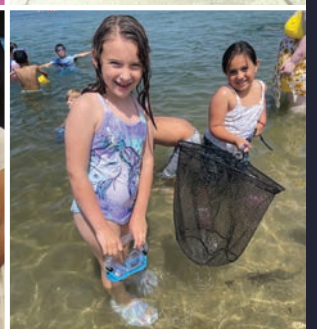




DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
COMMUNITY CENTER

ANNUAL REPORT

2023



Founded in 1922 and renamed after Dr. King in 1968, the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center is a central service provider for at-risk individuals, families, and seniors. Celebrating 100 years of service in 2022, the MLK Community Center is an independent nonprofit serving individuals and families promoting health, fighting hunger, supporting families, educating kids, and engaging seniors.

Mission

We nourish, educate, and support Newport County residents to improve their economic, social, and physical well-being.

Vision

We build a strong and inclusive community where all people are empowered to be self-reliant and to live their best quality of life.

Values

Excellence: We are flexible and creative in addressing our clients' needs, providing high quality, best practice programming.

Respect and Compassion: We treat all people fairly, equitably, and compassionately.

Wise Stewardship: We make decisions responsibly, caring for our resources to ensure the long term best interests of our community and our mission.

Collaboration: We are committed to partnerships to help better serve those in the greatest need and to strengthen us as an organization.

Education: We believe a nurturing, educational environment can lift children and adults from poverty and open the door to opportunity.

Self-Determination: We support our clients to make choices that improve their health and well-being.

Equity and Inclusion: We at the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center acknowledge that each one of us has an inherent responsibility when it comes to diversity, equity, and inclusion.

We are committed to creating an environment where all persons affiliated with the Center, particularly those of us who are people of color, within the LGBTQIA+ community and/or with disabilities, are truly seen and treated with the utmost consideration, respect, and compassion.

We as a staff are accountable for advancing diversity, equity, and inclusion in all aspects of our work, which includes program building and structure; sustaining our relationships with clients, volunteers, donors, and each other; and our commitment to ongoing learning.

We are proud to be a BRAVE Space (Belonging, Respect, Alliance, Validity and Equity), a place where the LGBTQIA+ community feels safe, welcome, and validated.



Programs Encompass:

- ◆ Hunger Prevention and Nutrition
- ◆ Early Childhood and Extended Learning Time Education
- ◆ Community Support and Wellness

Board of Trustees

Whitney Slade, *President*
Rebecca Knapp LeBlanc, *Vice President*
Kim Bullock, *Co-Secretary*
John Rok, *Co-Secretary*
Margaret McGill, *Treasurer*

Gail Alofsin
Betsy Blair
Kimberly Cummins
Nancy Horsey
Rose M. Hyder
Elizabeth Phelps
David D. Schuller
Orlando Zambrano

2023 Programs

Adult Fitness & Wellness
After School
Client Employment Program
Client Support Services
Cooking Classes (English & Spanish)
Daily Bread
Daily Hot Breakfast
Food Delivery to Homebound
Food Pantry
Grab & Go Meals
Imagination Library (Books for Kids)
L.E.A.D. LGBTQIA+ Youth Group
MLK Friends Lunches & Dinners
Mobile Food Pantry
Nutrition Counseling & Education
Preschool
Produce to the People
Santa's Workshop (Toy & Gift Help)
Senior Lunch & Learn
Summer Camp
Summer Concert Series
Thanksgiving & Holiday Meal Help



Heather Hole Strout and Whitney Slade
at the 2022 Annual Meeting.

What a year it's been.

Because of the generosity of community investors to the Building Hope Campaign, we are building a Center that is more client-focused and efficient. We are proud to share our programs are more robust than ever despite the challenges of running programs while simultaneously undergoing a major construction project.

Maintaining our role as a primary resource for Newport County is paramount. The MLK helped 6,232 people last year, nearly 10% more than in the previous year, and the most in our history. In these pages, you'll learn about how we helped that many people while half the building was a construction site.

We are committed to offering fresh and healthy food via a variety of programs onsite and in the community. Over 840,000 meals originated from the MLK Community Center last year, accompanied with a side of dignity and respect. Read more about how we increase food access and reduce food insecurity in this report.

"MLK has been beyond inspirational for me as someone who believes in equal access for all, regardless of socioeconomic or other variables, and your organization simply gets it right. I consider you as good friends with a shared community vision that yields life-bettering results every single day."

— Rob, Middletown

Our community programs provide opportunities to learn a new cooking skill, make a friend, share a meal, enjoy a concert, stretch and tone in a workout, or be your authentic self, all at no cost. Some programs are offered in both English and Spanish. Continue reading for photos and testimony and more.

Children are learning and thriving in our Preschool, After School, and Summer Camp. Kids who attend MLK programs benefit from experiential learning delivered in a nurturing environment, and their parents go to work each day, secure in the knowledge that their children are well cared for, and relieved that scholarship funding makes it affordable. Learn more in the following pages.

In our newest video, you'll be introduced to some very special people who have found hope and help at the MLK. It is our privilege to share their stories.

Perhaps the most important role of the MLK Community Center is that of connector. The Center unites people, often in profound and unexpected ways. Our BRAVE Space certification marks the Center as place of welcome for all. As we work to fulfill our mission, we never forget that every person's story is important because every person in our community matters.


Whether you use MLK programs, give your time or resources, or are learning about the Center for the first time, you are part of this very special place.

What's your MLK story?

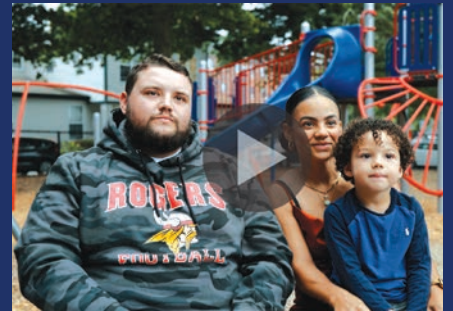
Thank you for helping us build a more inclusive community,



Whitney Slade
President, Board of Trustees



Heather Hole Strout
Executive Director



**Click on this photo to
view our video sharing
the stories of
William, Zoryana, Colin,
Tanaysha and Peyton.**

Highlights of the Year

Celebrating our Centennial, as a Community

We celebrated our Centennial in September with a celebration for 500 people under a tent at Fort Adams. Generous sponsors underwrote the cost of the party allowing tickets to be priced at very low or no cost so everyone could attend. The event celebrated the MLK's one hundred years of service to the community and was not a fundraiser.



Having a wonderful time at the Centennial Celebration.

Providing Warmth During the Coldest Days of the Year

In February, Newport County experienced life-threatening cold temperatures. When there were several hours on a Saturday between the closing of the City's emergency overnight warming center and the opening of a daytime warming center, MLK Volunteers braved the weather to cook hot breakfast for our clients who would have been out in frigid temps. The MLK joined other nonprofit partners in funding an Overnight Warming Shelter in Newport for over six weeks so vulnerable people could get out of the cold. The Center also provided food and staffing to support the ad hoc shelter.



A Book Buddies volunteer reads to a rapt audience.

Welcoming Volunteers in Education Programs

We made a strong push to add volunteers to enrich our education programs. Intergenerational Book Buddy volunteers read to the Preschool students. Engineer volunteers mentor After School students in robotics and STEM (Science Technology Engineering and Math) activities.

More Produce in More Sites, All Year Long

Fresh vegetables are among the most requested items by clients using the hunger relief programs. Soaring grocery prices made produce even more important this year. During the summer, we expanded Produce to People to three offsite locations in Newport and Middletown, in addition to each week at the Center.



Fresh, often local veggies at a remote
Produce to the People event
in Newport's North End.



The BRAVE Space logo found on Center
entrances and vehicles, and across the
community at partnering sites.

Creating a More Welcoming Space For All

In March, the MLK gained BRAVE Space certification. "B.R.A.V.E." is an acronym for Belonging, Respect, Acceptance, Validity and Equity and indicates spaces where the LGBTQIA+ community will feel safe, welcome, and validated. The Center joined four local organizations in the pilot project: Bike Newport, FabNewport, Conexión Latina and Women's Resource Center. An extension of the MLK's core values, criteria for certification range from genderless signage for restrooms to creating inclusive hiring policies that embrace cultural and gender diversity. The goal of the project is to make significant changes in each organization's culture and create parameters to work toward more equitable and inclusive policies and procedures.

Equity and Diversity

The Center was closed for programming on a single day in June so all staff could attend an all-day professional development retreat focused on team-building with emphasis on diversity, equity, and inclusion. The MLK Board of Trustees participated in a similar retreat in May. We have exceeded our goal and significantly increased the diversity of our staff.

"I had no idea MLK provided
so much to the community.
Like so many others, I have
been wowed!"

— Dick, Newport

Building Hope Campaign

With deepest gratitude to the following donors whose generosity to the *Building Hope Campaign* has made the transformation of the Center possible.



