



January 23, 2026

Our Keeper of the Dream & Annual Meeting was Fabulous!



We're still abuzz from Monday's Keeper of the Dream & Annual Meeting. We honored **[Jerry Kirby](#)** for his commitment and generosity to the Center, and to his community; our partnership with **[Citizens' Bank Washington Square](#)**; and volunteer **[Ginny Gilman](#)** for her devotion to our clients.

The Ed Coll community room was packed with people who joined us in our work to build a stronger and more inclusive community, including our friends at the **[NAACP - Newport Branch](#)** who joined us after a day filled with events celebrating the birthday of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. We reported on the successes and challenges of 2025, celebrated new and retiring board members, and honored eight longtime employees who have worked at the Center for a amazing combined total of 87 years.

Take a look at some of the photos from the evening to see what a special night we had! To see more, make sure to follow us on **[Instagram](#)** and **[Facebook](#)**!

[All photos: Cocoa & Co.](#)



Our first Saturday for Breakfast and the Food Pantry is TOMORROW!

Tomorrow, January 24, is the first Saturday we will be open for Breakfast and the Food Pantry. **Breakfast will be available from 7:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m., and the Food Pantry will be open from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**

With these new hours, **our Breakfast program and Food Pantry will now be open six days a week.** We are excited to start offering these programs on Saturdays because we know it will make a difference in Newport County, and **we are grateful for the community support that helped us make it happen.**

Check out the videos below with MLK Staff and volunteers showing off the Breakfast and Food Pantry programs!



Join us and Tolia Restaurant at the MLK for dinner on Wednesday, Jan. 28



MLK Friends Dinner

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 28, 5:30 - 6:30 P.M.
 MIÉRCOLES, 28 DE ENERO, 5:30 - 6:30 P.M.

Join us for a meal sponsored and served by:



Anatolian Style Chickpea Stew
 Chickpea, lamb, onion, Turkish tomato and pepper paste

Rice Pilaf
 Rice, orzo, and butter

Cacik Sauce
 Yoghurt, Cucumber, mint, sumac, and Aleppo pepper

Semolina Halva
 Turkish Semolina, butter cinnamon, and pinenuts

Enjoy a sit down meal with friends and neighbors.
 First come, first served.

Le invitamos a que se sienten con nosotros y disfrute de una cena entre amigos. Por orden de llegada.

Tolia Restaurant serves Anatolian, Middle Eastern cuisine from their food truck and in Providence at **Track 15**. They're coming to the Center to prepare and serve our **monthly MLK Friends Dinner on Wednesday, January 28, from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.**, and we can't wait!

Join our friends and us from Tolia for an amazing meal and an evening with our community. **Check out the menu below.** See you there!


 DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. COMMUNITY CENTER
 For more information, email Erin Patel at epatel@mlkcenter.org or call 401-846-4828 x124
 Para obtener más información, contactar Erin Patel a epatel@mlkcenter.org y 401-846-4828 x124

Our Seniors had a blast with Rhode Island Black Storytellers

This week, Sheila from **Rhode Island Black Story Tellers** joined us at Senior Lunch & Learn as a part of their **Funda Fest 28 Festival**. While introducing herself, Sheila told us that her father was in the military, so her family moved frequently when she was a child. They ended up in Newport for a year while her dad was at the Naval War College. They lived at Ft. Adams, and she attended Thompson Middle School. She was excited to come to the Center and reconnect with Newport.

She told us a tale about her father’s childhood, a Br’er Rabbit (African American folk tale) story, and a story about playing Monopoly with her little sister when they were young. Each story touched on amusing, relatable family dynamics, sparking laughs and smiles from the crowd during the meal. We are so grateful to be included in their event schedule and to celebrate the tradition of storytelling.



Honoring Dr. King in Preschool



Our Preschoolers celebrated Dr. King this week. The children learned about his legacy, listened to his “I Have a Dream Speech,” and **Ben Harper’s song “With My Own Two Hands”** to emphasize Dr. King’s message about changing the world.

They decorated cutouts of their hands and wrote their dreams on hearts, and then used these crafts for a mural. "My Dream is everyone shares books," one reads. Another says, "Mi sueño es compartir con mis amigos," which means, *my dream is to share with my friends*. And a personal favorite, "My dream is to eat ice cream."

I think we can all agree that these are wonderful and relatable dreams! We are so proud of them for creating something so meaningful while learning about Dr. King, in their school that bears his name.



