



DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. COMMUNITY CENTER

February 6, 2026

Celebrating Black History Month with moments in MLK history



As we celebrate Black History Month, let's look back at some moments from over 100 years of the MLK Center.

The building that houses the MLK Community Center, formerly known as the Newport Community Center Association Inc. and known by many as The Rec, was built in 1940 -1941 by the US Navy to house activities and programs for servicemen of color, as the military was segregated. The Armed Services YMCA (now the McKinney Cooperative Shelter) was off limits to black soldiers and sailors, so they would come to the USO building at what was then 20 West Broadway. At the time, the USO building could house up to 90 service members and accommodate dances, games, and plays.

It's important to remember our building's history as we work to fulfill our mission to build a stronger, more inclusive Newport County.

Are you up for some Black History Month Trivia? In what year was the Center renamed in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr? [**Click here to email your answers to Anna Downes**](#), our Marketing and Communications Coordinator! The first person to get the answer correctly will get a shoutout in next week's enews.

Photo shown: The USO Building while it was operational for service members of color.

MLK Kids' Clothing Drive and Giveaway with Four Hearts Foundation



KIDS' CLOTHING DRIVE AND GIVEAWAY

Thanks to our friends at the **Four Hearts Foundation** for helping us collect gently worn clothing for children of all ages in Newport County!

Please drop off your donations to the following locations by 3:00 p.m. on February 10:



Donation Sites

Common Fence Point Community Center
933 Anthony Rd.
Portsmouth RI

Portsmouth Nursery School
2732 E Main Rd
Portsmouth RI

Newport Indoor Golf
1947 W Main Rd.
Portsmouth RI

Evangelical Friends Church
70 Bliss Mine Rd.
Middletown RI

Wednesday, February 11

2:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

**Join us at the Center to choose clothes donated through the drive!
Please use the Edward St. Entrance.**



Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center
20 Marcus Wheatland Blvd. Newport RI



**Giveaway
Event**



Kids grow fast, and with clothes being so expensive, it can be hard to keep up. That's why we are organizing a Kids' Clothing Drive and Giveaway with our friends from the

Four Hearts Foundation!

Want to help? Donations of gently worn clothing for kids of all ages are being collected at **Common Fence Point Community Center**, **Portsmouth Nursery School**, **Newport Indoor Golf**, and **The Evangelical Friends Church** from now until Tuesday, February 10.

Need clothes for your kids? On Wednesday, February 11, the MLK Community Center will host a distribution event where friends and neighbors can choose clothes for their children from donated items. The event will take place from 2:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. and is free and open to all. Please enter through the Edward St. Entrance. We hope to see you there!

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COLECTA Y SORTEO DE ROPA INFANTIL

¡Gracias a nuestros amigos de la **Four Hearts Foundation** por ayudarnos a recoger ropa en buenas condiciones para niños de todas las edades en el condado de Newport!

Por favor, deje sus donaciones en los siguientes lugares antes de las 3:00 p.m. del 10 de febrero:

Lugares de donación

- Common Fence Point Community Center**
933 Anthony Rd.
Portsmouth RI
- Portsmouth Nursery School**
2732 E Main Rd
Portsmouth RI
- Newport Indoor Golf**
1947 W Main Rd.
Portsmouth RI
- Evangelical Friends Church**
70 Bliss Mine Rd.
Middletown RI

Miércoles 11 de Febrero
2:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Evento de Sorteo

**¡Únete a nosotros en el Centro para elegir ropa donada durante la campaña!
Por favor, usen la entrada de Edward St.**

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center
20 Marcus Wheatland Blvd. Newport RI

Join us for a special MLK Valentine's Day lunch, thanks to George and Laura Loftus of Pelham Strategies

Join us Friday, February 13, from 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. to celebrate Valentine's Day with a delicious lunch. What's on the menu? Surf and Turf! We will feast on baked salmon, steak with chimichurri sauce, Greek orzo pasta, baked potatoes, and kale salad.

We are grateful to our friends **George and Laura Loftus of Pelham Strategies** for sponsoring this meal so we can celebrate as a community. We hope to see you there!