**Alletta Morris McBean Charitable Trust
van Beuren Charitable Foundation**

**The BnV Funds
Nancy and Doug Horsey**

**BankNewport
Betsy Blair, Jim and Kate Van Winkle
Dwight and Susan Sipprelle
The Speer Family, in memory of Cathleen Speer
Jane Mead Timken**

**David and Carol Bazarsky | Bazarsky Family Foundation
Gail Jacobs and Roy Williams**

Department of Human Services in partnership with LISC Rhode Island

Heather Hornbeck and Michael Nolan

Prince Charitable Trusts

Don and Meg Steiner

Diane and Andy Berk
Al and Mary Reynolds
Rhode Island Community Food Bank

The Champlin Foundation
Corrigan Financial, Inc.
Bart Dunbar and Lisa S. Lewis
George W. Emerson III
Elizabeth and Bill Leatherman
John Lutzius and Alison Cohen
Michael Perik and Liz Beretta-Perik
Royal Little Family Foundation
The McClary-White Foundation,
in memory of Rhoda McClary
Pangaea Logistics Solutions Ltd.,
in memory of Edward Coll
Suzette D. Schochet
David D. Schuller,
in memory of Antonetta (Toni) Schuller
Lois and Bob Zawrotny

Audrain Concours Foundation
Teri Degnan Real Estate & Consulting LTD
Erin Flynn
Hank Kniskern
Donna McCarthy and Ted Wrobel
Barbara and Brooke Roberts
Richard C. Sardella
Gail, John and Samuel Alofsin
Barbara M. Benson
Elizabeth and John Brooks
Patrick L. Burke
Kimberly and Richard Cummins
Rose and Luke Hyder
Suzanna and John Laramée
Thomas Palmer and Dominique Alfandre
Elizabeth "Lisette" Prince
In memory of Reverend Edmond Prendiville

John and Kitty Rok
Whitney and Ellen Slade
Kathleen and Len Taddei

Peter and Liz Alofsin
Susan Barnes and Claudia Helt
Laureen Bonin
Kim Bullock
In memory of Edward Coll
Susan F. Cooper
Leslie E. and Charles B. Gordon
Berne Greene
John and Cheryl Grosvenor
Nancy and Steve Harten
Margaret Haywood
Laurel and Jim Kenney
Elena T. Kissel
Sue Klau, in memory of James D. Klau
Jay Lasky and Helly Hansen Newport
Raymond and Rebecca LeBlanc
Drs. Rosalind and David MacLean
Robert and Elizabeth Mastin
S. Leppy McCarthy
Tracy Menendez and Robert Perez Menendez
Leilani M. Miller
Patricia E. Moss
Alyson and Robert Novick
Bettie Bearden Pardee
Diana Pearson
Michael Robinson and Oz Zambrano
Linda Sawyer and John D. Harris II
Jamie and KK Streator
Heather Hole Strout
John P. Sullivan
Gail Thacher
Kerry Tyson and Zackary King
David Wendell and Patricia Bowler
Suzi and David Van Ness

From Campaign to Construction



Volunteers moving food inventory across the street to the temporary pantry.



Signing the wall in the downstairs community room after the 2022 Annual Meeting, before construction began.

After fundraising of the \$7,000,000 Building Hope Campaign was successfully completed in March 2022, preparations began to ensure the Center's 25 programs continued without interruption during the construction period. With all food storage, pantry, receiving, and office spaces slated for construction, finding alternate space to house Hunger Services was paramount. In April 2022, the Center rented space just across the street, in the location formerly occupied by the Salvation Army Thrift Store. After several months of cleaning, painting, and rewiring, the space was ready to open in September 2022. As was the case during COVID-19 pandemic, it was critical the MLK remain open and in service to our community. The Food Pantry was closed for just one day to move food, equipment, shelving, and office furniture across Dr. Marcus Wheatland Boulevard to the new temporary pantry.

On October 24, 2022, we held our Annual Meeting and Keeper of the Dream celebration at the Center. On October 25, 2022, movers arrived to empty more than half of the building in preparation for demolition. Volunteer and Community programs and Administration

needed to move before the renovation began. Offices were shifted to make-do spaces in the community room and even a closet. Some staff began to work exclusively from home. (Preschool and After School/Summer Camp spaces remained in place until their phase of the renovation at the end of 2023.) The kitchen was closed.

Thanks to the cooperation of two nearby churches, the Center secured rental space in nearby St. Paul's United Methodist Church and Community Baptist Church. MLK programs were now operating in four different sites, all located within two tenths of a mile to minimize inconvenience to our clients. Santa's Workshop was the final program held in the community room. Dedicated



View of the building facade as the front steps and ramps were demolished.



View from inside the old Receiving space as the loading dock is removed and the site regraded..

holiday volunteers received, packaged, and displayed thousands of toys in less than half the square footage of prior years. Demolition began at the end of December 2022.

The front steps, ramp, and loading dock were demolished. Old kitchen equipment and coolers and freezers were removed. A commercial freestanding freezer was rented and sited on the blacktop on the Edward Street side of the building to store frozen proteins for the food pantry. Construction fencing surrounded part of the exterior as much of the MLK became a hardhat zone. The roof was removed from the rear of the building on the Tilden Avenue space and a new second floor built. The façade of the building was opened as a new foundation was poured to support the additional space needed for the new food pantry and lobby and the new second floor community room. A new foundation was also poured in the rear of the building for the larger freezers and coolers.

The expansion and renovation of the building will continue for several more months. We expect to move staff into new offices in November 2023 and return all programming to the Center. A reopening celebration for the community is planned for early 2024.



Looking across Marcus Wheatland Boulevard at the facade as the new enlarged food pantry is built. The new second floor is visible at right, sheathed in bright blue.



Looking down from the second floor on the MLK's Board of Trustees and Executive Director Heather Hole Strout in the exposed bottom floor after the old roof was removed.

2023 Impact



0

NUMBER OF PROGRAMS CLOSED
DURING CONSTRUCTION

FOR EVERY

\$1.00
DONATED



82¢

IS APPLIED
TO PROGRAM
COSTS



6,232

CLIENTS
SERVED



10%

MORE THAN 2022

2,867

NEW, FIRST-TIME
MLK CLIENTS

61%

CLIENTS ARE
DIVERSE

27%

SENIORS
AGE 55+

30%

CHILDREN AGE
BIRTH – 17

92%

WITH HOUSEHOLD
INCOMES UNDER
\$34,000/YEAR

73%

WITH HOUSEHOLD
INCOMES UNDER
\$17,000/YEAR

35%

DO NOT
RECEIVE *SNAP*
FOOD
ASSISTANCE

Hunger Services

844,097 MEALS PROVIDED **→ 28%** MORE THAN 2022



Mobile

Pantry

180
VISITS TO

18

NEIGHBORHOODS

120,000+

POUNDS OF FRESH
PRODUCE DISTRIBUTED

575,000+

POUNDS OF
FOOD DISTRIBUTED

746

FAMILIES RECEIVED RECEIVED
HELP AT THANKSGIVING



30,692

HOT BREAKFASTS SERVED TO
MOSTLY HOMELESS CLIENTS

1,207

GROCERY DELIVERIES TO
HOMEBOUND SENIORS

43,000+

LUNCHES SERVED

Family/Child Services



1,837

CHILDREN RECEIVED A BOOK EACH MONTH FROM DOLLY PARTON IMAGINATION LIBRARY (AGES BIRTH-5)

124

CHILDREN ATTENDED PRESCHOOL, SUMMER CAMP AND AFTER SCHOOL

LOW-INCOME, WORKING PARENTS RECEIVED

\$222,250

IN SCHOLARSHIPS TO MLK EDUCATION PROGRAMS

92%

OF CHILDREN ARE BIPOC*

60%

OF PRESCHOOLERS ARE ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS

98%

OF CHILDREN RECEIVE SCHOLARSHIPS

* Black, Indigenous or People of Color

Community Programs

192

FREE EXERCISE/ WELLNESS CLASSES

47



LGBTQIA+ PEER GROUP WEEKLY MEETINGS

49

SENIORS ATTENDED TWICE-MONTHLY LUNCH & LEARN



Community Programs

8.4+

TONS OF FOOD
DIVERTED FROM
THE WASTE
STREAM.



1,039

CHILDREN RECEIVED
TOYS & GIFTS FROM
SANTA'S WORKSHOP



2,182

COMMUNITY LUNCHES
AND DINNERS PROVIDED



102

PEOPLE PARTICIPATED
IN ENGLISH AND SPANISH
COOKING CLASSES



5

FREE OUTDOOR
CONCERTS

3,676

CLIENT SUPPORT
REFERRALS

Volunteers

588

INDIVIDUALS
VOLUNTEERED



18,000+

HOURS OF SERVICE

Financial Report

Audited Financial Statement for Fiscal Year July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023

Public Support:

United States Government	\$ 48,140
State of Rhode Island	\$ 48,032
Municipal Support	\$ 26,000
Foundation and Corporate Support	\$ 2,079,953
Individual Support	\$ 1,771,953
In-Kind Contributions ¹	\$ 927,547

Total Public Support **\$ 4,901,625**

Revenue:

Education Fees	\$ 458,437
Client Employment, Parking Lot Fees	\$ 95,260
Investment Income, (Loss) Net	\$ 503,544
Interest Income	\$ 2,736
Loss on Disposal of Equipment	\$ (3,300)
Other Revenue	\$ 6,827

Total Revenue **\$ 1,063,504**

Total Public Support and Revenue **\$ 5,965,129**

Program Expenses:

Hunger Services	\$ 1,782,437
Education Programs	\$ 968,097
Community Programs	\$ 400,519