Join us on Tuesday, January 27 for a Sing-a-long with Christopher Carbone and Music Together of Newport County!

These cold, winter months can be brutal, can't they? Why don't you join us on **Tuesday, January 27, at 10:00 a.m. to find the spirit of wintertime with sing-along songs, music, rhythm, and more!**

Christopher Carbone from ***Music Together of Newport County*** is joining us to perform and lead this kids' and family event. **Use the QR codes below to RSVP and learn more about the organization.** We hope to see you there!



DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
COMMUNITY CENTER

Musical Celebrations: Wintertime in Community

With Mr. Christopher Carbone and Music Together of Newport County

Celebrate the spirit of the wintertime season with sing-along songs, music, rhythm, and more!

Tuesday, Jan. 27 10:00 a.m.
MLK Community Center
20 Marcus Wheatland Blvd Newport RI
Free event for Families and kids of all ages



Space limited, scan to RSVP

Learn more about Music Together of Newport County





DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
COMMUNITY CENTER

Celebraciones Musicales: Invierno en Comunidad

Con el Sr. Christopher Carbone y Music Together of Newport County

¡Celebra el espíritu de la temporada invernal con canciones para cantar juntos, música, ritmo y mucho más!

Martes, 27 de Enero 10:00 a.m.
MLK Community Center
20 Marcus Wheatland Blvd Newport RI
Evento gratuito para familias y niños de todas las edades



Espacio limitado, escaneo a RVSP



Obtener más información sobre Music Together of Newport County



Special thanks to our friends at The Newport Concours and Motor Week

Huge thanks to the [**Audrain Concours Foundation**](#) for their very generous donation from the 2025 [**Audrain Newport Concours and Motor Week**](#). These funds help strengthen Newport County by fighting hunger, promoting healthy lifestyles, and supporting education and childcare for working families.

We're grateful to Nic Waller, Executive Director of Audrain Newport Concours and Motor Week, for bringing the donation to the Center.



Open spots in The Kids' Wonder Lab, starting Monday, Jan. 26!

The Kids' Wonder Lab is back in the new year, and due to popular demand, we are opening an afternoon class! **The new eight-week session starts on Monday, January 26, and will recur weekly from 3:00 p.m. to 4:15 p.m.** If you have a child who is 18 months to four years old who would like to explore sensory learning with us at the Center, reach out to our Community Programs Manager, Erin Patel, by [clicking here](#) or calling 401.846.4828 x124.



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COMMUNITY CENTER



The Bazarsky Family
Foundation

Present

The Kids' WONDER LAB



Free of charge every Monday 3:00 p.m. - 4:15 p.m.
eight week session **starting Jan. 26**



**Immersive experience for Kids
ages 18 months to 4 years old**



**Enhance developmental and
social skills through sensory play**

Registration required:



401.846.4828 x124



epatel@mlkccenter.org



DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
COMMUNITY CENTER



La fundación de la
Familia Bazarky

Presentan

The Kids' WONDER LAB



Gratis todos los lunes de 3:00 p.m. - 4:15 p.m.
Sesión de ocho semanas a partir del **26 de Enero**



Una experiencia inmersiva para niños de 18 meses a 4 años.



Mejorar las habilidades sociales y de desarrollo a través del juego sensorial.

Registro Requerido:



401.846.4828 x124



epatel@mlkccenter.org

Beep! Beep! Here Comes the Mobile Food Pantry!

MOBILE FOOD PANTRY TRACKER

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
COMMUNITY CENTER

The Mobile Food Pantry is coming your way! Here are next week's Mobile Food Pantry Locations:

Tuesday 1/27/2026:

Festival Field, 90 Girard Ave. Newport RI 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Lucy's Hearth, 19 Valley Rd. Middletown RI 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. - *Residents Only*

Thursday 1/29/2026:

West House, 417 Forest Ave. Middletown RI 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. - *Residents Only*

All are welcome. You do not need to reside in the neighborhood to use the Mobile Food Pantry, unless otherwise advised. Please remember to bring your reusable bags.

Download Our Monthly Calendar

[Download January Calendar in](#)

[English](#)

[Descargar Calendario de Enero en](#)

[Español](#)



Our Contact Information

{{Organization Name}}

{{Organization Address}}

{{Organization Phone}}

{{Organization Website}}

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Volunteer

Give



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