light meals. Parents are encouraged to participate in the cooking class and in parent/child physical activities. Once a month, families are invited to stay for a family dinner.





"Is it Monday yet? I can't wait for Family Dinner"...Andre, age 8

Our Mission...

The Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center is a safe and caring environment offering nutritional, educational, social, and referral services to individuals of all ages and their families in Newport County. These programs provide personal growth opportunities leading to self-sufficiency.

Meet Our Clients...

He's the fisherman who had a hip replacement, with no insurance, and must choose between purchasing food or paying his hospital bill.

They're the family who can go to work with peace of mind, knowing their children are thriving in a safe and nurturing environment that will develop their minds and character.

She's the single woman who recently lost her job, whose home is in foreclosure, and who has run out of food.

They're the women who have learned to balance their family's budget, who feel more confident, and are taking better care of themselves physically and emotionally.

They're the family whose income has been cut in half because his full-time job has been replaced with two minimum wage jobs and her full-time job is now part-time.

She's the single woman who has a dream of turning her art into wallpaper or murals.

They're the family whose two older children attended the Lighthouse Preschool, earned scholarships to a private elementary school, and whose younger child is now a preschool student.

He's the 18 year old high school student who is no longer in DCYF care and has no food.

She's the mother of a son in the Lighthouse Preschool and a daughter in the Lighthouse After School Program who moved here from Brazil and is taking a Certified Nurses Training course and has a tutor from Literacy Volunteers of East Bay.

She's the mom who works all day and knows her children are learning in a stimulating, fun summer camp rather than being babysat.

He's the man you've seen sleeping on a park bench who joins us for breakfast every morning.

Service Profile

Lighthouse Preschool

- 32 children were served, with 4 receiving full and 6 receiving partial DHS support.
- Communities represented by our preschoolers include Newport, Middletown, Portsmouth and Bristol.
- Preschool families have recently relocated here from Antigua, Jamaica, and North Kingstown.
- Eight children entered kindergarten already reading.

Lighthouse After School Academy & Summer Adventure Camp

- 73 children participated in the K-5 After School Academy, with 625 receiving full or partial DHS support.
- 62 children attended Summer Camp, with 39 children enrolled in both programs.
- Communities represented in the After School Program are Newport, Middletown, Portsmouth and Tiverton. One child attends private school.
- 90% of the children increased or maintained their reading level over the summer.
- 65% of the students are reading above grade level.
- 100% of the students maintained or increased their math scores over the summer.

Hunger Services

- 106 individuals (unduplicated number) were served 7,414 meals in the Breakfast Program.
- Every month saw a 20% increase in new families, with 49,959 meals served in 2011.
- 433 people received Thanksgiving Baskets (130 families served 5,196 meals).
- 471 people received Christmas Baskets (142 families served 9,891 meals).

Other Services

- 93 students participated in Be a Buddy, Not a Bully.
- 31 women participated in the Strong Women Series.
- 11 people received weekly donated chiropractic services from Dr. Ronald Marsh.







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Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center Finances

Fiscal year January 1, 2011—December 31, 2011 unaudited totals.

Public Support and Revenue

Federal Support	\$14,015
State and Local Support	\$19,643
Foundation Grants	\$154,496
Contributions and Fundraising	\$312,704
Parent Paid Program Fees	\$100,327
DHS Reimbursement for Programs	\$265,188
Other	\$39,886
TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUE	\$906,259

Expenses

Management and General	\$90,871
Development and Fundraising	\$75,611
Program Support	\$588,347
Other	\$20,006
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$774,835

Net Income \$131,424

Our Supporters, Donors and Volunteers

You, our supporters, donors, and volunteers, come from all ages and walks of life.

You are the 5 year old boy who asked for canned goods for our food pantry instead of birthday gifts.

You are the person who faithfully volunteers in the food pantry week after week, affording our clients privacy and the dignity of choice, allowing them to choose food that meets their dietary restrictions and/or cultural food preferences.

You are the staff of a local business establishment who chooses to forgo a holiday party and instead purchases toys for needy children.

You are the person who hand-delivers a check for the Breakfast Program every month because you know what it feels like to grow up hungry.

You are the college students and retirees who serve as homework-helpers in our after-school program.

You are the churches and civic organizations who make feeding the hungry through the Feed a Friend food pantry a part of your own mission.

You are the person who purchases cereal through her Amazon account or who delivers 5 boxes of cereal every month for the Breakfast Program.

You are the young professional who attended our educational programs and is now able to give back to your community.

You are the supporters who volunteered at Be a Buddy, Not a Bully, at Swing into Spring, at the Polo Gala, and during all of the other community events held at the Center.

You are the 56 people who volunteered in the Lighthouse After School Program and Summer Adventure Camp.

You are the 165 people who volunteered 5,298 hours in the Feed a Friend food pantry,

You are the 9 people who performed 410 hours of community service Pantry Express program, supplying 37,300 pounds of fresh produce to approximately 151 local households.



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"Volunteers come from Salve and St. George's and some just come from their houses" ...Nathan, age 9





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– Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.