

Service opportunities abound to make MLK day meaningful

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This article has been updated to include a correction related to the celebration at the Monroe County Public Library.

The city is offering plenty of service opportunities for a “day on,” rather than a day off, on Monday for those who don’t work or have school that day.

Possible projects start even before Martin Luther King Jr. Day, with four activities taking place Sunday, during a “season of service” that continues through Feb. 26.

Monday’s activities will culminate with a celebration at the Buskirk-Chumley Theater, 114 E. Kirkwood Ave.

The celebration starts with a 6 p.m. reception featuring light refreshments provided by One World Catering & Events, with speeches and entertainment beginning at 7 p.m.

The keynote speaker for the celebration will be Adam Foss, a former assistant district attorney in the juvenile division of the Suffolk County District Attorney’s Office in Boston who is an advocate for criminal justice reform and the importance of the role of the prosecutor in ending mass incarceration. Foss will speak on the theme of “And Justice for All.”

Here’s a look at opportunities on Sunday and Monday with volunteer spots remaining as of Wednesday afternoon:

Sunday

- 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. — Flat Tire Workshop: Re-entry Collective Bike Initiative for and by Poor Folks at 1010 S. Walnut St., Suite H.

The initiative will host two bike tire workshops, one in January and one in February, to educate those who have received bikes through the project. Project participants will be invited to learn basic repair and be given ongoing access to tools and bike parts for maintenance and flat tire repair. Community volunteers will work with participants to support them in addressing their bike needs and preparing them to service other people’s bikes in the community. Free bike tubes and tools will be left with community partners to promote access through the year.

- 2 to 4 p.m. — Birthday Celebration teach-in at Indiana University School of Education.

The Indiana University School of Education, along with the city of Bloomington and the Monroe County Community School Corp., is hosting a Birthday Celebration community teach-in for elementary students and families in the IU School of Education atrium. The event will feature a brief film and a reflection on King’s legacy

and birthday cake for all. Guests can participate in free STEM activities, and the first 100 children will receive a free book about King. On Monday, the organizations will hold a similar event for middle- and high-school students, with music and movie clips accompanied by dialogue and action regarding current social issues. Pizza will be served. Any youth in attendance without a parent or guardian must complete a release form. For more information, contact stecarte@indiana.edu.

- 2 to 4:30 p.m. — “The Watsons Go to Birmingham” film and discussion at the Buskirk-Chumley Theater, 114 E. Kirkwood Ave.

Join The Project School and Bloomington United for a free screening of “The Watsons Go to Birmingham,” starting at 2 p.m. Sunday in the Buskirk-Chumley Theater. After the film, viewers are invited to stay for an all-ages community conversation about the civil rights movement with guest speakers, including Dr. Audrey McCluskey, professor emeritus from the Indiana University Department of African-American and Africa Diaspora Studies. Because of the subject matter of the film, it is advised that only people age 9 and older attend the screening and the conversation.

- 5 to 7 p.m. — The Fierce Urgency of Now: Time to Choose at the Buskirk-Chumley Theater, 114 E. Kirkwood Ave.

Nine local groups will provide quick snapshots of their strategies to combat climate change on the local, state and national level, and singer-songwriter Carrie Newcomer will lead the group in song. A soup dinner will be provided, along with opportunity for interactions with group members and each other.

Monday

- Flexible times — Catholic Charities, 803 N. Monroe St.

Catholic Charities is seeking two to four volunteers to paint two small restrooms.

- All Day — 40 Days of Peace Food Bank Collection, Pantry 279 at Trinity Lutheran Church, 501 E. Temperance St., Ellettsville .

Girl Scout Troop 69279 out of Ellettsville is accepting donations for its permanent food pantry for those in need in the community.

- 8 to 11 a.m.; 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and 3 to 6 p.m. — Seasonal Merchandise Transition at My Sister’s Closet at 414 S. College Ave.

Individual and group volunteers needed to help with seasonal transition of merchandise by using human assembly lines to move stock from one area to another, assembling storage racks, hanging clothing, polishing shoes, tagging clothing, steaming garments, bagging off-season items and cleaning the store.

- 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. — Brighten VIM, Brighten Lives at 811 W. Second St.

Volunteers in Medicine will host 10 to 12 volunteers on the Day of Service to paint several rooms that were not done during a remodel two years ago. In particular, the conference room is used for health education classes

as well as by a variety of community groups for meetings.

- 8:30 to 11 a.m. — Shoebox Ministry Project at St. Mark's United Methodist Church, 100 N. Ind. 46 Bypass.

Put together shoe boxes of personal supplies, toiletries and small gifts for children, youth and adults at Monroe County United Ministries, the Rise and Middle Way House.

- 8:30 to 11 a.m. — Habitat for Humanity Notecard Project at St. Mark's United Methodist, 100 Ind. 46, Bloomington.

The event begins with learning more about Dr. King's life and legacy, and his efforts for good housing for all people. Children and youth will be invited to design note cards (with various art materials available). Those who wish will have their note cards scanned and reproduced as note card sets. These will be available for donation in the community to help support the 2017 Interfaith Habitat for Humanity Build.