Total Program Expenses **\$ 3,151,053**

Supporting Service Expenses

Management and General	\$ 394,688
Fundraising Expenses	\$ 289,184

Total Supporting Service Expenses **\$ 683,872**

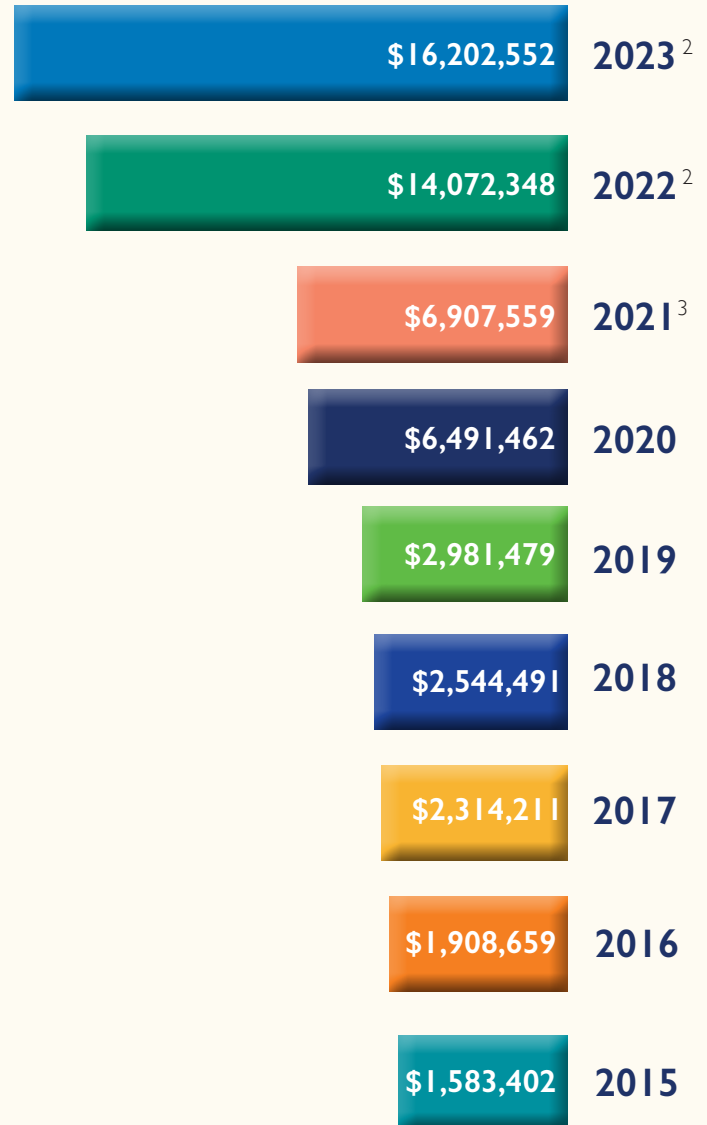
Total Expenses **\$3,834,925**

Change in Net Assets **\$ 2,130,204**

Net Assets, Beginning of Fiscal Year **\$14,072,348**

Net Assets, End of Fiscal Year **\$16,202,552**

NET ASSETS 2015 – 2023



Individual, foundation, and corporate support the MLK. Less than 2.5% of the Center's Total Public Support derives from municipal, state, or federal government funding source.

¹ Much of the food distributed is donated. Donated food is recorded as contribution revenue using per-pound values established by Feeding America, the national food bank network. The per-pound value for the prior year was \$1.92. The Center supplements donated food supplies by purchasing nutritious food items not regularly donated.

² Endowed Funds in 2022: \$4,283,329. Endowed Funds in 2023: \$5,396,814.

³ Six-month fiscal year: January 1, 2021 – June 30, 2021.

Honor Roll

Since 2005, the MLK Community Center has bestowed the Keeper of the Dream award annually during the Annual Meeting, honoring those whose outstanding commitment most embodies the ideals of our namesake, Dr. King. The Volunteer of the Year award was created in 2007 and in 2012, the MLK added an award to recognize businesses or community partners with exceptional commitment.

2022 HONOREES

KEEPER OF THE DREAM

Rhode Island Community Food Bank

KEEPER OF THE DREAM - COMMUNITY PARTNER

BedJet LLC and the Aramli Foundation

VOLUNTEERS OF THE YEAR

Knights of Columbus, Middletown/Newport Council #256

PREVIOUS HONOREES

2021

Keeper: Jane Mead Timken
Partner: Blount Fine Foods
Volunteer: Lois and Bob Zawrotny

2020

Keeper: Nancy and Doug Horsey
Partner: Jamestown Community Farm
Volunteer: Betsy Blair and Jim Van Winkle

2019

Keeper: Point Association of Newport
Partner: BankNewport
Volunteer: Gary Klein

2018

Keeper: Bazarsky Family Foundation
Partner: Middletown Rotary Club
Volunteer: Stephen and Zulekha Ludwig

2017

Keeper: Walter and Eileen Jachna
Partner: Newport Harbor Corporation
Volunteer: Lisa McWilliams

2016

Keeper: Rena DiMuccio
Partner: The Waters Edge Flowers
Volunteer: George W. Emerson

2015

Keeper: David and Donna Goodrich
Partner: Aquidneck Island
Stop & Shop Supermarkets
Volunteer: Farouk and Susan Niazzy

2014

Keeper: Dr. Susan Walker
Partner: Home Depot Store #4287,
Middletown, Rhode Island
Volunteer: Joann Carlson and Peggy Clay

2013

Keeper: David D. Schuller
Partner: Gilbane Building Company
Volunteer: Donald G. Pfeiffer

2012

Keeper: Liz and Emlen Drayton
Partner: Atlantic Beach Club & Pavilion
Volunteer: Liz and Bob Mastin

2010

Keeper: Noreen Stonor Drexel
Volunteer: Rosalind Vaz MacLean

2009

Keeper: The Wilcox Family
Foundation
Volunteer: Steven Turilli

2008

Keeper: William and Alison Vareika
Volunteer: George Steele

2007

Keeper: Ronald and Lillian Dick
Volunteer: David and Donna Goodrich

2006

Keeper: Suzette D. Schochet

2005

Keeper: Richard Sardella

No awards were bestowed in 2011.

Keeper of the Dream

Rhode Island Community Food Bank

Led by CEO Andrew Schiff, the Rhode Island Community Food Bank exists to make life better for others. The Food Bank has been the Center's essential partner, providing food, training, funding, and advocacy for decades. Because of the Food Bank, the MLK increases access to healthy food for thousands of people in Newport County.

When the COVID-19 pandemic began in March 2020, the Food Bank swiftly mobilized rapid and no-cost delivery of food to member agencies like the MLK and continued to provide food at no-cost for over a year. During the first and worst year of the pandemic, MLK Hunger Services provided over 750,000 meals. That would not have happened without the Food Bank.

The MLK was a lifeline to people in unprecedented need, because the RI Community Food Bank was a lifeline to us.

The Food Bank helped us plan and guided us as we created the Mobile Food Pantry program.

As we worked to raise the funds for the renovation, we knew we had to stay open throughout construction. The Food Bank knew that, too, and generously underwrote the rent for temporary space to house our food pantry, storage, and Hunger Services staff to ensure we remain in service to our community.

Quite simply, the Food Bank is essential to our state, and to the MLK.

The Food Bank has been the Center's essential partner, providing food, training, funding, and advocacy for decades.



RHODE ISLAND COMMUNITY
FOOD BANK



Rhode Island Community Food Bank CEO Andrew Schiff accepts the Keeper of the Dream award from MLK Executive Director Heather Hole Strout.

Keepers of the Dream Community Partner

BedJet and Aramli Foundation

It seems like decades ago, but it was only in March of 2021 when BedJet founder Mark Aramli surreptitiously stood in line under a tent for fish and chips (and only received chips), performing his due diligence on the culture of the MLK.

Since then, Mark and Ida Aramli have become part of the MLK family. They have underwritten special restaurant meals for some of the most vulnerable people in our community. They have given their time to serve those meals, even standing in the rain. Mark and Ida have brought the joy of an ice cream truck to offer treats to our kids on a hot day. The Aramlis have paid for the Toe Jam Puppet Band to delight our preschoolers and after school students. They give generously to sustain our programs.

Because of their incredibly generous presenting sponsorship of our Centennial Celebration, we were able to offer a true community event, where the guests who attended were united by their love of the MLK Center, not by their ability to purchase a ticket. We celebrated as a community, because of Mark and Ida Aramli.

We can't imagine the MLK Community Center – or our community – without them.



Ida and Mark Aramli at the 2022 Annual Meeting
and Keeper of the Dream

*Because of their incredibly generous presenting sponsorship of our
Centennial Celebration, we were able to offer a true community event.*

**Aramli
Foundation**



Volunteers of the Year

Knights of Columbus, Middletown/Newport Council #256



Members of the Knights of Columbus with Heather Hole Strout at the 2022 Annual Meeting and Keeper of the Dream ceremony.

Celebrating one hundred and twenty-five years of charity, unity, fraternity, and patriotism, the Middletown/Newport Council #256 of the Knights of Columbus is a mainstay in our community.

For decades, the Knights have picked up and delivered thousands of pounds of baked good donations for our Daily Bread program. To better understand the scope of this: Bread is offered every day from the pantry. Clients wait for the bread racks to come out every morning and we see a steady stream of folks looking for bread, rolls, muffins, pastries, cookies, and cakes. For many, taking bread

from our racks is their first experience asking for help with food. The Knights go to the donation site, transfer the baked goods into their own cars, and bring it to the Center to unload. No matter the weather, we can depend on the Knights. They have brought thousands and thousands of pounds of food to the MLK.

The men of the Knights hold annual coat drives to help families and children stay warm. Knights generously support and sustain our programs. Their steadfast commitment to the MLK makes the Center a better place.

*No matter the weather, we can depend on the Knights.
They have brought thousands and thousands of pounds of food the MLK.*

Supporters

A Community of Supporters...a Community Worthy of Support

The MLK Community Center creates change via a network that is both broad and deep. Every gift, every collaboration, every donated hour supports the Center's mission to better the lives of Newport County residents. Listed within these pages are generous donors who make monetary donations and donate food and other program supplies, vital partner organizations who enrich MLK programs, and selfless volunteers who perform vital roles around the Center.

Just as every person who walks through the Center's doors matters, each name listed here is essential. We are deeply grateful to our community of supporters and friends.

