



COMMUNITY CONNECTION

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pushing forward
for america

ANGELINA JOLIE

changing her image
+ the world

URBANA 06

a call to service for
college students

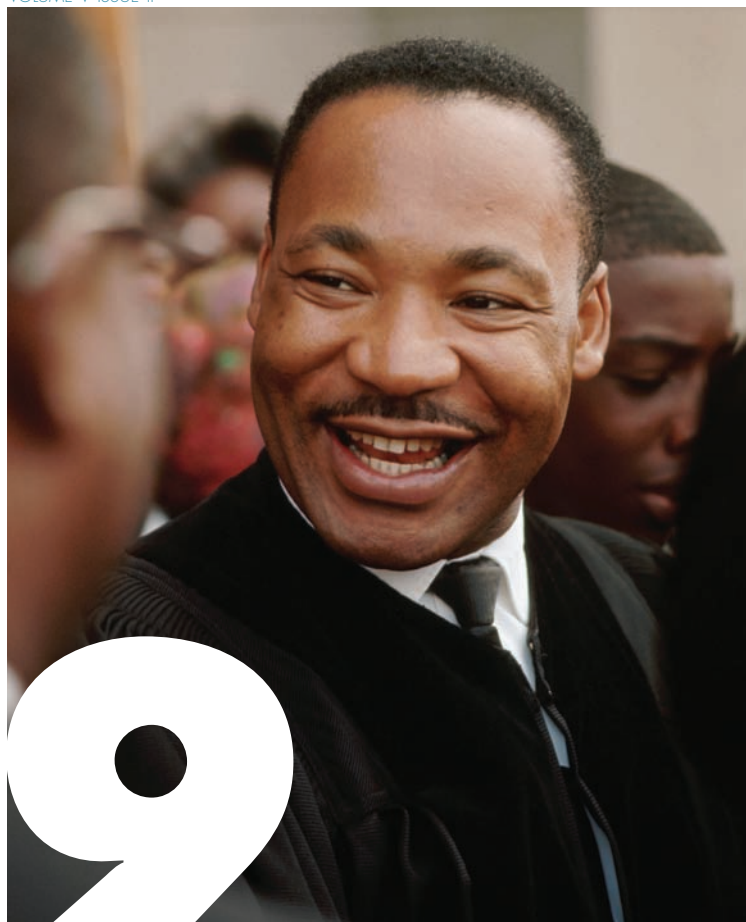


JUSTICE SUNDAY

Louisiana Governor Kathleen Blanco
works with the National Alliance of
Faith and Justice for Dr. King's Dream

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Justice Sunday is a national movement to honor Dr. King as an icon for change through service.

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Justice Sunday is a national movement to honor Dr. King as an icon for change through service.

JUSTICE SUNDAY

SYLVIA ANDREWS

Louisiana Governor Kathleen Babineaux Blanco joined hundreds of thousands of Americans across the nation in honoring the late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., by making the federally observed King holiday “a day *on*, not a day *off*” and launching the nation’s first statewide Justice Sunday effort.





Founders of NAFJ, Ms. Addie Richburg, first row, second to the right and husband, Reverend Warren Dolphus, second row, third to the right. CCN mourns the passing of Reverend Warren Dolphus in February 2007. This photo was taken at the National 2007 MLK Kickoff in Los Angeles.



RECOGNIZING THE NEED TO TURN DR. KING'S PHILOSOPHY OF SERVICE INTO ACTION to create positive change at the community level, Governor Blanco, along with several mayors across the state, proclaimed the Sunday prior to the King holiday as "Justice Sunday." Founded by the National Alliance of Faith and Justice, an intermediary of the Corporation for National and Community Service, Justice Sunday is a national movement to honor Dr. King as an icon for change through service. The Justice Sunday National Continuum calls for service projects to commence the weekend prior to the King holiday and continue throughout the year.

Governor Blanco, a member of the Honorary National Steering Committee for Justice Sunday, asked the people of her state to "pause to remember the contributions of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and others who dedicated their lives to advancing the values of equality, tolerance and justice." She called on them "to honor [Dr. King's] life and legacy by volunteering and serving their communities."

Under the governor's direction, Louisiana is the first state to recognize and participate in the Justice Sunday National Continuum. Over one hundred organizations, including the Council of Student Body Presidents for the Louisiana System of Colleges and Universities, Big Brothers Big Sisters of

and many faith-based organizations, partnered with the governor to engage in service projects that included:

- Nearly 700 people attended the Justice Sunday "kickoff" events held at facilities operated by the Office of Youth Development, the state agency charged with managing the state's juvenile justice-secured facilities. Governor Blanco worked alongside the youth to learn how to pot seeds and nurture plants for their Oak Tree Grow-out Stations and Sowing Seeds of Love Community Project. Throughout the year, the young men who reside in the facilities will participate in several restorative justice projects:

- Speaking at middle schools and elementary schools, with the message that making poor choices has serious consequences
- Building homes for families through Habitat for Humanity
- Visiting assisted living and nursing homes
- Planting oak trees as part of Re-build New Orleans
- Growing plants for their mothers and guardians and nursing home residents for Mother's Day
- Six hundred volunteers helped refurbish an area high school, a project led by City Year Louisiana, Hands On New Orleans, and Volunteers of America of Greater New Orleans.
- Louisiana Tech University sponsored a community-wide event to celebrate the legacy and impact of Dr. King through song, ceremony, and food.
- The Lord's Outreach Ministries, Inc., distributed flyers on ways to end violence, poverty, and home-

"Louisiana is the first state to recognize and participate in the Justice Sunday National Continuum."

