



DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. COMMUNITY CENTER

Food for the Body and Mind



2013 Annual Report



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND BOARD PRESIDENT



Marilyn Warren
Executive Director



Tom Callahan
President
Board of Trustees

Dear Friends,

With great pleasure, we issue this joint letter from the Board of Trustees and Executive Director highlighting the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center's 92nd year of service to the diverse members of Newport County. The MLK Community Center continues to be a vital resource for community members seeking assistance for hunger relief, high quality early childhood and school age education, and supports and services that will help improve the quality of their lives.

You, our supporters, have helped us meet new challenges and accomplish new goals in 2013.

Always focused on the needs of the people we serve, the MLK Community Center remains nimble in program delivery. We work holistically with our families while remaining fiscally strong. Most clients access more than one program area, allowing us to work with the family as a whole. The MLK Community Center is unique in many ways...one-on-one nutrition counseling with our Registered Dietitian, regardless of insurance status; Afterschool Program teachers accompanying parents to their child's IEP meetings; the delivery of food to our hungry homebound neighbors; teachers who are adept at teaching children with many different learning styles; a vast array of field trips that expand our children's knowledge base; a focus on providing healthy food options for our clients; and programs that encourage people to accomplish their own personal goals.

If you have recently passed the front of our building, you have witnessed one of our most exciting undertakings this year: the relocation of our front entrance and addition of our new loading dock and the expansion of our food pantry, Food 2 Friends program, and professional space for our staff. This renovation, which did not disrupt our services, was needed to address the growing issue of hunger and need for community social service support.

Our strategic plan is constantly updated, reviewing our accomplishments and extending our goals. This dynamic process allows us to carefully examine challenging issues and reach creative solutions through our strong staff and trustee partnership. We are clearly focused on engaging with our friends and partners. By remaining flexible and responsive to the needs of Newport County, the MLK Community Center remains one of the area's most essential resources.

The program statistics presented here do not tell the whole story of who we are. We urge you to read our client stories. They illustrate the importance of the MLK Community Center in the lives of our neighbors.

Meeting the needs of our shared community truly "takes a village". A village of sustaining donors, generous foundations, businesses, community and faith-based organizations, private donors, and volunteers. A village committed to building a stronger community. You make our work possible.

Thank you for being a part of the MLK,

A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to read "Marilyn Warren".

A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to read "Tom Callahan".



Program Snapshot



BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

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**Deceased*

HUNGER SERVICES

Breakfast Program: Nutritious meals served Monday-Friday by volunteers.

Daily Bread: Bread and other baked items from local restaurants and merchants are available Monday-Friday.

Feed a Friend Food Pantry: MLK volunteers escort shoppers through pantry to select non-perishable food items, meats, produce (when available) and household items four times a week. The Center also provides Emergency Food Boxes and Shelter Packs for individuals in crisis.

Food 2 Friends (Food Delivery): MLK volunteers deliver groceries, produce and household items from the Center's food pantry to food-insecure homebound individuals.

Dietitian/Nutrition: MLK staff dietitian provides free nutrition counseling, guidance in food pantry shopping, and cooking and nutrition classes.

EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Preschool: The MLK offers a literacy-based, DHS licensed, affordable program for children 3 years old to school age. Daily program includes breakfast, hot lunch, and snack, a caring and structured environment, creative play, indoor and outdoor physical activity, nutrition classes, music and more.

Afterschool Program: The afternoon hours count at the MLK with literacy and math-based programming Monday - Friday from 3:30-6:00. Children in kindergarten through 4th grade enjoy a full hot meal, homework help, indoor and outdoor physical activity, and a wide variety of enrichment activities; including robotics, violin, art, nutrition class and more!

Summer Adventure Camp: MLK campers enjoy 8 weeks of fun-filled days throughout the summer with literacy, art, Move Up Math, science, sports, nutrition classes, beach trips and field trips to Sail Newport, the Norman Bird Sanctuary, Ballard Park, Newport County YMCA and more.