\$100,000 and above

Alletta Morris McBean Charitable Trust
Anonymous
Betsy Blair and Jim Van Winkle
11th Hour Racing / The Schmidt
Family Foundation
Pamela Giannini
Douglas and Nancy Horsey
Meg and Don Steiner Charitable Fund
Doris Nemtsov
Dwight and Susan Sippelle
The BnV Funds
The Champlin Foundation
U.S. Department of Treasury
van Beuren Charitable Foundation

\$50,000 - \$99,999

Bazarsky Family Foundation
Bob and Veronique Gerber
Prince Charitable Trusts
Rhode Island Emergency Food and
Shelter Program
The AEC Trust
The Rhode Island Foundation
The Timken Matthews Family Foundation

\$25,000 - \$49,999

Anonymous
Audrain Concours Foundation
BedJet LLC and Aramli Foundation
EJMP Fund for Philanthropy
Gruben Charitable Foundation Inc.
Hamilton Family Charitable Trust
Gail Jacobs and Roy Williams
Newport Partnership for Families
People's Credit Union
Suzette D. Schochet
David D. Schuller
The McClary-White Charitable Foundation

\$10,000 - \$24,999

Anonymous
Bank of America Charitable Foundation
Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Rhode Island

Elizabeth and John Brooks
Corrigan Financial Inc.
EWE Spirit Foundation Inc.
Ingeneri Giving Fund
Kirby Perkins Newport
Hank Kniskern
Elizabeth and Bill Leatherman
Lisa Lewis
John Lutzius and Alison Cohen
Sheila McEntee and Darryl B. Hazel
Leilani Miller
Peter and Ulrike Mueller
Newport County Fund
at the Rhode Island Foundation
NewportFed Charitable Foundation
Thomas Palmer and Dominique Alfrede
Papitto Opportunity Connection
Michael Perik and Liz Beretta-Perik

**"As with every visit, we were
impressed with the happy faces in
evidence, the dignity with which
clients are treated, and the careful
husbanding of resources."**

— Patricia and David, Newport



After School means parents can work...and kids learn and have fun.

Supporters

George and Sue Petrovas
In Memory of Fr. Edmond Prendiville
Alister and Mary Reynolds
Rhode Island Community Food Bank
Rhode Island Office of Healthy Aging
Rhode Island Turnpike and Bridge Foundation
Barbara and Brooke Roberts
Royal Little Family Foundation
Shriners of Rhode Island Charities Trust
Nate and Lexi Solder and Zechariah Klann
St. Columba's Chapel
Teri Degnan Real Estate & Consulting LTD
The Joan V. Winiarski and Teresa Merrill Trust
The Point Association of Newport, RI
Town of Middletown
Maria Elena Vergara and Isaac Valentin
Wilcox Family Foundation
Women's Resource Center
Bob and Lois Zawrotny

\$5,000 - \$9,999

Richard and Nancy Adams
Gail and John Alofsin
Amica Companies Foundation
Anonymous
APEX Technology

Mrs. Robert A. Beaver
Behan Bros. Inc.
Berkshire Bank Foundation Inc.
Bowen's Wharf Company
Patrick L. Burke
James and Elaine Burress
Calmoseptine, Inc.
Cavanaugh Family Foundation
Cisco Systems
City of Newport
Susan F. Cooper
Cummins Family Fund
Marilyn Curtis
Enbridge (U.S.) Inc.
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Learning about and preparing Latinx foods in Sabores Latinos.

“Thank you for giving me such a wonderful sense of all the amazing programs MLKCC has to offer. What you are doing is truly remarkable. I have volunteered at food pantries, soup kitchens and owned a preschool for many years and what I saw yesterday should serve as a model for how to do it right! That you have continued uninterrupted during Covid and are maintaining all your programs while under construction takes great leadership and your leadership just shines!!!!”

— Kathy, Old Lyme, CT

\$2,500 - \$4,999

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"I have been particularly impressed by your active commitment to the LGBTQ+ community in this loathsome atmosphere of national backlash."

— Anonymous

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Our seasonal client employment program staffs a bank parking lot.

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STEM learning in After School with Energy Engineer volunteers.

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Christopher and Anne Spaight
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Scott Stachelhaus
Michael Strongin
Heather Hole Strout
Carol Sullivan
John P. Sullivan

“It all started with the MLK Center. [He attended] Preschool through 4th grade and summer camps. Amazing programs.”

— *Newport mom, after our congratulations on her son's acceptance to Boston University's College of Engineering*

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Volunteers and staff grilling for grab n go sandwiches at a packed Live from the Loading Dock outdoor concert.

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“These [Live from the Loading Dock] concerts are the most ‘community’ thing I’ve done in a long, long time.”

— Jim, Newport

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A closeup encounter with wildlife in
Senior Lunch & Learn

“Thank You for what you have done for my family throughout all the years. I only go to you when I really need help with groceries. This year has been very difficult. I live with three grandchildren, one with Cystic Fibrosis and one with Down Syndrome. We were doing OK until the house was damaged in a fire and then my car was hit in the rear and rolled over. But, by the Grace of God no one was injured. One of your volunteers called asking if I needed anything this Christmas I said “Yes” to some toys for my 13-year-old granddaughter. I received the most beautiful gifts I know she will just love. Thank you, thank you, thank you, for being there.”

— Grandmother, Tiverton, Food Pantry, Santa's Workshop

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"I used to go to the pantry when you were across the street, but I stopped when I was getting the extra food stamps during Covid. But now they stopped that and food stamps don't go too far anymore. I don't know what else to do."

— Newport woman using the Food Pantry for the first time in years



Food pantry shelves in the temporary food pantry.

Susie Downing
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Summer camp is eight weeks of fun and friendships.

Patrick and Lauren Haley
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 Tony Leach and Jane Corcoran
 Thomas and Peggy Leary
 Scott and Linda LeBrun
 Andrea Lee and Christine Cassels
 Harley Lee

“Our child is learning so much about his community. They have a bi-lingual teacher in his class which is a plus for all the Spanish speaking children, and the ones who are not Spanish speaking are also learning some Spanish. The school curriculum is amazing and everyday my son comes home with crafts and activities that he has done. He talks about how much he loves spending time with students and teachers. The children get treated equally and no one is ever left out. We have one more child that will most definitely be going through the school as well. I know there are so many great things that come from here, and we love it!”

— Newport parents

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Mark O'Hearn



Learning to prepare a healthy meal in LivFit.

Renee* was very tentative about cooking and anxious around people when she began attending LivFit cooking class. Some of the meds she takes to improve her mental health also made her gain weight. She has lost 30 pounds and is full of smiles around the new friends she's met in the program.

* Name changed to protect privacy

Supporters



Father and son reading a book mailed to them from the Imagination Library at the MLK..

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 Matilda Olsen
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“Reading together is a key part of our everyday. The Imagination Library keeps this routine fun and exciting with age-appropriate books that we receive monthly for both of our kids. They love when they come in from “the mail truck” and love see what book was sent to each of them. This is such a special service that allows us to read different authors and types of books that we might not have known about otherwise!”

— Portsmouth mom,
 Imagination Library



Food 2 Friends grocery orders ready to be delivered to homebound seniors.

Miguel Trezvant
 George Triplett
 Nakia Tull
 Brenda Vaillancourt
 Claire Valente
 Ann Marie van den Hurk
 JoAnn Vanicek
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Up to \$99

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 David Baggesen
 Deborah Bailey
 James Baillarger
 Stephen and Deborah Barth
 Chris Bass

**“Thank you for such a
 wonderful thing you do.
 It means the difference
 between having, or
 not having.”**

— *Middletown,
 Mobile Food Pantry*

Justin Bass and
 Robert and Whitney Bauer
 Boylston and Edna Beal
 Bradford and Marie Beebe
 Elizabeth Behan
 Jeffrey and Diane Belden
 Zachary Berger
 Nancy Bernstein
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 Adam Ceely
 Jennifer Cestodio
 Rebecca Chhim
 Walter Christensen
 Lisa Clark
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 Robert Conway
 Philip and Martha Coriander
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 Kerrie Escobar
 Asher Evans
 Charles Feldman
 Alex Fernandez
 Hermano and Linda Ferreira
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 Ann Fiore
 Nicole and David Fitzgerald
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 Kathleen Foulke
 Brien Fox
 Denise Fox
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 James Freess and Sondra Gold
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 Ronald Gero Jr
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 Eugene and Cheryl Giroux
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 Jennifer Gordon
 Tom and Claudia Gorman
 William Gormly
 Howard and Irene Graham
 Christina Greco
 Joy Green
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 John and Maureen Greichen
 James and Marisa Grondin
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 Stephanie Guinan
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 Jennifer Barrett Hall
 John Hamilton
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 Sheila Harari
 Leanne Hawkins
 Brendan Hayes
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 Ellen M. Hermann and Stephen J. Devoe
 George and Lindsey Hill

Joseph Hoeg
 Maria Hoffmann
 Joseph Hook
 Ronald Hopkins and
 Patricia Walcott Hopkins
 Alice Hoskins
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 R. David and Carol Hutchinson
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 Oteria Jackson
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 Ilene Kastner
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 Gregory Klaiber
 Barbara Klassner
 Paul Kloiber



Like the Food Pantry, Santa's Workshop is about client choice.

