

IN THE NEWS

COMMUNITY &
SOCIETY PAGE

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The Littleton H. Mason Singers and Jayden Coleman to Headline Chattanooga's Annual MLK Day of Service

By Camm Ashford

The Littleton Mason Singers and a spoken-word performance by Jayden Coleman will headline a program kicking off the donation drive for Chattanooga's annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service.

The city of Chattanooga's Department of Equity and Community Engagement will host the event at City Hall on Mon., Jan. 17, in partnership with the University of Tennessee, River City Company, the NAACP, Scenic Cities Beautiful, the Bessie Smith Cultural Center and the Unity Group of Chattanooga.

This year's theme is: "The Beloved Community...It Starts With Me!"

During the event, Mayor Tim Kelly will provide featured remarks and the Mayor's Youth Council will offer reflections on service. Members of the local NAACP branch will also be in attendance to conduct voter registration and a membership drive.

City Hall will serve as a collection point for donations to benefit organizations located in the ML King Boulevard and 11th Street area. Residents can either walk up or drive up to drop-off their donations from 8:30-11:30 a.m. on Jan. 17. Beneficiaries will be: White-side Faith Manor, Arts Build, The Community Kitchen, the Maclellan Shelter for Families and residents



The Littleton H. Mason Singers will headline Chattanooga's annual MLK Day of Service. The COVID-Conscious service will take place on Jan. 17.

of Patten Towers.

Items needed for donations include new or gently-used clothing, non-perishable food items, art supplies and personal hygiene products such as toilet paper, paper towels, soap and disposable masks.

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the city will not host any larger-scale, in-person service projects for the MLK Day of Service in 2022.

However, Mayor Kelly en-

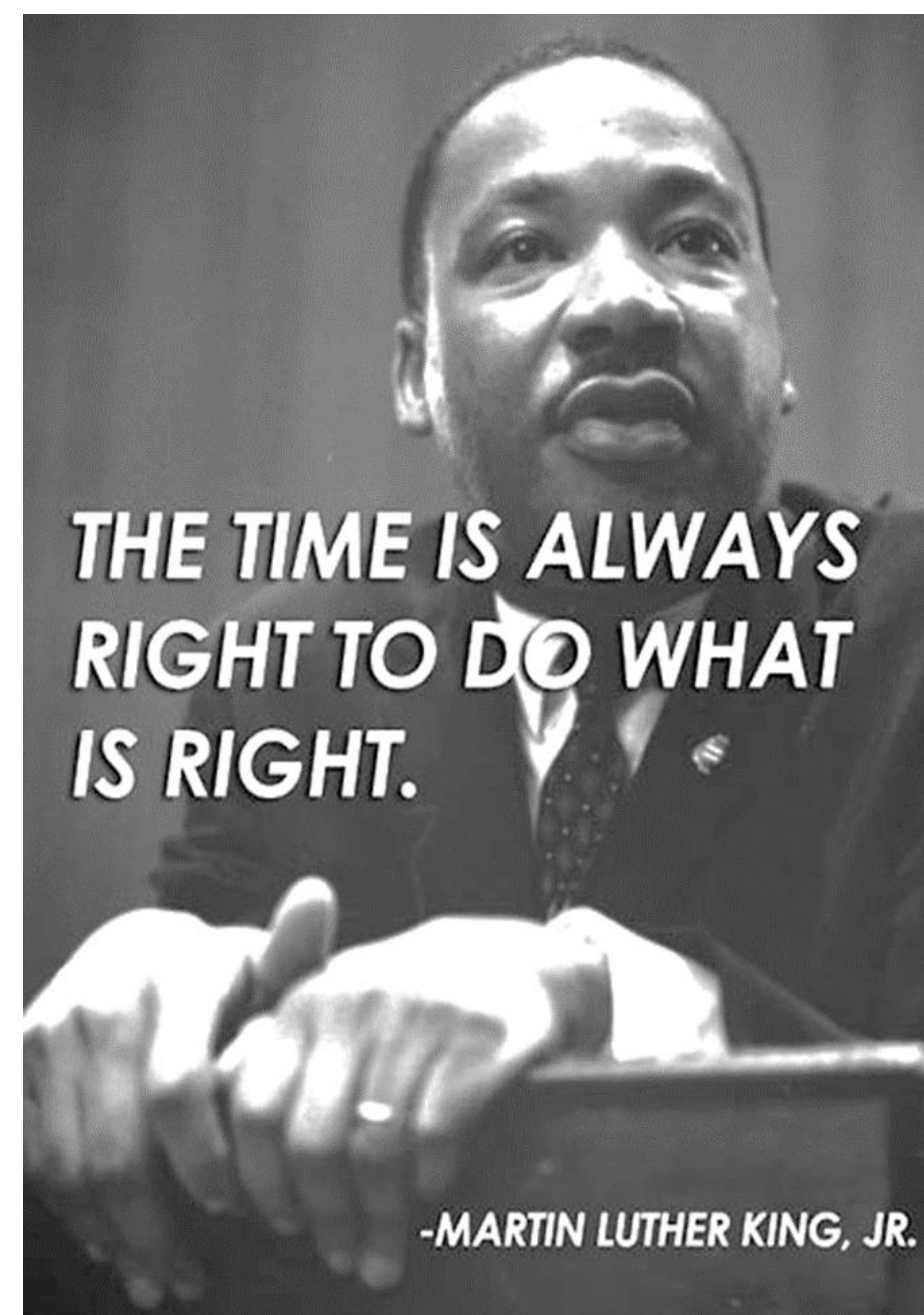
courages individuals, small groups and families to organize their own service projects within their neighborhoods, and share that activity online by using the hashtag #MLK-Chatt2022.