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

Family Dinners: MLK families gather for dinner twice a month at the MLK to share a healthy meal prepared by volunteer chefs, using ingredients from the Food Pantry. When available, dinners use fresh vegetables from Community Gardens, Farm Fresh RI and Pantry Express.

Lunch & Learn: Once a month, seniors gather at the MLK for a healthy lunch and an informational workshop on a wide range of topics. Recent sessions have included Nutrition, Medicare/Medicaid, Chair Exercise and Avoiding Scams.

Integrated Senior Health Insurance Program (SHIP): The MLK Case Manager offers consultation for seniors and their families to understand, plan and manage health and Medicare benefits.



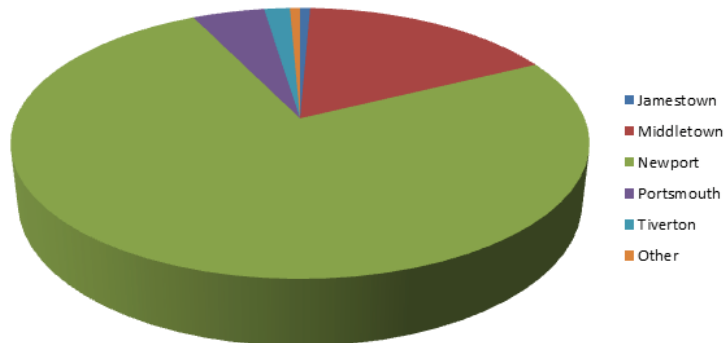


Data Depicts Our Clients, the MLK Meets the Needs

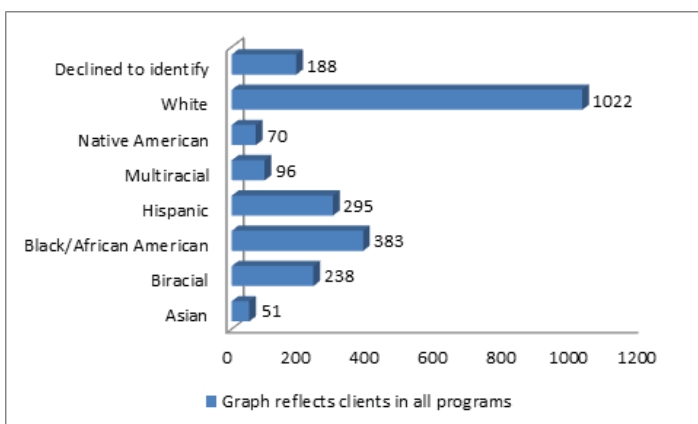
While the majority of MLK Community Center clients live in Newport, 25% reside in Middletown, Portsmouth and beyond. Looking at the three main program areas in 2013, the MLK served over **2,300 clients** in the Center's **Hunger Programs**, over **150 children** in the **Education Programs** and nearly **500 individuals** in **Community** activities.

Mirroring the diversity of the community we serve, the MLK Center's clients represent a wide variety of ethnic backgrounds. A staggering **91% of our clients exist on household annual incomes of less than \$19,999** and **79% survive on less than \$14,999** per year.

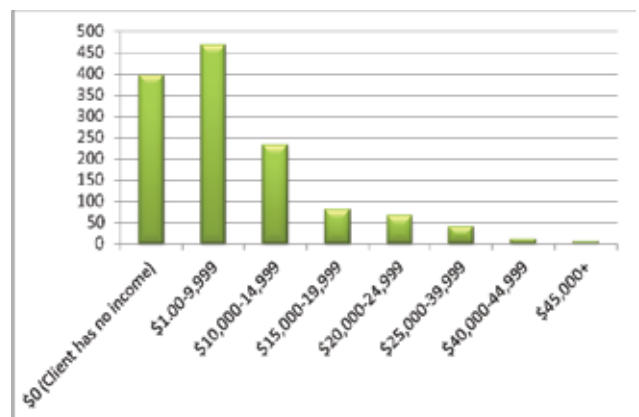
CLIENTS BY TOWN



ETHNICITY OF MLK CLIENTS



INCOME LEVELS OF MLK CLIENTS





Feeding Our Community

The MLK Community Center helps feed Newport County's most vulnerable populations. From serving breakfast to distributing food via the Food Pantry to programs like Family Dinners and Lunch and Learn, the Center's critical community programs fight hunger every day.