Supporters

Nieema Knight
 Vera Kourkoutas
 Eileen Kuiee
 Colette Lafond
 Shawnita Lambert
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 John Larned
 Law Offices of Amy Rice
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Robin Logan Dings
 Chris Long
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 Stephanie Luther
 Amy Lynch
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 Mary MacDonald
 Cathy and Tony Maffia
 Melanie Maher
 Michael Mahony
 Joseph Manning
 Marguerite Marano
 Regina Mare-Griffith
 Stephen Marino and Lynn Sanzo
 Thomas Marino
 Deborah Marro
 John and Linda Martin
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 Sherri Martin
 Lisa Martinelli
 Pearl Marvell
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 Elizabeth Matteson
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Betty Maxwell
 Dereke and Veronica Mays
 John and Jennifer McCabe
 Caroline and Gary McCarthy
 Isaac and Martha McCray
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 Sean McElroy and Edith Cushing-McElroy
 Patricia and Thomas McGue
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 Geoffrey and Linda McNally
 Denise Meaney
 Georgie Medeiros
 Marlene Merritt
 Jeffrey Meyer
 JoAnn Meyer
 Middletown Rotary Club
 Deborah Mikelonis
 Toni Mills
 Patricia Montagnino
 Morelli Giving Fund
 Lisa Morrison
 Pauline Perkins Moye
 Adrienne Munich
 Carmella Murphy
 Monica Murphy



“8 years ago I became the only parent in my children’s lives. And I was terrified of endless financial responsibilities that I had to take care of alone. I remember being referred to MLK as an afterschool daycare place. That’s how I discovered the site where kindness lives. There are so many incredible Hunger Relief programs for the community at MLK! All year long there is a variety of vegetables. My children get very excited on my shopping days. They appreciate delicious and nutritious meal choices. I’m so very grateful for the fresh produce every single Thursday all year long. What an incredibly caring, generous, and helpful organization MLK is! And what a special team of staff and volunteers who shower the clients with kindness, understanding, compassion, and acceptance!”

— Tatiana, mom of three teens, Produce to the People

Fresh veggies are available weekly.
 Over 120,000 pounds were distributed.

Supporters



An unforgettable moment: a pod of dolphins swims by MLK campers' sailing lesson.

Margaret Armstrong Murray
Jennifer Nardone
Nathan Nebiye
Claire Nelson
Newport Elks Lodge #104
Newport Family Foot Care
Eileen on Thames
Newport Marriott
Arlene Nicholas
William and Susan Nicholson
Caitlin Niemic
Lana Nieves
Rachel Nuzzo
Leif Nylander
Edna G. O'Connell
Dianna Odell
Jeanine O'Donnell-Northup
Roderick B. O'Hanley and
Richard C. Crisson
Ed and Melissa Oliver
Cynthia O'Malley
Margaret O'Neill
Steph Ottilige
Piper Padilla
Penelope Pankow
Barbara Parkos
Adam Parsons
Douglas Pascua
Landa Patterson
Pell Elementary School
Robert J Perry

Sean Perry
Stephen Perry
Torre and Patricia Peterson
Kathryn Petterson
Diane Pincus
Beth Pitman
Jerry Plumb
Ilene Polen Lacombe
Gary Powe
Candace and J. Christopher Powell
Robert Power
Jonathan and Susan Powers
Jerry Price
Laura Rabenold
Jaclyn Raguso
Frances Rahilly
Theresa Regan-Gordon
Anderson and Sarah Reggio
Denise A. Reniere
Joseph and Barbara Ricci
Bridget Richardson
Maria Rivera
Adelaide Roberts
Cheryl Roberts
Colin Roberts
James and Janne Roehm
Terence and Amy Roehrig
Rachael Romanowski
Prescott and Susan Rose
George and Nancy Rosner
Kathy Ruane DelBene

Victor Ruggeri
Pamela Rurak
Nicole Russell
S & G Lopresti Charitable Fund
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Jeannie Santos
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Susan Ann Schenck
Marc Schmier
Christopher and Carrie Scholz
Sophia Schuster
Janine Schwartz
Henry and Patricia Scorpio
Mark and Sandra Seaman
Andrew Seawright
Bill and Maureen Seiple
Caitlyn Sellar
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Vickie Settle
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David and Vivian Shaul
Shaw's Markets
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Heather Sheley
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Bailey Silechnik
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Supporters

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Clare Tedesco
Tracy Tegtmeier
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Rebecca Torrisi
Susan Tourgee
Donna Tovelio
Train with Jane
Leslie Tremblay
Ted True
Alden Tucker
Doug Turnbull
Lori Turner
Martha Ullman
URI Graduate School of Oceanography
Maggie Vale
John and Dyan Vaughan
Robert Velardi
Paul Veronis
Catherine Violet
Robert Vitello and Barbara Winkler
Cindy Walaski
Bess Walker



MLK Preschoolers visit City Hall and Newport Mayor Xay Khamsyvoravong.

James and Elizabeth Walker
Jane Walker
Dorothy Walsh
Jessica Walsh
Peter and Andree Warwick
Evelyn Weller
Darlene West
Elizabeth Wheeler
Terese Whelan
Christopher and Jennifer Williams
Rodney Willoughby

June S. Wing
Gretchen Woodard
Anne Wright
John W. Wright
Young Designs
Zelis Health Care
Zurner Oceanic LLC

In-Kind

Anonymous (Many)
11th Hour Racing
12 Meter Cafe
485 Enterprises Inc.
A Market Natural Foods
AAA - Northeast
AARP - Newport Chapter 207
Isabel Abelheira
Jenny Ackermans
Meredith Adams
Paula Adams
Aldi's Supermarket
All Saints STEAM Academy
Marc Allen
Amenity Aid
American Assoc. of University Women,
Chapter AAUW-RI
American Heritage Girls Troop 0619
Ancient Order of Hibernians,
Dennis E. Collins Division I
Ann Warner Anderson
Aquidneck Community Table
Aquidneck Elementary School
Aquidneck Island Striper Team
Aspen Aerogels

"I have had the privilege of sending 2 children to the MLK. My youngest spent 2 years in the preschool. When he started, he cried and screamed daily. It was overwhelming to watch daily when he was dropped off. The teachers encouraged him and were patient with him. As the year went on, I was amazed at the growth I saw in him. He was learning not only academic skills but social ones as well. He spent his second year growing more and more confident, learned how to read and was able to enter into kindergarten feeling confident and ready to take on the world. I enrolled my oldest child in the afterschool program, and she was hesitant to attend. She quickly made friends and was engaged in learning every afternoon. He grew to love going to the center and doing activities and field trips. Both children have benefitted from establishing positive relationships. I cannot say enough about how thankful I am as a single parent to be able to have a place to send my children so that I may work."

— Newport mom

Supporters

Athleta
Atria Aquidneck Place
Audrain Automobile Museum of Newport
Audrain Concours Foundation
Donna Averill
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Michael Cecchi
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Channing Memorial Church
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Church of the Holy Cross
Cindy's Country Café
Citizens Bank
City of Newport -
Public Services Department
Clambake Club of Newport
Clements' Marketplace
Sylvan Clews
Clif Bar Inc.
Elizabeth Cochran
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Martin and Elizabeth Cohen
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Foodlove Market
Forest Avenue School
Meredith Forster
Frank Antonio Hair & Makeup



MLK Friends Lunches and Dinners offer hearty meals with a side of fellowship.

Supporters

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 Bill Gafnick
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 Monique Graham
 Gray Matter Marketing
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 Chamber of Commerce
 Green Animals Topiary Garden
 Green Goo
 Meme Greichen
 Leslie Grosvenor

“[Santa’s Workshop] is really incredible. I’m homesick for a lot of things, not the least of which is the unending generosity of my hometown and the dedication and love of the MLK and its staff.”

— Dave, former Newporter

Keith Grove and
 Gene Thompson-Grove
 Kerry Grove
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 Douglas and Nancy Horsey
 Hotel Viking



Santa’s Workshop ready to provide toys to 1,039 children.



Over 30,000 hot breakfasts served in FY23.

Supporters

LIMRA

Little River Farm
 Little State Flower Co.
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 George and Laura Loftus
 Robin Logan Dings
 Christina Lorenson
 Lou Lou's Decor
 Grace Loughborough
 Kathryn Whitney Lucey and
 William Lucey
 Luckyfoot Ranch
 Lucy's Café & Bakery
 Lucy's Hearth
 Lycette Newport
 Amy Machado
 Peter MacInnis
 Josephine Maguire and Henry Sykes
 Mark Marosits and Maureen Cronin
 Daniel and Darlene Martin
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Kelly McCann

Rev. George B. McCarthy

Joan McCarthy

Ellery McClennan

Karen McDaid

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Michael and Jacqueline McVicker

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Middletown Public Library

Middletown Public Schools

Middletown Rotary Club

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Morgan Stanley

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HTJB, Inc.

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Hurricane Boys Hockey Team

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Xay Khamsyvoravong and

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Barbara Nelson-LaBove
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Sarah Newbury Moore
Patricia Newman
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Newport Classic Cruises
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Newport County YMCA
Newport Craft Brewing & Distilling Co.
Newport Crepe Company

Newport Democratic City Committee
Newport Elks Lodge #104
Newport Family and Cosmetic Dentistry
Newport Fire Department
Newport Firefighters IAFF - Local 1080
Newport Harbor Island Resort
Newport Hospital
Newport Hospital Reward
and Recognition Committee
Newport Marriott
Newport Martial Arts
Newport Middle Passage
Port Marker Project
Newport Police Department
Newport Polo Club
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Newport Restoration Foundation
Newport Restoration Foundation,
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Newport Restoration Foundation,
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Kristin Niessink
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Karine Noack
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Ocean Cliff Hotel
Ocean Hour Farm

Ocean State Job Lot
Christine O'Connell
Victoria O'Connor
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Old Navy
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Olympic Physical Therapy
Willem Oswald
Tom Pagonis and Amy Acampora
Panera Bread
Alessandro Papa
Parks In My Town LLC
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Melissa Pattavina and John Gobis
Sherry Patterson
Tom and Janna Pederson
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Brian and Annette Pelletier
Pennfield School
People's Credit Union
Pepsico Northeast Region Away From
Home Team
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Katelyn Petheruti
Maggie Phelps
David Phillips
Bruce Pike
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Ron and Kathleen Pilotte
Elizabeth Pinto and Kathleen Almanzor
Michael and Elizabeth Pinto
Point Wine & Spirits
Polo Cleaners
Polo Salon and Spa
Madeline Polss
Portsmouth Abbey School
Portsmouth High School



Setting the foundation for lifelong learning.