Southeast Louisiana, Louisiana chapter of the NAACP, Volunteers of America of Greater New Orleans, City Year Louisiana, Hands On New Orleans

- Building doll houses and rocking chairs for children at several facilities



Nearly 700 people attended Justice Sunday "kickoff" events held at all three facilities operated by the Office of Youth Development.

lessness and motivate people to take action in their communities.

- Holy Rosary Church hosted an event for volunteers to renovate a home as part of an ongoing commitment to the poor, elderly and disabled in New Orleans. A small group of volunteers cooked for workers and area residents who are currently back in their homes.
- As a result of their interfaith worship, friendship and community action, the Touro Synagogue and Masjidur-Rahim's Mosque of the Merciful held their second Weekend of Peace, which more than 150 residents attended in the New Orleans community. Throughout the weekend, both congregations gathered to promote interfaith understanding, worship and dialogue. They also commemorated the work of Dr. King by serving a hot meal, distributing non-perishable food, clothing, and household goods, and providing medical and mental health services to the needy residents of the Masjidur-Rahim neighborhood.
- In New Orleans, people attended a youth leadership workshop sponsored by Interfaith Works.
- Volunteers of Faith Chapel worked to beautify and clean up the Gardere Lane area, one of the most impoverished communities in Baton Rouge.

"Pause to remember the contributions of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and others who dedicated their lives to advancing the values of equality, tolerance and justice."

- House of Faith Full Gospel Church in Lafayette held its first annual "Faith and Justice Sunday." Business and community leader Fred Prejean traveled with others from Lafayette to the March on Washington to hear Dr. King's renowned "I Have A Dream" speech. He shared the impact of "The Dream" on his life of public service and encouraged the congregation to break new ground in advancement of "The Dream" in their own lives. This faith-based organization provides transitional housing outreach to those who were formerly incarcerated to bring them spiritual, relational, and economic restoration.

Louisiana Justice Sunday partner organizations will continue to conduct service projects in four focus ar-

reas aligned with Governor Blanco's Solutions to Poverty (STOP) Movement and juvenile justice reform: addressing the root causes of poverty and reversing the social and economic ills that resulted over many generations in the state, mentoring at-risk youth, reducing adverse contact with law enforcement, and promoting crime prevention.

The mass mobilization of Justice Sunday, which occurred January 8-15, is part of the National Alliance of Faith and Justice's (NAFJ) three-year effort to significantly raise interest and excitement about volunteerism in honor of Dr. King. As in New Orleans, the MLK Day of Service/Justice Sunday Series occurred for the first time this year in Greater Los Angeles. Organizers and participants have already begun to gear up for 2008, pledging even more collaboration and volunteers. ¶

Co-founder of NAFJ, Reverend Warren Dolphus, at the King Center looks upon the Civil Rights Walk of Fame.



Gov. Blanco nurtures plants for the Oak Tree Grow-out Stations and Sowing Seeds of Love Community Project.





In her new column, Dr. Cotton guides you on a journey to self-awareness; empowering you to find both inner-peace and fulfill the mission of your life

a journey into you

DR. M. JEANNE DOLPHUS COTTON



A beautiful expression of love

created in the image and likeness of God with all of the rights, privileges, benefits and responsibilities of such an honor; a beautiful, whole organism comprised of mind, body and spirit, living in two worlds—physical and spiritual—of infinite possibilities and in the now-ness of time. That's *what* I am and *what* I am tells me whose I am.

One way that Dr. Cotton finds relaxation through her personal journey is playing the piano.



Knowing *what I am* helps me to work on and understand myself. It helps me to understand the process of living and growing while on my spiritual journey, as I strive to fulfill my reason for being. Knowing what I am tells me that I have a right to “good life and good living” through divine inheritance. Being made in the image and likeness of God, I share His attributes of love, power, wisdom, faith, justice and truth, as I travel this planet breathing His love and breath of life.

What about you? What are you? You, too, are a beautiful expression of love, created in the image and likeness of God...

Come with me on a journey to meet the most important and exciting person you will ever meet in your lifetime—*you*. Let me guide you through an inner look at you, your inner makeup. Let me show you how your “inner you” blends into the “outer you” and what that creates.

I say, “You are the most important person you will meet in this lifetime.” You ask me *why*? I say because everything for you begins and ends with you... how you think, feel, believe and act. You are a person equipped with everything you need to become a whole, healthy, happy and productive person. You are the key to you, your world and all of its affairs. Within you is the key to the development of unlimited potential just waiting to be discovered and developed to the fullest.

The formula we’ll use on this journey:
 $A + U + A = QR$. Awareness + Understanding + Application = Quality Results. Awareness is necessary, but it’s understanding as it relates to you and applying it that is key.

“You are the most important person you will meet in this lifetime.”



Let’s go within. Imagine a circle and within that circle is a dot. The dot represents you. The circle represents your inner world that is played out in your physical world. In that circle is your personality structure—your character, hang-ups, morals, values, beliefs, feelings, expectations, attitude about yourself, life and people, what makes you tick and turns you on and off, what you think about, etc. Your inner, personal world draws the outer world to you and draws you to the outer world.

The greatest and most meaningful discovery you will have is discovering, nurturing, and developing that person. I invite you to come with me on this very exciting trip—the journey into you.

To be continued...

AWARENESS + UNDERSTANDING + APPLICATION = QUALITY RESULTS



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