2013 MLK HUNGER SERVICES DATA:

- Our **Breakfast Program**, the only daily meal site in Newport County, served over **10,500 meals to 325 individuals**.
- The **Feed a Friend** food pantry served **341 children**, aged birth to 12, and **230 individuals** who are **over 65**.
- The **Feed a Friend** food pantry distributed **290 Food 4 Kids boxes** during the winter and spring school vacations.
- The **Feed a Friend** food pantry served **498 new families** and provided over **144,000 meals** in 2013 through its food pantry and **Food 2 Friends** mobile food pantry.
- **633 MLK clients** enjoyed over **37,000 pounds of fresh produce** from Pantry Express through the RI Community Food Bank and community gardens and over **500 Veggie Boxes** from Farm Fresh RI.
- **185 Thanksgiving baskets** and **181 Christmas food baskets** were distributed to **609 individuals**. These baskets provided enough meals for the Thanksgiving dinner and long weekend and for the Christmas dinner and week-long holiday break.
- **151 shelter packs** were distributed to homeless neighbors and **130 emergency food boxes** were distributed during on pantry days.
- Only **26%** of MLK families receive **SNAP ("Food Stamps")** benefits. While over 90% of our clients earn less than \$20,000 annually, this is still too high to qualify for benefits.
- **5%** of MLK families are **active duty** or **retired military families**.

FROM ONE OF OUR CLIENTS:

*"I never thought I would be one to receive food rather than give it...
... So many people are hurting and hungry. God bless all the people that give and God bless the MLK food pantry."*





Educating our Community

The MLK Community Center's education programs delivered substantial outcomes in 2013. Read on to see how the preschool, afterschool program and summer camp make a difference.

2013 LIGHTHOUSE PRESCHOOL DATA:

- **49 children** attended preschool, with **24% receiving full DHS assistance** and 16% receiving partial DHS assistance. A significant number of families choose the MLK's preschool over other alternatives and pay full tuition.
- **Communities** represented by our preschoolers include **Middletown, Portsmouth, Newport, & Tiverton.**
- **Languages** spoken in the home include **English, Spanish, Portuguese, Korean** and **Chinese.**
- **64 % of our preschoolers** entered Kindergarten already reading.

2013 LIGHTHOUSE AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM DATA:

- **67 children** attended the afterschool K-4 program, with **46% receiving full DHS assistance** and **15% receiving partial DHS assistance**, while 2% of the children are homeless.
- **13.4%** of the students are **English Language Learners.**
- Workshops include Move up Math, SPARK physical fitness, violin lessons, art, robotics, and nutrition classes.
- Students participated in student-led community service activities throughout the year.

2013 SUMMER CAMP DATA:

- **45 children** attended summer camp.
- **Communities** represented include **Newport, Middletown, Portsmouth, Johnston, and the state of Virginia.**
- All staff members are **certified teachers**, including a former student, now a Newport Public School kindergarten teacher.
- At the end of the 8 weeks of summer camp, **83% of the students had increased or maintained their reading level**, and **80% of the students increased their math fluency.**
- **15.6%** of the children in summer camp receive special education services and have an IEP.
- Campers worked with **Clean Ocean Access** to test ocean water weekly.
- All of the students participated in a **student-led community service activity.**
- **Field trips** included **Sail Newport**, a day sail aboard **Save the Bay's Alletta Morris**, trips to **Norman Bird Sanctuary, Ballard Park**, local beaches, clamming, **Island Books, Newport Daily News, International Yacht Restoration School, Boys & Girls Club Camp Grosvenor, Preservation Society's "Chepstow", the Newport County YMCA, and the Save the Bay Exploration Center.**

FROM AN MLK FAMILY

"The entire staff at the MLK Community Center provides a safe and nurturing place where Joaquin feels at home, while at the same time reinforcing the core values we want our son to have as he develops into the person he will become. We are truly grateful for the care and relationships that have developed between our son and all the others who influence him in a positive way when we're at work. Also, we are grateful for the awesome and amazing people whom we've met through the MLK...Families and staff included!"