“Every day when we go home and talk about the day, my daughter always talks about her teachers before she talks about her friends and to me that is the best feeling because I know she is being treated well. I know I may ask a lot at times but my daughters are my everything and I am all they have. So from a mommy who treasures being a mother, I THANK you 100x over for being so amazing.”

— Newport mom

Portsmouth High School -
 National Honor Society
 Portsmouth United Methodist Church
 Pour Judgement
 Candace and J. Christopher Powell
 Precise Systems
 Preservation Society of Newport County
 Luke Primis
 Elizabeth "Lisette" Prince
 Project Linus
 Purvis Systems
 Marie Puzzo
 Quality Hill Coffee
 Ragged Island Brewing Co.
 Marcus Ramer
 Stephen Ramponi
 Paula Raposa
 R&E Antiques & Interiors
 Redwood Library & Athenaeum
 Elizabeth Reed
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 Rhode Island Nutrition
 Rhode Island Turnpike & Bridge Authority
 RI Mushroom Company LLC
 Mackenzie Richards
 Robin Hollow Farm
 Bruce Robinson
 Michael Robinson and Orlando Zambrano
 Jody Rock
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 Martha Ruest and Martin Schlecht
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 Pamela Russell
 Safe Harbor Marinas
 Newport Shipyard
 Salt Air Early Learning Center
 Salve Regina University
 Salve Regina University
 Hydroponic Lab
 Salve Regina University
 Social Work Department
 Samuel Durfee House
 Amy Sanborn
 Saunders Family
 Victor and Pat Sawicki
 Nicholas and Shelley Schorsch
 David Schuller



Food drives are essential in meeting the need for hunger relief in our community.

Adam Schwartz
 SEACORP
 Seamen's Church Institute
 Bill and Maureen Seiple
 Shaw's Markets
 Shewatuck Farm
 Martha Sholes
 Manuel and Paula Silvia
 Simmons Farm
 Simple Merchant Coffee
 Dwight and Susan Sipprelle
 Sisters of St. Joseph of Cluny
 Emily Skeeahan
 Michelle Skoorka
 Whitney and Ellen Slade
 Slim Possible
 Dave and Deborah Smith
 Julie Shelton Smith
 Linda and Tim Somes
 John Sommerville, Jr. and
 Joanna Sommerville
 Carolyn Souza
 Bronagh Springer
 St. Augustin Church
 St. Columba's Chapel
 St. George's School
 St. John the Evangelist Church
 St. John's Food Pantry
 St. Joseph's Church
 St. Lucy's Church
 St. Mark Catholic Church
 St. Mary's Catholic Church

St. Mary's Episcopal Church
 St. Mary's Episcopal Community Garden
 St. Mary's Episcopal Prayer Shawl Ministry
 St. Michael's Country Day School
 St. Paul's United Methodist Church
 St. Peter's Lutheran Church
 St. Philomena's School
 St. Spyridon Greek Orthodox Church
 Stalise
 Staples of Middletown
 Katherine and Peter Stark
 Elizabeth Stevens and Norman MacLeod
 Rick and Linda Sticca
 Stoneacre Garden and Stoneacre Brasserie
 Stop & Shop Supermarket #0731
 Stop & Shop Supermarket #0708
 Heather Hole Strout
 Carol Sullivan
 Cate Sullivan
 Kevin and Gianna Sullivan
 Molly Sutton
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 Stephanie Szelest
 Gina Tangorra
 Team Fame
 Temple Shalom
 The Aquidneck Club
 The Cardinal Restaurant Group
 d/b/a IHOP Middletown
 The Edward King House

Supporters

The English Cousins
The Gap - Newport
The Hilb Group
The Jane Pickens Theater & Event Center
The Landing Restaurant
The Local Patch
The Mooring Seafood Kitchen & Bar
The Newport County Jewish Community
The Newport Huddlers
The Newport Sweet Shoppe
The Potter League for Animals
The Rhode Island Foundation
Thompson Middle School
Thompson Middle School
Community Garden
Joseph Tortolani
Train with Jane
Trinity Church
Trinity Management Company
Dennis Turano
Flora Twigg
Sheila Tyler
Kerry Tyson and Zackary King

“Thank you for all the support you have given to my son. I have seen great progress in learning English since the beginning of preschool. We are very happy and grateful that he has learned numbers and words. He didn’t know any English and now he is just amazing to us how much he has advanced. Thank you very much to all of the teachers at the MLK Center.”

— Mom of MLK Preschooler

United Congregational Church
UnitedHealthcare
United States Marine Corps
University of Rhode Island
University of Rhode Island
Graduate School of Oceanography
URI Community Health Nursing Students
Suzi and David Van Ness
Katherine Vargas
Lois Vaughan
Village House Nursing and
Rehabilitation Center
Viti Inc.

Ellie and David Voorhes
WADK 1540AM / 3G Broadcasting, Inc.
Wag Nation
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Julie White
Tim Whitford
Katie Whittmore
Stephanie Wiggins
Regina Willford
William Willis
John and Linnea Wolfe
Women’s Resource Center
Gail Woodworth and Thomas Dresser
Suzanne Wyatt
Wyndham Bay Voyage Inn
Wyndham Long Wharf Resort
Wyndham Newport/
The Atlantic Resort Newport
YANA Newport 12th Step Club
Bob and Lois Zawrotny
Zumba with Kathy



Presenting our excited Preschool
graduating class of 2023.

Volunteers



Volunteers come to the MLK from across the community. Their impact is enormous.

588 volunteers performed
Over 18,000 hours of service in 2023.

Volunteers have always been the lifeblood of the MLK Community Center, sustaining our programs by giving their time and talent. They perform essential tasks like preparing and serving meals, teaching wellness classes, reading to preschoolers, sorting and organizing food in the pantry, mentoring After School students, escorting clients in the Food Pantry and Mobile Food Pantry, delivering groceries to homebound seniors, helping at our events, picking up food drive donations, organizing and staffing Santa's Workshop and more.

The MLK could not help over 6,000 people annually without our amazing volunteers. With boundless gratitude, we salute these selfless and dedicated people.

Volunteers

Jacob Abellon
Amy Acampora
Ameil Acevedo
Toyosi Ajibote
Alyssa Allen
Jason Allen
Gail Alofsin
John Alofsin
Jaylen Anderson
Leticia Andrade
Alicia Anthony
Liisa Bacco
Mona Barbera
Edmilson Barbosa
deAndrade
Lucas Barnes
Lynda Barnes
Nikolas Barnes
Susan Barnes
Jenny Barone
Ana Bartlett
Justin Bass
Mary Behan
Sariha Bell
Sarah Benoit
Marykate Bergen

Heather Bestoso
Tom Beverly
Carolyn Bjork
Christian Black
Betsy Blair
Colin Blakeney
Pam Blauvelt
Jayvion Blinn
Laureen Bonin
Sierra Bonoff
Brandon Bott
Pel Boyer
James Bracey
Tina Brady
Taylor Brandariz
Logan Braunohler
Loren Braunohler
Sean Breede
Magnus Bregenhoj
Madelyn Breitenbach
Thomas Brendler
Jameson Brennan
Alexandria Brett
Paige Breyer
Jeff Brooks
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Monica Broughton
Christine Browne
Maureen Buckley
Troy Bullman
Kim Bullock
Pat Burke
James Burley-Jackson
Jim Burns
Mara Burns
Steven Burrill
Eddie Burt
Melissa Burton
Natalie Byers
Amanda Cabral
Liam Caldicott
Lazaro Camacho
Tyler Cannoe
Cristian Cantaragio
Rachael Caproni
Kaia Capuno
Margaret Carlin
Susan Carlson
Sarah Carr
Rachel Carraway
Mimi Carrellas
MaryLou Cavanaugh

Katherine Cawley
Michael Cecchi
Olivia Cech
Richard Cenedella
Lydia Chase
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Mang Cin
Beverly Cloutier
Aydan Coelho
Brendan Collery
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Celeste Colon
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Adam Conheeny, Sr.
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Leila Costa
Sonia Couto
John Crimmins
Carmen Critz
Shakira Cummings
Kim Cummins
Richard Cummins
Coleen Curran
Sue Curran
Ella Daly
Susan Darby
Elizabeth Davis
Adam Dawson
Ryan Dawson
Phoemela Delossantos
Kim DeMagistris
Cheryl DePina
Jacqueline DiCecco
Faye Dickison
Drew Dillon
Louis DiPietro
Trish DiRuggiero
Beth Dore
Norman Dow
Tom Dresser

Jake Duncan
Jessica Durkin
Catherine Dwyer
Tristan Dyer
Melissa Easley
Brooke Eaton
Tait Ekblaw
Dianne Elliott
Elia Esclamandou
Dylan Esposito
Nick Ewenson
Joanne Fantini
Eva Finkelstein
Chance Finlayson
Linda Finn
Ella Fitzgerald
Hayden Fletcher
Aravella Flores
Brendan Flynn
Brendan Foley
Jill Foley
Laura Foley
Chelsea Fontaine
Eve Formisano
Julia Forster
Barbara Forte
Brien Fox
Scott Fredrickson
Geoffrey Fudge
Annalese Gagliardi
Robert Gaines
Anthony Gaiser
Sandy Gallagher
Michele Gallagher
Glesinger
Maria Garaffa
Mathias Garcia
Matthew George
Martha Giarratano
Lincoln Gibbs
Laura Gilfert
Ginny Gilman
John Gilmartin
Chris Gleason
John Gleason
McKay Gleason
Shawna Gleason
George Glenn
Judy Glenn
Chelsie Glover
Molly Goldman
Krista Gomes



Hundreds of volunteers give their time at Christmas.

