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UMaine Office for Diversity and Inclusion_MLK Day - A Day of Service Email

Anila Karunakar

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Matthew Revitt <matthew.revitt@maine.edu>

MLK Day - A Day of Service

1 message

Office for Diversity and Inclusion <anila.karunakar@maine.edu>
Reply-To: Office for Diversity and Inclusion <anila.karunakar@maine.edu>
To: matthew.revitt@maine.edu

Mon, Jan 17, 2022 at 7:59 AM



Today, we honor one of the greatest Civil Rights Leaders in our Country, Dr. Rev, Martin Luther King. A day also known as a Day of Service.

I'll be honest. At first, I felt a little uncomfortable and confused. Instead of using this day (and everyday) to center the history and contributions of Black resilience and brilliance in making America what it is today. Why should I rush to busy myself to 'rescue/save' (serve) on this one day so I could feel better about 'doing' something. How does this honor Dr. King?

I spent some time reading through a few of Dr. King's speeches to prepare for this statement, He knew what he was talking about and to whom he was talking. Whether he was talking about access to education, equity, addressing people at church, or speaking to thousands about a dream, Dr. King knew his people, because he served them, and he served with them. He walked with, listened to, and suffered alongside the very community he was serving. It was not just one day. Dr. King practiced service every day that it became his lifestyle. Folx listened and followed him because he was a man of integrity in action. He spoke about non violence because he experienced violence right alongside others. He spoke about wanting to create a "beloved community" of justice, equity

and peace. I think he truly believed this could be done because he saw humanity in the oppressor and dignity in the oppressed. Dr. King dared to envision a world that was so audacious because, I believe, he saw glimpses of it in his everyday life of service.

So how do we serve, even one day, let alone have it become our lifestyle? During a pandemic and trying to juggle life?! Maybe I am overthinking it. Maybe, perhaps, I just need to look up for a moment. It could be as simple as an email, a text, sharing a fresh batch of cookies/food (within the CDC protocols, of course), donating a pair of gloves or socks or a can of soup, being kind to those who serve us at the dining hall, thank those who salt our walkways and shovel the snow, sharing a TikTok video that made you laugh out loud, and even being kind to yourself.

I like that we are able to associate Dr. King's legacy by leaning into our community. I am able to honor Dr. King by serving my community. In what ways are you willing to check in with your community?

If you are looking for opportunities to serve our community, please check out UMaine's Bodwell Center for Service and Volunteerism by clicking the link [here](#). You can check out what our community is honoring Dr. King by clicking directly on the links below.

[AmeriCorps MLK Day of Service Information](#)

[The State of Civil Rights in Maine Webinar](#)

[MLK and His Legacy: What His Message Means to UMA](#)

[A Special Screening of the Selma Movie at the Colonial Theatre](#)

[Children's Museum & Theatre of Maine MLK Events](#)

[Bates College Community-Wide MLK Events](#)

[Belfast, Maine Community-Wide MLK Events](#)

May we all aspire to lift each in service to each other. Stay tuned to our next newsletter as we detail all of our Black History Month's events!

Stay warm and be safe.

Sincerely,

Anila Karunakar (She, her, hers)

Director for Diversity and Inclusion

This email was sent to matthew.revitt@maine.edu

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