



December 21, 2023
For Immediate Release

Contact: Tammy Carter (571) 331-4721
Lena Hickman-Miott (703) 932-7895
Lily Dunning Widman (540) 539-5651

Loudoun County's 33rd Annual Dr. Martin Luther King March and Celebration

Families, friends, and community organizations from Loudoun County and all over the world are invited to come together **on Monday, January 15, 2024 for the annual celebration honoring the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.** This year's march will take place **in person** at 10 a.m. on the Loudoun County Courthouse lawn in Leesburg.

The theme of this year's celebration is **'We are not makers of history. We are made by history' -Dr. Martin Luther King. 'If there is no struggle, there is no progress' -Frederick Douglass** focusing on the dream of achieving racial equity and harmony in our community and nation. This year marks the 33rd Anniversary of the march and celebration, one of the largest and oldest in the region. This historic celebration is now under the leadership of the newly formed MLK Diversity-Engagement Foundation, a 501(c)3 non-profit.

The Loudoun County MLK Celebration includes a symbolic march from the Old Loudoun Courthouse to the Douglass Community Center, formerly Douglass High School, located at 405 East Market Street, Leesburg. Local school bands, individuals, families, and community groups will be participating in the celebration. Noteworthy in Loudoun County history, Douglass High School was the last segregated high school in Loudoun County until it was closed in 1968 as a result of desegregation.

Following the march, light refreshments will be served at the Douglass Community Center. Musical performances, presentations, and inspirational offerings will be made by members of the community, highlighted by keynote speaker Bernadette Carroll, CEO and Founder of Power Up Women's Conference.

Attendees to the Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration are encouraged to participate in a collection drive to benefit Loudoun Hunger and Women Giving Back. These local charities have a special need for nonperishable food items, gloves, scarves, coats, and hats. Drop off area for the collection drive will be at Frederick Douglass Elementary from 7:30 AM to 9 AM.

Parking is available for attendees at the Loudoun County Parking Garage (146 Loudoun St SW), the Town Hall Parking Garage (10 Loudoun St SW). A shuttle will be available, starting at 9:45 AM, from Frederick Douglass Elementary to the Loudoun County Courthouse for attendees with limited mobility and committee members. Space on the shuttle will be limited. A shuttle will be available at Frederick Douglass Elementary at the end of the March to transport attendees who not wish to attend the program back to the parking garages.

The 2023 keynote speaker is Bernadette Carroll, CEO and Founder of Power Up Women's Conference. Bernadette's passion is to educate and inspire others to fully embrace life and adopt healthier lifestyles. She is a mother, wife, Christian, marketing and advertising professional, speaker, entrepreneur, writer and lifestyle blogger. Now in its 7th year, the Power Up Women's Conference is the premiere Women's and Teen's conference in the Northern Virginia Area. Over the past six years, over 1,500 women have been inspired and transformed, learning how to Power Up their finances, businesses, relationships, personal networks, career, health and more.

The historic founding sponsors of the I "Have A Dream" Committee include the Baha'i Community of Loudoun, Bluemont Concert Series, Douglass Alumni Association, and the NAACP Loudoun Branch. Individuals, families, schools, businesses, civic, and religious organizations are all welcome to participate both in person and virtually in this year's March and Celebration.

2024 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration Schedule

Monday January 15, 2024

Douglass Community Center

7:30 –9 AM - Food Drive at Douglass Elementary

9:00 AM- Youth Panel Honoring Alumni of Douglass School

10:00 AM- Morning Program

at Douglass will start and continue through 1:30 PM.

10:00 AM – Marchers assemble at the Loudoun County Courthouse

10:15 AM – Invocation

10:30 AM – March begins – Courthouse to Douglass Community Center

11:00 AM – Refreshments and visiting at Douglass Community Center

12:00 PM – Speaker: Bernadette Carroll

followed by music and other inspirational performances.

1:30 PM – Conclusion of program and clean up

For more information, contact: Tammy Carter (571) 331-4721, Lena Hickman-Miott (703) 932-7895 or Lily Dunning (540) 539-5651 or email themarch@mlkleesburg.org.

MLK "I Have A Dream" Celebration and March

P.O. Box 1147 Leesburg, VA 20177

themarch@mlkleesburg.org

[facebook.com/MLKMarchLeesburg](https://www.facebook.com/MLKMarchLeesburg)

twitter.com/MLKMarch

YouTube [@MLKMarchLeesburg](https://www.youtube.com/@MLKMarchLeesburg)