♥ MLK Valentine's Day Lunch ♥
 Almuerzo de San Valentín de MLK
 Friday, February 13 *Viernes, 13 de Febrero*
 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Join us for a special Valentine's Day lunch featuring baked salmon, steak, Greek orzo pasta, baked potatoes and kale salad!
 ¡Únete a nosotros para un almuerzo especial de San Valentín con salmón ahumado, filete, pasta orzo griega, patatas asadas y ensalada de col rizada!

Sponsored by *Patrocinado por*
 George and Laura Loftus of Pelham Strategies



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 COMMUNITY CENTER

Celebrate our ArtLink creatives at Collective Sojourns with Newport Art Museum

Every Wednesday at 10:00 a.m., we host ArtLink with the ***Newport Art Museum***, where artists of all levels explore their creativity in the craft of their choice. Want to see what they have been up to? Mark your calendars for Friday, February 13, from 5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. Join us at The Museum School for the exhibition showcasing projects created at ArtLink. We are so proud and excited for our community artists, and we hope to see you there.

ARTLINK
CONNECTING COMMUNITY + CREATIVITY

COLLECTIVE SOJOURNS

THIS EXHIBITION SHOWCASES WORK BY THE ARTLINK COLLECTIVE, DEVELOPED THROUGH OPEN ART SESSIONS LED BY TEACHING ARTIST ANNABEL MANNING.

THE MUSEUM SCHOOL – 26 LIBERTY STREET, NEWPORT RI
FEBRUARY 13 5PM - 6:30PM



NEWPORT ART MUSEUM

Mobile Food Pantry Volunteers Needed!

MOBILE FOOD PANTRY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

TUESDAYS AND THURSDAYS 12 - 2 P.M.
AT LEAST 1 SHIFT PER MONTH
15 LOCATIONS ACROSS NEWPORT COUNTY
MODERATE PHYSICAL EFFORT REQUIRED

HOLLIE JOHNSON, VOLUNTEER MANAGER

401.846.4828x103

hjohnson@mlkcenter.org

WILL YOU HELP?

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
COMMUNITY CENTER

Do you have availability on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.? Are you looking for ways to get involved in the community? Why not volunteer with us and our Mobile Food Pantry program?

The Mobile Food Pantry currently visits 15 sites across Newport County. Volunteers are a huge help to this vital program, as they assist with on-site set up, help clients select food, and pack up after the session concludes. The safety of our volunteers is of utmost importance to us, so please note that these shifts require moderate physical effort to move the carts used to transport the food.

If you are interested in volunteering, [click here](#) to contact our Volunteer Manager, [Hollie Johnson](#).

SE NECESITAN VOLUNTARIOS PARA LA DISPENSA MÓVIL

MARTES Y JUEVES 12 - 2 P.M.
AL MENOS UN TURNO AL MES
15 SITIOS EN EL CONDADO DE NEWPORT
ESFUERZO FISICO MODERADO



HOLLIE JOHNSON, COORDINADORA DE VOLUNTARIOS



401.846.4828x103



hjohnson@mlkccenter.org

¿AYUDARÁS?





Continuing the Black History Month celebrations in Preschool

Our preschool students have been having fun diving into artistic, Black History Month lessons! First, they learned about **Carter G. Woodson, the founder of Black History Month, and how it celebrates African American culture**. Then they did a finger-painting activity using paint colors representing various skin tones and a heart-shaped

canvas. **The project was representative of how people of all backgrounds and skin colors can be friends.**

There are a lot of fun Black History Month activities scheduled for Preschool and After School, as well as more moments in MLK history. **Stay tuned each week and keep an eye on our socials as we celebrate throughout the month!**



Beep! Beep! Here Comes the Mobile Food Pantry!



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

Tuesday 2/10/2026:

- Oxbow Farms, 80 Rogers Ln. Middletown RI 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

- 1 Park Holm Newport RI 1:15 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.

Thursday 2/12/2026:

- Donovan Manor, 19 Chapel St. Newport RI 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.
- Edgar Ct. Cul-de-sac Newport RI 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

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 February Calendar in
English

Descargar Calendario de Febrero
en Español



Our Contact Information

- *{{Organization Name}}*
- *{{Organization Address}}*
- *{{Organization Phone}}*
- *{{Organization Website}}*

- *{{Unsubscribe}}*

Volunteer

Give



You are receiving this email because you opted in to join our email newsletter list. We promise to never share your information with third parties, or spam you.