Volunteers

Rebekah Gomez
Bev Gove
Dave Gove
Maegan Grant
Nathan Grant
Nekia Gray
Sophie Green
Berne Greene
John Greichen
Maureen Greichen
Patricia Greichen
Geanne Griffith
Timothy Grissett
Keith Grove
Brandon Grover
Julia Guinan
Anieka Gunn
Bill Hall
Judy Hall
Sarah Harding
Hector Hardy
Jeanne Harrington
Kimberly Harrington
Nyja Hart
Lori Hawks
Corbin Hayes
Margaret Haywood
Jennifer Heald
Deirdre Hecht
Octavia Henningburg
Aislinn Henry
Charles Herndon
Kathy Heydt
Alecta Hill
Brittany Hill
Melanie Hill
Susan Hill
Abby Hole
Bethany Hole
Bridget Hole
Connor Hole
Jen Hole
John Hole
Jonna Hole
Kathy Hole
Beth Holland
Sherri Hollins
Kelly Holmes
Rana Holmes
Lindsay Honeycutt
Andrew Hong
Douglas Horsey

Nancy Horsey
Philip Howe
Rich Hudson
Marybeth Hunte
Debra Huntington
Rose Hyder
Nancy In
Blair Ingraham
Eddie Irving
Kathy Irving
Jelani Jackson
Tiffany Jackson-Henderson
Cal James
Takana Jefferson
Linda Jenkins
Peter Jenkins
Kinamoni Jerome
Virginia Johnson
Jamelaa Jones
Samantha Judd
Lisa Judge
Holley Jupiter
David Kalif
Pat Kalif
Sam Kalif
Yume Kato
Nina Kaull
Steven Kay
James Keating
Alexandra "Sam" Kelly
Laurel Kenney
Nancy Keyworth
Xay Khamsyvoravong
Donna Kimble
Cortney Kingsley
Sean Kinnane
Rebecca Knapp LeBlanc
Nieema Knight
Matt Knowles
Zoe Korzeniowski
Athena Kourkoulis
Paula Kramer
Marie Krapez
Lindsey Kusick
Dylan Lachi
Alexander LaCon
Shawnita Lambert
Susan Lamond
Katie Langford
Scott Langford
Hannah Lasorsa

Anna Lassow
Lew Lassow
Rachel Lawler
Rex LeBeau
Brooke Lenling
Sophia Lennon
Marie Leonard
Brian LeRoy
TeresaMae Leveille
Judy Levitt
Linzy Lewis
Lisa Lewis
Andraya Li
Simone Likterov
Cameron Little
Madison Littleton
Laura Loftus
Joe Logue
Israel Lopez Perez
Diego Lopez Ramirez
Grace Loughborough
Alana Loughman
Arrison Louzada
Kate Whitney Lucey
Simi Lui
Layla Lujan
Bob Lundgren
Larisa Lyman
Elizabeth Lynn
Kerron MacDonald
Theresa Machado
Yolanda Macias
Kate MacKay O'Brien
Susan Maginn
Sarah Maher
Olivia Mahler
Diane Manson
Erin Margolis
Steve Marino
Cole Marley
Kara Marley
Mitchell Marsh
Lewis Marshall
Christina Martin
Oscar Martinez
Liz Mastin
Isabella Mastino
Luis Mateos
Norah Mateos
Ediannys Matos
Robin Maxcy
Susan Maxwell



Volunteers connect with children in our Education programs.

Thomas Maxwell
Joan McCarthy
Colin McConnell
Kathleen McCoombs
Maggie McCue
Sheila McEntee
Margaret McGill
Megan McHugh
Jennifer McIntosh
Connie McKaye
Greg McKaye
Kelly McKenna
Kelsey McKeon
Peyton McKinney
Jackie McVicker
Mike Medeiros
Abby Mello
Tracy Menendez
Eric Meystre
Molly Miarecki
Sophia Miccolis
Letisha Michel
Nina Montagna
Jahniel Montanez
Marcus Monteiro

Ev'von Monteiro-Felton
Kelsey Morgan
Nick Morse
Bryce Mueller
Colleen Murphy
Joseph Murphy
Margaret Murphy
Susan Murphy
Lourdes Navarrete
Jarius Neal
MaryLou Nelson
Santiago Neville
Susan Niazy
Haley Nimmons
Amy Nolan
Lauren Nordling
Donaldo O'Neil
Jay O'Brien
Lelanie Ocasio
Darlene Ochoa
Katie Ochoa
Kathleen O'Connor
Lucy O'Donnell
Nora O'Halloran
Caitlin O'Hanley

Volunteers

Declan O'Hara
Ben O'Hearn
Hillary Olinger
Roy Otori
Jennifer O'Neil
Evan O'Rourke
Olga Ortiz Salgado
Willem Oswald
Michael Page
Christopher Paixao
Caryn Palmer
Loren Palmer
Madison Palmer
Marcelo Paredes
Scott Pascua
Matthew Payette
Ivana Pejatovic
Omayra Perez
Leonardo Perez Cruz
Tom Perrotti
Linda Perry Riera
Tyler Petrosino
Max Pfeiffer
Elizabeth Phelps

Kevin Phillips
Hannah Pilotte
Julia Pilotte
Kathi Pilotte
Ron Pilotte
Karen Pinelli
Kissylane Pires
Elizabeth Plowden
Madeline Polss
Janeese Pons
Beth Ponte
Alex Porter
Marissa Portillo
Tina Prifti
Helen Primis
Kelly Pullar
Jo-Ann Puzzo
Marie Puzzo
Nikki Raccio
Dick Radebach
Zach Rahilly
Elena Ramey
Harry Ramirez
Zakya Randle-Smith

Marianne Rasch
Richard Reed
Nathan Reid
Maxwell Reis
Benjamin Resende
Kaylyn Retzel
Stefania Reva
Lynne Rey
Oliver Rey
Sofia Riojas
Maria Rivera
Floyd Robinson
Lucas Robinson
Michael Robinson
Sebastian Rodriguez
Rogers High School
Key Club
Dima Rojas
John Rok
Kitty Rok
Matt Rose
Allison Ross
Suzanne Rowden
Nathan Ruehs
Amanda Ruzzo
Isaiah Ryan
Tim Saad
Maren Salas
Nicole Saramago
Sophia Scatto
Indira Schorsch
Dave Schuller
Ryan Schult
Janine Schwartz
Merri Scott
Dawn Sears
Juliet Seith
Deidre Sharpe
Dennis Sheehan
Valorie Sheehan
Aidan Shriver
Brennan Shuttle
Juliet Sieth
Tabitha Silveira
Mary Silvia
Paula Silvia
Susan Sipprelle
Whitney Slade
Sam Slater
Kris Small
Emily Smith

Evan Smith
Lindsey Smith
Louise Smith
Shanel Smith
Emma Soriano
Kendra Spencer
Kendrick Spencer
Eric Spigel
Dana Spring
Morgan Spring
William Spring
Michelle Squires
Cindy St. George
Monie Stadler
Kyle Stamps
Katherine Stark
Linda Sticca
Rick Sticca
Jenna Strout
Christopher Strout
Carol Sullivan
Kelly Sullivan
Tim Sullivan
Amy Svatik
Matthew Sweeney
Brett Taggart
Linda Taggart
Maria Takacs
Kat Tappen
Julia Tash
Mark Tavares
Shi'Asia Taylor
Peter Tea
Julia Tenore
Janet Tepolt
Ana Teran
Allison Thompson
Jenny Thompson
Gene Thompson-Grove
Pamela Throop
Natalie Tolman
Benjamin Tomas
Alex Toribio
Leslie Traeger
Donavon Truelove
Teresa Turk
Jayden Twyman
Liz Tylki
Kerry Tyson
Patricia Ustick
Jim Van Winkle

Sarah Vanderveer-Lui
Rosalind Vaz-MacLean
Richard Ventura
Mason Viehman
Stephanie Vieira
Joseph Vincent
Ellie Voorhes
Tyler Wade
Maddie Wakefield
Mary Walker
Hugo Wang
Michael Ware
Nicholas Waycuilis
Colleen Welsh
Helen Westall
Debbie Whalley
Olivia Wheeler
Mary Wiley
Alyse Williams
Chris Williams
William Willis
Ruth Winig
Gail Woodworth
Sally Xu
Darren Yang
Madison York
Brian Young
Shannen Young
Linda Zagaglia-Gutierrez
Orlando Zambrano
Lorena Zamora
Bob Zawrotny
Lois Zawrotny
Angel Zea
Zayan Zia
Meghan Ziobro



Newport's Rogers High School Key Club volunteers serving a community meal.

PHOTOS:
Kate Whitney Lucey
MLK Staff and
Volunteers
Sail Newport
Annie Tuthill

Tribute Giving

Tribute gifts offer thoughtful opportunities to remember a special person, to celebrate a milestone, or to express gratitude. These deeply meaningful gifts provide lasting impact by sustaining the MLK Center's work to better the lives of the most vulnerable people in Newport County. We are humbled and grateful.

GIFTS IN MEMORY

In Memory of Ramon Izaiah Arroyo

Alyson and Robert Novick

In Memory of Joseph Bashour

Leslie Tremblay
Helene Scola
Craig and Julie Martin
Billie Brownell
Nancy Waynick
Ed and Melissa Oliver
Mark Jenkins
Monica Villalobos

In Memory of Robert A. Beaver

Mrs. Robert A. Beaver

In Memory of Charles Beckers

Beth and Russell Milham
Victor J. Ruggeri
Everett and Kristine Stuart
Marilyn Galvin

In Memory of Norman R. 'J.R.' Beretta, Jr.