- 9 to 11:30 a.m.; 1 to 4 p.m. — Habitat for Humanity house project at 724 Lindbergh Drive.

Volunteers are needed to help with painting, cleaning, power washing and making small repairs to a home that will support Habitat for Humanity's work in Monroe County.

- 9 to 11 a.m. — Oxfam Hunger Banquet at 1413 E. 17th St.

The Oxfam Hunger Banquet is a simulation experience that exhibits hunger issues in our global and local communities. Each participant will experience the "banquet" differently according to the character card they receive when arriving.

- 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. — Middle Way House Volunteer Training at 301 S. Walnut St.

Middle Way House Inc. is providing this opportunity to individuals who want to prepare to become a volunteer at the organization's local domestic violence shelter and rape crisis center.

- 10 a.m. to 11:59 p.m. — Midwest Pages to Prisoners Project Pack-a-thon at 408 E. Sixth St.

Volunteers will read letters received from folks who are incarcerated in nine states throughout the Midwest, then choose three or four books from a donated collection to send to each person based on their request and write a personal letter response.

- 10:15 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. — Americanism at 1800 W. Third St.

Girl Scouts can participate in service activities and earn an Americanism patch at the American Legion. There will be three sessions and a handful of tasks to complete. Additional events begin at 12:30 p.m. and 2 p.m.

- 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. — Sludge Trudge charity walk/run for Interfaith Winter Shelter at St. Paul Catholic Center, 1413 E. 17th St.

The course begins and ends at St. Paul and continues around campus sidewalks; no major roads will be crossed. The course is a 1.4 mile loop available for one or two laps. A \$10 suggested donation will go directly to

the Interfaith Winter Shelter. Check in at 11, event starts at 11:30. Water and bananas will be provided after the run/walk.

- 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. — Martin Luther King Jr. Day Celebration at Monroe County Public Library, 303 E. Kirkwood Ave.

The Monroe County Public Library will host its annual MLK Day Celebration from 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Volunteers will run tables full of activities honoring King's legacy of inclusivity and peace. *At 12:30, members of the public are invited into the library auditorium for a performance by the Bloomington Peace Choir.* The library has enough volunteers, but members of the public are welcome to participate in activities promoting peace and inclusiveness, starting at 11:30 a.m. in Meeting Rooms 1B/1C, on the first floor of the library.

- Noon to 4 p.m. — MLK Day with the Bloomington Community Orchard at 200 Daniels Way.

Join the Bloomington Community Orchard for a fruit tree planting at Ivy Tech Community College. Volunteers will work together to plant the trees, and all ages and skill levels are welcome. There will be a potluck from noon to 1 p.m. before volunteers plant trees.

- Noon to 4 p.m. — Coupons for our Military at 1800 W. Third St.

This program serves military families by forwarding "manufacturer's coupons" to overseas military bases. These bundles of coupons are placed on tables, at the PX/ BX and Commissary, or handed out for use by military members and families on base. This helps the family save dollars and stretch their budget.

- Noon to 4 p.m. — Indiana Veterans Home Appreciation Wreaths at 1800 W. Third St.

Create a patriotic wreath to hang on an Indiana Veterans Home resident's door.

- 1 to 3 p.m. — Make Blankets for Children Experiencing Homelessness at Congregation Beth Shalom, 3750 E. Third St.

Volunteers will make blankets for the Linus Project, an organization that provides these blankets to homeless children living in shelters. Just as Linus, in the Peanuts cartoons, has his security blanket, this is meant to be the children's security blanket.

- 1 to 4 p.m. — MLK Day Community Weatherization at 1413 E. 17th St.

The Interfaith Community of Environmentalist Youth will be weatherizing local homes to make them more energy-efficient and protected against the winter chill. Starting with a basic tutorial, volunteers can learn techniques to save energy and money. All materials are provided. Participants must be age 12 or older and must sign a transportation waiver or permission slip, available on the city website. Anyone who wants to join should meet at St. Paul Catholic Center, 1413 E. 17th St., at 1 p.m. on Monday.

- 1 to 2:30 p.m. — Making It a Home Painting Project at 400 S. Opportunity Lane.

Volunteers will help by prepping, painting and finishing the second-floor hallway that guests at Wheeler Mission Ministries use on a daily basis.

- 1 to 3 p.m. and 3 to 5 p.m. — Weave In for One Million Stars to End Violence at 416 N. Indiana Ave.

Attend one or both sessions. Instructors will teach the Samoan star-weaving technique and share more about the Australian-led initiative. Light refreshments are provided.

- 5:30 to 9 p.m. Monday — Community Celebration Volunteers for an event at the Buskirk-Chumley Theater, 114 E. Kirkwood Ave.

Ushers and event assistants are needed during the event to help with catering, crowd control and event support. All volunteers are required to wear standard usher colors of white on top and black on bottom and are asked to stay for the entire event.

Those interested in volunteering for projects can sign up through the Bloomington Volunteer Network.