The annual MLK Day of Service was launched in 2014 at the Chattanooga Girls Leadership Academy as a "day on, not a day off," where Chattanoogans were encouraged to come together and work on community-oriented ser-

vice projects.

Past projects have included a clean-up at the Historic Beck Knob Cemetery, painting and cleaning of local childcare centers, neighborhood beautification and litter pickups, among others.

The donation drive is a rain-or-shine event and will be live-streamed via the Department of Equity and Community Engagement's Facebook page.



**MARTIN LUTHER
KING JR. DAY**
JANUARY 17, 2022

The Unity Group of Chattanooga 52nd Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Week Celebration Calendar of Events

Friday, January 14, 2022 7PM

"Riots are the Voices of the Unheard"

Pastor Charlotte S.N.N. Williams {via zoom}

Saturday, January 15, 2022 7PM

"Continuing the Movement for Community Control"

Community Control Now Coalition {via zoom}

Sunday, January 16, 2022 1PM

"Covid-19 is Not Dead"

Chattanooga Hamilton County NAACP {via zoom}

Monday, January 17, 2022 1PM

BELOVED COMMUNITY GATHERING

The Unity Group of Chattanooga {Miller Park}

*Due to Covid-19 concerns, we will forgo the Annual MLK Day Parade for 2022. The gathering in Miller Park will adhere to Covid-19 protocols including masks and social distancing.

Community/Public Service Announcement

*Please see below statement from CHI Memorial,
Erlanger Health System and Parkridge Health System:*

In order to best devote our Emergency Room staffs' time to caring for the increasing number of patients with medical emergencies such as chest pain, difficulty breathing, stroke symptoms, or other conditions that require urgent medical attention, CHI Memorial, Erlanger Health System and Parkridge Health System will not be administering COVID-19 tests in the Emergency Room to patients with non-emergent symptoms such as runny nose, persistent cough, or change in taste or smell.

We will only be testing patients in the Emergency Room with more significant symptoms that would require hospitalization, such as worsening shortness of breath. We encourage those with mild symptoms, who are seeking COVID-19 testing, to visit their local health department's website for testing site locations. We will continue treating everyone with emergent medical conditions in our local emergency rooms.