

My business will support the community observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day by donating the following to be used for the Live the Dream: Our Declaration of Unity lunch, program, and/or March for Unity in Our Community:

Name of Business:

Contact information:

Food/Money/Items to be donated:

___ We will deliver it ourselves to the Lakota West High School Cafeteria by 12:00 p.m. on Monday, 1/20/20 OR

___ Will need it to be picked up by 11: 15 a.m. on 1/20/20

Please forward your response, or address any questions to:

Gail Webster, event coordinator

(513) 860-4049

confusion@fuse.net

4308 Tylersville Road

West Chester, OH 45011

We will gladly include your business logo on all our printed materials, unless you decline permission to use it by contacting Drew at AReeder@WestChesterOH.org before January 13, 2020.



The officially sanctioned observance of Martin Luther King Day in West Chester and Liberty Townships began in 2000, and has been held annually ever since on the designated national holiday.

**The purpose of this celebration is
to provide a family-friendly, community-wide event
to focus attention on why we celebrate
this national holiday;
to consciously examine the values and ideals that
Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. gave his life to defend;
to allow our community a time and a place to consider
how his dream lives on in our lives today;
and to evaluate how effectively we are reaching
the goals of mutual benefit that he proposed.**

This coming together is most effective when every facet of the community participates. You and your business are invited to join the celebration.

Who supports the
Live the Dream: Our Declaration of Unity
events on Martin Luther King Day?

West Chester Township is our longest-serving sponsor. They provide financial as well as in-kind assistance in preparation for the day's activities, and television coverage by West Chester Cable TV.

Liberty Township and **West Chester/Liberty Chamber Alliance** give in-kind assistance in planning and carrying out the events of the day.

Lakota Local School District allows the committee to offer students a contest relative to the holiday. Hearing from the winners comprises a large portion of the program. Lakota has also begun hosting the lunch and program, and provides students to assist with various aspects of the lunch, in exchange for them receiving community service hours.

Choice Hotels provides the prize money for the contest winners.

Thrivent Financial offers grant money to cover extra expenses relative to the lunch, which is donated by over a dozen local restaurants.

MidPointe Library hosts a follow-up program during Black History month, which is a direct result of one man's involvement with these events.

Mostly, however, **ordinary community members** who have a passion to see the Dream become more of a reality, volunteer to organize and coordinate the day's events. We are now an official non-profit organization, made up of a hodge-podge of citizens whose one task is to allow our towns to have a local and special celebration to honor the memory of Rev. Dr. King and the causes for which he stood.

Local businesses, churches, and organizations become involved by donating food for the lunch (typically a dish that serves 50-75), or floral arrangements to enhance the ambiance, and by displaying publicity posters in their establishments. You are invited to become one of our sponsors this year with such a donation.

Thank you for your kind consideration of this request.

The March for Unity in Our Community

In 2003, a half mile march was added to the annual MLK program, as a means to connect with some of the historical aspects of the Civil Rights Movement, and to give families a chance to take "one small step" toward racial reconciliation with neighbors they might not yet know. The bonds formed during a brisk January hike, while singing *We Shall Overcome*, continue to be forged during a program and then by sharing a meal together.

Why we march today:

Not because we must, but because we may.

Not as a protest to change what is not fair,

but as a celebration of the positives,

for which we are thankful.

We are members of a community, coming together peacefully to demonstrate that ours is a town that strives toward racial reconciliation, and hopes to express that goal symbolically in a tangible way.

The March for Unity begins at 10:30 a.m. on Martin Luther King Day, at the Clocktower at The Square at Union Centre (9285 Centre Pointe Drive, West Chester), and finishes at Lakota West High School (8940 Union Centre Blvd., West Chester) in the auditorium. The program commences at around 11:15 a.m., and includes student presentations and special music. This is followed by a free lunch for all participants, held in the cafeteria at about 12:30 p.m. The food for the community lunch is donated by local restaurants and businesses, and is accompanied by music from the Lakota West Jazz Combo.

Restaurants and other establishments that donate food or goods for the lunch will be acknowledged in our printed materials, which include our website (www.livethedreamwcl.weebly.com), Facebook (LivetheDreamWCL), program bulletins, table tents, posters, and a Powerpoint slide. We are happy to highlight the businesses that support this program which fosters racial equality and justice within our community. We invite you to be one of them.