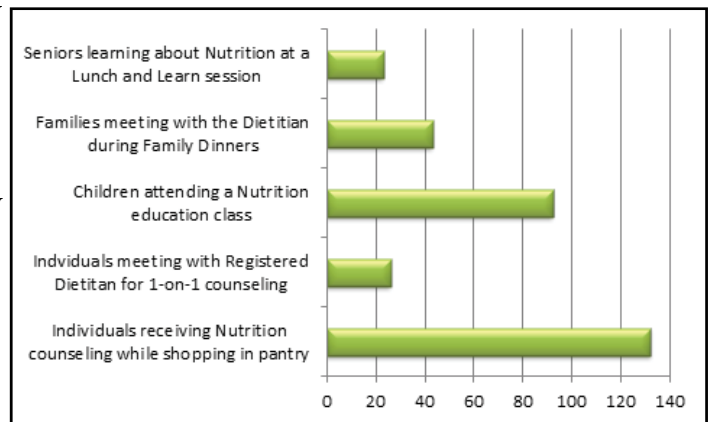


Building a Stronger Community

A Case Manager joined the MLK staff in 2012. She hosted monthly Lunch & Learn sessions for local seniors. Twenty-three individuals attended in 2013, enjoying a nutritious lunch while discussing topics that included financial literacy, Medicare and Medicaid, avoiding scams, chair exercises, and more.

By adding a Registered Dietitian to the MLK Community Center staff, we are able to offer programming that is both unique among local agencies and yields positive results for all of our clients. She works holistically within the programs, providing counseling, expanding the nutritional horizons of our students, and teaching cooking classes to our food pantry clients.

Case management and nutrition services both empower our clients and promote a healthier community.



Nutrition Program Impacts

2013 MLK COMMUNITY SERVICES DATA:

- The **Case Manager** made **302 referrals** for a variety of community services. Healthcare, SNAP and mental health questions comprise the majority of referrals.
- **Nine MLK adult client** were referred to **Literacy Volunteers of East Bay's onsite office at the MLK Center** for literacy tutoring, ESL tutoring or computer training.
- **132 individuals** received nutrition counseling while shopping in the food pantry.
- **26 individuals** met with our **Registered Dietitian** for 1-on-1 nutrition counseling services.
- **92 children** received nutrition education.
- **43 families** met with the dietitian during Family Dinners.
- **23 individuals** enjoyed a nutritious meal and an educational presentation at **Lunch & Learn**.
- **181 individuals** attended **Family Dinners**, sharing a healthy meal together using ingredients from the Food Pantry.





Data isn't the whole story.

People are.

RACHEL is single mom to 10 year old Ryan. She is a Food Pantry client and Ryan has attended MLK Community Center education programs for five years. Rachel struggled with unhealthy eating behaviors learned in childhood. Ryan, however, began eating an apple or orange each day when the MLK aligned the children's meals and snacks to a healthier model.

In collaboration with Farm Fresh RI, the families of enrolled children received Veggie Boxes filled with fresh local produce. The first Veggie Box contained blueberries, a fruit Rachel had never tried. She used the recipe for blueberry muffins that accompanied the box and happily reported that both she and Ryan enjoyed the fruit.

Not long ago, Ryan's pediatrician told Rachel her son was overweight and expressed significant concern about long-term health effects. He recommended Ryan see a dietitian. RITECare, Rachel's medical insurance, does not cover such visits, but thanks to the MLK Community Center's Healthy Kids, Healthy Families program, Rachel and Ryan meet weekly with our registered dietitian.

