



*Office of Mayor Lawrence J. Morrissey
LEADING BOLDLY, WORKING TOGETHER*

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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YOUTH TO CELEBRATE MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

Rockford, IL –Area youth will join together to celebrate the legacy of Martin Luther King, Jr. on Monday, January 18th, as follows:

- **Career & College Fair**, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., nCenter, 220 S. Madison. This event will be hosted by the Boy Scouts of American, nFACTOR, and Rock Valley College. Rockford Mayor Morrissey will deliver the keynote address.
- **“Call for Service Across the Nation”**, 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
 - Hat Drive: Hats will be collected for school children with an announcement on distribution January 18th. The hat drive is hosted by MYAC, nFACTOR, and the Ministers Fellowship
 - MYAC Community Service Project with Life Center
 - nFACTOR Volunteer Community Service Project with Shelter Care Ministries
- **Mayor's Youth Advisory Council (MYAC) Youth Town Hall Meeting**, noon to 1:15 p.m., nCenter, 220 S. Madison.

De Leon, Advisor to the Mayor's Youth Advisory Council (MYAC), states that “MYAC and the Rockford Youth Initiative work to empower youth to be involved in business, civil government, planning, education, and social action. This year, Rockford students are truly celebrating the legacy of Dr. King through volunteer activities and access to higher education.” The purpose and scope of MYAC is:

- to provide a network which shares ideas, concerns, and resources applicable to youth issues and the community
- to foster collaboration in addressing the needs of the youth

- to increase community awareness of the problems affecting youth, the needs of youth, and ways to engage youth
- to research and develop funding sources to support projects for youth
- to inform and advise the Mayor of new and emerging issues facing youth

The majority of the Martin Luther King, Jr. events will be held at the Rockford Youth Initiative/nCENTER which was created to offer programming in a year-round safe environment that will encourage teens to grow through positive education, recreation and socialization. Gerald Lott, Executive Director of the Rockford Youth Initiative, indicates “I am excited to be a part of the Martin Luther King youth activities at the nCENTER. We give youth the opportunity to participate in classes and activities, and these programs are a natural outgrowth of what we do every day.”

For detailed information on the Rockford Youth Initiative/nCenter, contact:

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