Elizabeth J. Beretta
Jeffrey and Brenna Jordan

In Memory of William Boatwright

R. Michael and Helene Sceery
Christopher and Carrie Scholz

In Memory of Dorothy Jesus Britto

Monique Graham

In Memory of Nate Bruno

William Mallinson

In Memory of Kathy Bruce Burke

Patricia Ustick

In Memory of Elizabeth Casella

Dawn Casella

In Memory of William 'Billy' Coffey

Elizabeth Behan

In Memory of Edward Coll

Anonymous

In Memory of Alfred and Elizabeth Conklin

Anonymous

In Memory of Martin and Clair Curtis and Robert and Julie Morgan

David and Sandra Curtis

In Memory of Colleen Dooley

Timothy Dooley

In Memory of Tom Drexinger

Raymond and Susan Isacco

In Memory of George W. Emerson III

Kathryn Farrington
Steve and Nancy Harten
Brian and Mary Catherine Bardorf
Alyson and Robert Novick

In Memory of Geoff M., Geoff W. and Patsy Ewenson

Mary Iliff Ewenson

In Memory of Jim and Betty Farrington

Kathryn Farrington

In Memory of Jacques Faulise

Lise Faulise

In Memory of Michael Fitzgerald

Elizabeth F. Smith

In Memory of Chuck Flippo

Karen Flippo

In Memory of Raymond E. Gallison Sr.

Michael Behan

In Memory of Jim Gillis

Patricia Ustick

In Memory of Carol Gormly

William Gormly

In Memory of James Greichen

John and Patricia Greichen

In Memory of Byron Hall

Jane Hanks

In Memory of Dr. Craig Harris

Thomas and Marilyn Warren
Jeffrey Lipshires
Francine Lucci
Mary Beth and Ken Fransson
Cathy and Tony Maffia
Helen Greer Lyon

In Memory of Rick Hole

Heather Hole Strout
Jennifer Hole

In Memory of Stephen J. Jemo, Jr.

Holly and Louis Amoruso III

In Memory of Greg Jessen

Milly Jessen

In Memory of Don Kaull

Paul and Nancy Cardoza
Susan and John Kelchner

In Memory of Paul LaMond

Deborah LaMond

In Memory of Claudia Lanoie

Thomas and Charlotte Yeomans

In Memory of John Lewis

Dale and Paula Bradley

In Memory of Eric and David Lincoln

David and Helen Lincoln

In Memory of Ed and Betty Lisbon

Barbara A. Lisbon

In Memory of Jim Maher

Lauren Parmelee

In Memory of Kristy Martin

Fran Grimes

In Memory of Benjamin McCleary

Barbara B. Van Sciver Crouchley

In Memory of Donald G. McMillan

Jean McMillan

In Memory of Vavo Mendez

Martha Boksenbaum

In Memory of Ellen S. Murphy

Anthony Jaccaci and Lucia Murphy Jaccaci

In Memory of Peter O'Neill

Margie, Missy, Brian and Salpi O'Neill

In Memory of James and Mary Perry

Richard and Veronica St Jean

In Memory of Fr. Edmond Prendiville

Anonymous

In Memory of Leah Rosin Pritchard

Patricia Ustick

In Memory of Louis Raposa

Maribeth Enos

In Memory of Shirley F. Riess

Alyson and Robert Novick

In Memory of Bayard Russell

Nanci Stewart

In Memory of Sister Josephine St. Leger

Sisters of St. Joseph of Cluny

In Memory of Casper 'Kip' Schenck

Susan Ann Schenck

In Memory of Toni Schuller

David Schuller

In Memory of Paget Segerson

Holly and Louis Amoroso III

In Memory of Robert S. Smith

Miriam E. Smith

In Memory of Steven Squeo

Michele Foster

In Memory of Cathleen Speer

John Huet

Paul and Susan Speer

Gregory Huet and Lisa Speer-Huet

Eric and Linda Speer

In Memory of Evie Spiratos

Anonymous

In Memory of Olive Sutton

Joyce Sutton

In Memory of Nathan Traibman

Theresa Lacerda

In Memory of Kathy Flack Updegrove

Susan and John Kelchner

In Memory of Cielo and Jaime V

Maria Elena Vergara and Isaac Valentin

In Memory of Donald Weilburg

Steven and Lischen Pinado

Roderick B. O'Hanley and Richard C. Crisson

David and Anita Pugh

Holly Stephenson

Dennis Piranian and Maria Keohane

Robert Serra M.D.

In Memory of Donald and Sally Weilburg

Cathy Patterson

We gratefully acknowledge gifts made in honor of the following individuals and congratulate them on this recognition.

GIFTS IN HONOR

In Honor of Jamie Arendt

Maxx Delaney

In Honor of Arthur Ashe

Sheila McMurtry

In Honor of Jeff and Susan Baril

John Steiger

In Honor of Bart, the Corgi

William Mooney Sloneker

In Honor of David and Carol Bazarsky

Gail Silechnik

Stephen and Virginia Huttler

In Honor of Nora Bracey

James Bracey

In Honor of Booth-Leduc Family

Shannon Booth

In Honor of William Matthew Christy

Constantine Christopulos

In Honor of Anna Clara

Donna Tovello

Toni Mascenic

Lisa Martinelli

Jaime Lind

John Thompson

In Honor of Ed Crowley and Melanie Saunders

David and Mary Ann Fiaschetti

In Honor of Encore

Elizabeth Deringer

In Honor of Linda Ferreira

Marion Anne Fletcher

In Honor of Elizabeth Garcia

Charles Feldman

In Honor of Donna Giblin

Jeanine O'Donnell-Northup

Ed Giblin

Tracy Dwyer

Tribute Giving

In Honor of Dennis Hardiman

Stephen Adamo

In Honor of Nancy Harten

Salve Regina University

In Honor of Henry's 2nd Birthday

Maria Hoffmann

In Honor of Thomas and Barbara Herrmann

William and Marabeth Farrell

In Honor of Dr. Beth Holland

Anonymous

In Honor of Heidi Howard and Dwayne Paiva

Christi Malafronte

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The Hire Key, Inc.

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In Honor of Josie Marie Hair

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In Honor of Shawnita Lambert

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In Honor of Nord Lange

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Anonymous

In Honor of Abby and Ben and Lila Leys

Arthur Mead

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In Honor of Veronica Mays

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In Honor of Patrick McGrath

Anonymous

In Honor of MLKCC Staff

Susan Barnes and Claudia Helt

In Honor of MLK Hunger Services Staff

David and Mary Ann Fiaschetti

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Cindy Walaski

Stephen Dimarzo

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Mark and Jessica Monroe

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Anonymous

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Denise Meaney

Peneolope Pankow

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Marc Schmier

In Honor of The Plummer Family

Anonymous

In Honor of Craig Primis

Nelson and Bernice Martins

In Honor of Jill Greenman Reynolds

Lisa Morrison

Barbara Parkos

Margaret Vento

Evelyn Weller

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Linda Greenman

Megan Browning

Rachael Romanowski

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Nancy Camara Peterson

In Honor of Mary Reynolds

James and Tricia Hilton

In Honor of Lynn Sanzo

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In Honor of Valorie and Jack Sheehan

Barbara H. Roberts

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Janet Massey

Andrew Seawright

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Connie Frances

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Eric Fusco

Dina Stewart Levitre

Lana Nieves

Jennifer Gordon

Margaret Bravo

Deb Reilly

Marlene Merritt

Madeline Sutton

In Honor of Emma Soria

Leif Nylander

**"It was great to catch up
and hear what the MLK is
doing. Thank you for being
part of the good in this
world!"**

— Mary, Newport

Tribute Giving

In Honor of Eric Spigel

Anonymous
Nancy Bernstein
Jose Arteiro
Sean Perry
Kathy Ruane DelBene
Rosalind Spigel
David Spector
Catherine Burke
Susie Downing
Karl Amber
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Peter Herstein
Marc Pallasch
Stan Souza
Paul Merrill
Kerry Doherty
Barry Mohle
Ronald Gero Jr
Elaine Bower
Michael Souza
Thomas Freeman
William Coleman
Burke David
Lawrence Rainey
Jane Daversa
Gary McCarthy
Robert Connerney
Karen Day

In Honor of Patty Spigel

Linda Lull

In Honor of Becky Steeves

Helen Lyon

In Honor of Heather Hole Strout

Christi Malafronte
Colleen McGrath
Sisters of St. Joseph of Cluny
Jennifer Hole
David Kalif
Jacqueline Hole

In Honor of Julia Sweeney

Crystal Gould

In Honor of John Thompson

Anonymous
Brenda Dillmann
Martha Spiewak
Elizabeth Matteson
Michael Alper

"We are committed to supporting MLK, even in retirement!"

— Newport Couple

Jerry Price
Cheryl Leaver
Mary Devine
Dana D'Eramo Ohannessian
Nicole Russell
Charlotte Yeomans
Susan Tourgee
Steph Ottilige
Kerrie Johnson
Jerry Price
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Patricia Ustick

In Honor of Gustavo and Maria Luisa Vergara

Maria Elena Vergara and Isaac Valentin

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Anonymous
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Jane Walker
Doug Turnbull

In Honor of K & B Walker

Jeanne Gallagher

In Honor of Gabriel Walsh

Dorothy Walsh

In Honor of Jennifer Williams

Jan Armor

In Honor of David Wixted

Julie Wixted

In Honor of Gail Woodworth

Gary Woodworth

In Honor of Ted Wrobel's 80th Birthday

Deborah Bryan
Hank Kniskern
Alyson and Robert Novick
Bonnie Watson



Children thrive at the MLK Community Center.

The MLK, June 2023



The MLK, Coming Soon in Early 2024



Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center

20 Dr. Marcus Wheatland Blvd.

Newport, RI 02840

401-846-4828

MLKCCenter.org

  @newportMLK

