



**MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.  
family services**

*Community centered. Spirit inspired.*

December 15, 2020

Dear MLK Jr. Family Service Supporter,

Since our incorporation in 1977, Martin Luther King Jr. Family Services has responded to a variety of community needs during some very trying times. Then 2020 happened.

While the dire needs of our community continually increased due to the complex and adverse impacts of the pandemic, simultaneously, it became necessary to insist on the freedoms guaranteed for all yet not delivered equally. In the words of Dr. King, "Freedom is never voluntarily given by the oppressor; it must be demanded by the oppressed" and, thus, at a time when COVID-19 is ravaging our community, we are still compelled to state the case that "Black Lives Matter".

***Thus, I write to you to ask for your help and support of our annual campaign. Our board, staff and volunteers have done much this year, but there is so much more to be done.***

Through our Emergency Food Pantry, we are now helping over 500 people. Every day, we learn more about their stories and see firsthand their struggles. Food in a crisis is a necessity, yet it is not enough. We must also offer a clear pathway to disrupting the imprisoning power of the poverty that defines and shapes their lives.



For the last 40 years, we have worked to help the growing number of children whose promise of a bright future is being cut short through the weight of poverty. Disrupting the cycle and ensuring access to the better future they deserve means arming these children with the tools and dreams that will drive them through the walls that lock them into this cycle. The fulfillment of the MLK mission to empower individuals to thrive begins with our work with these future leaders of our community.



Our commitment to this effort has broadened to not only reach children of all ages but to ensure college readiness and help them create a vision for their future. The MLK afterschool programs and night spot programs provide programming to support literacy and academic achievement essential for the life success that disrupts the cycle of poverty.

Additionally, the Historically Black College tour program brings these young people to a place where dreaming and desire meet possibility. Funding for such socially focused programming continues to become increasingly limited at a time when the need could not be more pressing.

We need your support through this annual appeal to ensure that no child is left without the opportunity to not only long for but to achieve that better future that will lift not just them but their families above the ensnaring reach of poverty.

***Your kindness means a great deal to us, but to those we serve, your generosity means food and clothing for individual and families, as well as the tools and support our young people to create that promised future.***

Our need is immense; therefore, no gift is too small or too large.

Full of Hope,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ronn D. Johnson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Ronn D. Johnson  
President/CEO

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Calvin R. Hill". The signature is cursive and somewhat stylized, with a prominent "C" and "H".

Dr. Calvin R. Hill  
Chair, Board of Directors

The MLK Jr. Family Services, Inc. is a 501c3 nonprofit agency. Your contribution is tax deductible.