

## Celebrating Diversity

### Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Breakfast and Awards Day

The first MLK Community Breakfast was held in 2010 in the Community Room at Morristown-Hamblen Library. Approximately 90 people attending. The Keynote Speaker was Dr. J. Randall O'Brien, President of Carson-Newman University. In addition to gathering in commemoration of Dr. King and his work, a pattern of conferring a Community Award was established. The first MLK Community Award was presented to The Rev. Dr. Donald C. Holness, Sr., President of the area NAACP.

In succeeding years, the Community Breakfast was moved first to Prater Hall at the Rose Center and then to the Family Activities Center at First Presbyterian Church.

Keynote speakers have included:

**2011**—Dale Clayton, Associate Athletic Director and Coordinator for Student-Athlete Success at Carson-Newman University. The MLK Award was presented to Mr. Brandon Moore.

**2012**—Mrs. Brenda Travis, a Mississippi pioneer in the Civil Rights movement. The MLK Award was presented to J.C. Wilson and Marilyn Etta Simm.

**2013**—Dr. Tina Sloan Green, Co-founder and President of the Black Women in Sport Foundation and Professor Emeritus in the College of Education at Temple University. The MLK Award was presented to the Rev. Dr. Ed Cunningham, Pastor of Bethel United Methodist Church.

**2014**—The Rev. Wayne Purcell, a well-known pastor, counselor and speaker in East Tennessee and Western North Carolina. The Community Award was presented to Walter and Peggy Dockery.

**2015**—The Rev. Dr. J. Randall O'Brien returned as the Keynote Speaker. The Community Award was presented to Mr. Michael Fishman, editor of the Citizen-Tribune newspaper.

The Keynote Speaker for the upcoming MLK Community Breakfast on January 18, 2016, will be Navy Reserve Force Master Chief C.J. Mitchell and Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Manpower and Reserve Affairs.

## Promoting Acceptance and Understanding

**We work together, endorse and support the activities of the following colleague groups.**

### Native American:

MTFD has endorsed the Lakeway "Gathering of Nations" and "Spirit of the Nations" pow-wows that have been held in Cherokee Park (Morristown) and Patriot Park (Jefferson City).

### African-American Groups:

*From Africa to Appalachia*  
*Union of Churches and Ministerial Alliance of Hamblen County (UCMA)*  
*African-American Heritage Alliance of East Tennessee (AAHA)*  
*NAACP*

### Latino-Hispanic

**H.O.L.A.** (Hispanic Outreach Leadership Association)

### Other Associations and Partners:

**CEDnet** (Community Economic Development Network of East Tennessee)

**Rose Center** (Arts and Culture)

**Hidden Treasures Academy** - a private, post-secondary educational program for high-functioning adults with intellectual disabilities.

### For More Information

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### Morristown's Task Force on Diversity

Our Mission:

To acknowledge and celebrate the diversity of our community and to promote acceptance and understanding among its residents.

Our Vision:

To make Morristown a city where all individuals are equally valued solely "by the content of their character," and are welcomed and celebrated for the uniqueness they contribute to our community.

Our links:

We were founded in 2008 by then City Mayor, Barbara "Sami" Barile, as a Task Force of the City of Morristown. In 2013, we became part of the Rose Center family of organizations.

*Promoting unity within the community*

Morristown Task Force on Diversity  
PO Box 1976  
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## Acknowledging Diversity

### Olympic Day :

**2009:** Morristown was the first city in the nation to register for this event. Olympians Missy Kane and Carly Piper visited Boys & Girls Club and Girls, Inc. and met the public at Fred Miller Park in an event that featured demonstrations of 15 Olympic sports available in Morristown.

**2010:** Approximately 130 youth took part in a 1.6 mile Olympic Walk on the Turkey Creek Greenway. Carly Piper and Para-Olympian Eric Hollen were in Morristown, again meeting with the youth clubs and attending an evening event at Fred Miller Park.