Rachel and the dietitian work together to make changes in the family's diet, adding fresh produce to the food she receives from the MLK's food pantry. As Rachel and her family explore new and healthy foods, she's tried new recipes. Every week, she tells the education staff about what she has tried, and how she's expanding her cooking repertoire, finding new ways to incorporate the produce into their diet. The family's changing attitudes have grown to encompass exercise, too. Ryan is now enrolled in dance and karate, where he is learning the joys of movement and expression, and how to build a strong and flexible body. Because of the MLK Community Center, Rachel and Ryan's lives have been transformed.

STEVE, a Breakfast Program and Food Pantry client, met with our Case Manager in early 2013 to ask for help in finding a job. She realized computer skills would improve Steve's employment prospects tremendously and arranged for him to take computer classes with Literacy Volunteers of East Bay, in their offices at the MLK Community Center. Not long after, Steve returned to our Case Manager to tell her he had found a job online. He is now working at Stop & Shop in the Pick-Up program, where he logs and receives orders from the distribution center and brings the groceries to waiting patrons. Steve is personable, proud of his job and eager to make his employer's new program a success. Until recently Steve lived in the homeless section of the McKinney shelter. He's proud that he has moved to a transitional apartment there and hopes to have his own apartment some day. He looks forward to the day when he no longer needs the Breakfast Program or Food Pantry. But in the meantime, he is grateful for the support provided by the MLK Center as he works hard to improve his life.





ROBERT is a 56 year old man, referred to the MLK Community Center by Visiting Nurse Services of Newport and Bristol Counties. His diagnosis is “failure to thrive.” His wife has serious mental illness and will not take her medication. He can’t walk, has no car, no endurance, and uses the RIDE program for medical appointments. Robert can, however, cook for himself and his wife. The MLK’s Food 2 Friends delivery program of nutritious food means the difference between life and death for this couple.

CARLA grew up in Newport and has always been a hard worker. She and her husband had a good, middle-class life, raising two daughters and a son. When Carla became a widow in 2008, she faced financial hardship for the first time. Two years ago, she became unable to work following unsuccessful back surgery. Carla tells how the food pantry at the MLK Community Center changed her life.... ***“After my husband, and then my mother, passed away, I was faced with a mountain of bills. It’s the first time in my life I found I couldn’t survive without help. I had to sign up for SNAP, or food stamps. My SNAP benefits are \$15 a month. That’s right, \$15 a month. After I pay my bills, I have \$5 a month left over. That’s not enough for food. So I had to swallow my pride and come to the MLK food pantry. After shopping the pantry a few times, I thought I needed to give back something. So I asked about being a volunteer. I’ve been volunteering for more than two years now. I help sort and weigh food and escort clients through the pantry. My daughter and four granddaughters volunteer, too. They love it. Volunteering helps them see what’s going on in the world and have compassion for people who are hungry or who are homeless. Volunteering at the MLK has done so much for me both physically and mentally. The food pantry saved my life. It gave me food, but also gave me a purpose.”*** Many of our clients, like Carla, give back to their community by volunteering in either our Breakfast Program or Feed a Friend food pantry.

AVA, the child of a single mom, started coming to Summer Camp at the MLK the summer before she entered Kindergarten. In order for her mom Heather to work, Ava had been in daycare from the time she was an infant. It quickly became apparent the first week of camp that Ava’s daycare did not have an educational component. The children are tested in literacy and math, and her literacy skills were below the rest of the children, as was her social and emotional development. She didn’t know how to walk in a group line or sit still, and she was hyperactive in group settings. Throughout the summer, the staff worked with Ava, along with the other children in her group, to make sure they were ready to start Kindergarten. Heather reported that because of camp, Ava was academically on track for Kindergarten. Since that first summer, her reading and math scores have improved over a grade level during the 8 weeks of Summer Camp and she has consistently been in the top of her school class since 1st grade. Heather credits MLK’s Summer Camp as the catalyst for Ava’s school success. Every year Ava looks forward to summer camp. When she was entering 2nd grade, she told this to her camp teacher, ***“Everyone here loves Summer Camp. It makes you smart and helps you get ahead. If you didn’t go to the MLK, you wouldn’t know anything when you went back to school.”*** Ava is now a leader in her classroom and will be attending her 5th Summer Camp this year.



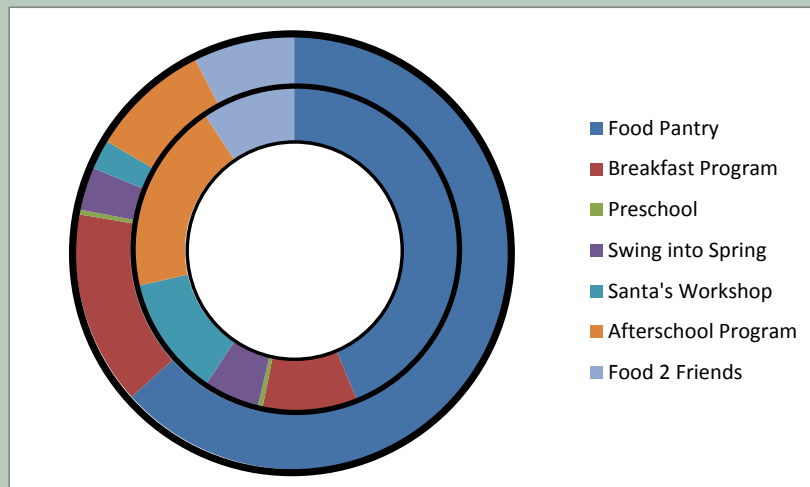
VOLUNTEERS MAKE THE DIFFERENCE



Volunteers gave over 7,705 hours during 2013

Volunteers are the lifeblood of the MLK Community Center. The Center simply could not provide the essential services it does without the effort and expertise of our dedicated volunteers.

The outer ring represents the total number of hours served, while the inner ring represents the number of volunteers per program.



- **179 volunteers** completed **4,990 hours** of community service in the **Feed a Friend** food pantry alone. They escorted clients through the pantry, stocked shelves, weighed and sorted pantry items, cleaned and restocked the pantry, knocked down cardboard boxes, and picked up donated items from local grocery stores, businesses, churches, and individuals.
- **79 people** volunteered **709 hours** in the **Afterschool Program**, serving as tutors, homework helpers, workshop assistants, and more.
- **39 people** volunteered **1,128 hours** in the **Breakfast Program**, serving our clients a nutritious daily meal.
- **38 people** gave **599 hours** of volunteer service to the **Food 2 Friends** program, filling the clients' orders from the food pantry and delivering the groceries to our homebound neighbors.
- **23 people** helped produce **Swing into Spring**, the Center's annual fundraiser, giving **251 hours** of service.
- **Two college students majoring in Education** served as **assistants to the preschool teachers**, and volunteered for **28 hours**.





Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center Finances
Fiscal Year January 1, 2013 - December 31, 2013 unaudited totals.

Public Support and Revenue

Federal Support	\$56,267
State and Local Support	\$10,376
Foundation Grants	\$410,000
<i>Restricted to Capital Improvements</i>	<i>\$161,000</i>
Donations and Appeals	\$369,946
Special Events	\$108,200
Parent Paid Program Fees	\$110,155
DHS Reimbursement for Programs	\$168,103
Parking Lot Revenue	\$33,850
<u>Other</u>	<u>\$10,252</u>
 TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUE	 \$1,277,149

Expenses

Program Support	\$710,011
Management and General	\$85,840
Development and Fundraising	\$81,058
Parking Lot Salaries	\$16,347
<u>Other</u>	<u>\$299</u>
 TOTAL EXPENSES	 \$893,555

Cash Assets, end of fiscal year	\$550,747
<i>Building Fund</i>	<i>\$114,349</i>
<i>Reserve Account</i>	<i>\$169,573</i>
<i>General Operating Fund</i>	<i>\$266,825</i>



COLLABORATING PARTNERS



Working Together for a Stronger Community

In the true spirit of a community center, the MLK Community Center partners with many area organizations to provide meaningful services to our clients. These efforts are supported by the referrals we receive, the great work of our health and human service colleagues, and the generosity of our community, which has sustained us throughout the years.