**2011:** No Olympian was provided this year, but Olympic Day began with youth from Girls Inc. taking part in the Olympic Walk. The event continued at Civic Park, where the girls were taught hula hooping and rhythmic gymnastics and tried their hands at several fitness exercises.

### Celebration of Cultures Festival

**2009:** Roughly 1,500 people attended the first Celebration of Cultures event at Fred Miller Park. Two stages featured musicians and performers representing a variety of cultures. Food vendors offered everything from soul food to sushi.

**2010:** A grant from the TN Arts Commission brought musician Billy Jonas to the festival, which featured three performance stages. Between 2,000 and 2,500 people enjoyed the music, dance, storytelling and foods of different cultures.

**2011:** This year's featured performer was noted blues musician Wallace Coleman.



## Adding Enrichment

### Cultural Events:

2013: *We Shall Overcome* -

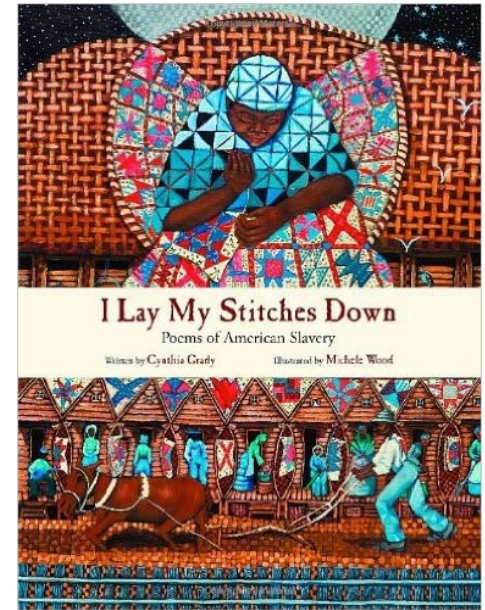
Optasia Productions of Knoxville performed this play at All Saints' Episcopal School. The play was especially geared toward students who had not experienced the Civil Rights Movement.

2014: *A Special Art Exhibit: \_A black and white photographic exhibit of pictures taken during the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, August 1963, was on display at the Rose Center during February 2014, Black History Month. It was on loan from the National Archives.*

2015: Collaboration, support and co-sponsoring of *Latino Lakeway Celebration*, a series of events carried out over a period of 6 weeks.

The focus was on the Bracero Program, a federal program for migrant workers from 1942 – 1964. The program involved several groups, including the Hamblen County Substance Abuse Coalition, TN Commission of the Arts, Rose Center, H. O. L. A. Lakeway (Hispanic Outreach Leadership Association), the Citizen-Tribune and MTFD. The Celebration included:

- Discussions in English and Spanish of the program and its effect. Present were children of workers engaged in the Bracero Program
- *Latin Fusion*, an art exhibit of posters at the Rose Center
- An exhibit of the work of four Latino artists was also open at the Rose Center for the month of June. The opening included food and music.
- A visit and seminar led by Knoxville Mayor, Madeleine Rogero, who worked with Caesar Chavez in the early 1970's.
- A production of *Esperanza Rising*, a play which related the story of a young girl whose family emigrated from Mexico to the United States following the Mexican Civil War of 1910.



### The Children's Book Program

Each year since its formation, MTFD has contributed books to area school libraries and to the public library, lifting up the benefit of living in communities where diversity is celebrated. In addition, members of the Task Force have gone into schools to read the book selections to elementary age children.

### THE MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. ESSAY CONTEST: A Collaboration and Cooperative event with partners, the Citizen-Tribune newspaper and the Hamblen County School District

Beginning in 2010, our local newspaper began sponsoring an essay contest for three age levels of Hamblen County students: High School, Middle School and Elementary School. MTFD served as readers and judges. In 2013, there were well over 300 submissions of essays from Hamblen County students. IN 2014, there were 500 entrants and in 2015, there were over 800 entrants. Teachers used the essay contest to promote critical thinking in line with state Language Arts requirements for students. Awards were presented at the Annual MLK Breakfast by the editor of the newspaper, Michael Fishman.