Providing over 144,000 meals to over 2,300 clients in our **Hunger Programs** takes tremendous effort and would not be possible without the vast array of local businesses, educational institutions, churches, farms, civic groups, foundations and individuals who donate food. Through food drives and regular donations of fresh produce, frozen meats and nonperishable food items, the MLK is able to support clients in health and good nutrition. Consistency of inventory is key to helping us teach our clients how to provide healthy meals for their families using food pantry staples and fresh produce.

Preparing children to be successful learners in our **Preschool, Afterschool Program** and **Summer Camp** means enriching programs and opportunities that help build literacy and math skills, self-esteem, and strong character. This would not be possible without the support of our broader community.

Our **Parking Lot Program**, a collaboration with Citizens Bank, provides our clients with workforce training and experience at the Washington Square Citizens Bank parking lot. Our **Food 2 Friends** pantry delivery service relies upon referrals from Visiting Nurses of Newport and Bristol Counties and Child & Family Elder Services and upon community volunteers to pack and deliver the food.

Our Education and Community Program collaborations include:

Ballard Park	Island Books	Norman Bird Sanctuary
Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Ocean State	Literacy Volunteers of East Bay	Preservation Society of Newport County
Boys & Girls Club of Newport County	Newport Art Museum	RI Community Food Bank
Child & Family	Npt. County Comm'ty Mental Health Ctr.	Sail Newport
Citizens Bank	Newport County YMCA	Salve Regina University
Clean Ocean Access	Newport Daily News	Save the Bay
East Bay Comm'ty Action Program	Newport Hospital	Visiting Nurses of Newport
East Bay Educational Collaborative	Newport Historical Society	and Bristol Counties
Farm Fresh RI	Newport Public Library	Women's Resource Center
Girl Scouts of RI	Newport Public Schools	
Int'l Yacht Restoration School	Newport String Project	

The MLK Community Center is a member of Newport Partnership for Families, an agency network supporting families' access to and effective use of services.





Thank you to all who support the MLK Community Center:

Foundations and Grants

January, 2013-April, 2014

1772 Foundation
 Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Foundation
 Alletta Morris McBean Charitable Trust
 Amica Companies Foundation
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THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS DONORS



Donors

*We are deeply grateful to the following individuals and businesses who gave so generously of their time, talent and treasure .
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Excellence

- We run high quality programs, seeking out best practices.
- We are flexible and creative in addressing the needs of our clients.

Respect and Compassion

- Each of us treats people – those we serve, those we work with, and those who support us - fairly and equitably, with compassion and without judgment based on their circumstances.

Wise Stewardship

- We take care of our resources, which include our legacy, our people, and our physical and financial resources.
- We make decisions responsibly, with honesty and integrity, and in the long term best interests of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center and its mission.

Collaboration

- We are committed to partnerships with other organizations to help better serve those in the greatest need and to strengthen us as an organization.
- We collaborate internally.
- We encourage volunteers to participate in our work.

Education

- We believe that education breaks the cycle of hopelessness and will help both children and adults have a greater chance of living fulfilling lives.
- The safety of our children is of the utmost priority.
- We believe educational success is created in a nurturing environment.

Self-Determination

- All people have the right to determine their future: therefore, we encourage and support our clients to make choices that will improve their health and well-being.





Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center

20 Dr. Marcus F. Wheatland Blvd. Newport, RI 02840

(401)846-4828 ~ www.mlkccenter.org

OUR MISSION

Since 1922, the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center has continued to evolve in providing a safe and nurturing environment for the changing needs of Newport County residents who seek nutritional, educational, and social supports to improve the quality of their lives.



OUR VISION

The Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center will continue to be a vital community resource that serves the diverse members of the Newport County Community. The primary focus of the MLK Community Center is on hunger relief, nutrition awareness and counseling, education and community support. As the needs of the community change, it is essential for the Center to be nimble and innovative in addressing them in a cost-effective manner.