

#2 DC Village Lane, SW
Washington, DC 20032
Tele: 202.561.1091
Fax: 202.561.1090

AmeriCorps★NCCC
DC Campus

Fax

To: Diana Fortunata

From: Kate M. Becker

Fax: 202. 456-7431

Pages: 8/

Phone: 202.456.5570

Date: January 14, 1998

Re:

CC:

☐ **Urgent** ☐ **For Review** ☐ **Please Comment** ☐ **Please Reply** ☐ **Please Recycle**

● **Comments:**

Diana,

Attached are some documents that may be helpful in understanding our program, our relationship with Cardozo as well as our relationship with the DC Public Schools. The attached documents include:

- a one page fact sheet on our program;
- a two page fact sheet summarizing a sampling of projects we have completed around the country;
- a summary of the work our Corps Members have been doing since October 1997 from this campus;
- a description of the work we have done in the DC Public Schools (it does not include tutoring, only facilities improvement work); and,
- a description of the project planned for Monday, Martin Luther King Day at Cardozo High School.

If you need anything else, please do not hesitate to call me. I would love to have an opportunity to speak with you on the phone to further explain what we do.

Thanks,

Kate



A m e r i C o r p s * N C C C

AmeriCorps* NCCC is part of a network of AmeriCorps programs operated by the Corporation for National Service.

What is AmeriCorps*National Civilian Community Corps? The National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC) is part of AmeriCorps, the network of national service programs that provide opportunities for full-time service in exchange for education awards. In AmeriCorps*NCCC, a ten-month program, members serve on teams and live in dormitory-style residences at one of five campuses located in Charleston, S.C.; San Diego, Calif.; Denver, Colo.; Perry Point, Md.; and Washington, D.C.

What do AmeriCorps*NCCC members do?



Members serve in teams of ten to fifteen to meet the critical needs of urban and rural communities.

Instead of specializing in one form of community service, members participate in projects that deal with issues including environment, public safety, education, and other needs. Many AmeriCorps*NCCC projects focus on protecting and conserving natural resources, and some members are trained to provide disaster relief and fight forest fires.

What's it like to be an AmeriCorps*NCCC member?

Working together, AmeriCorps*NCCC members solve problems, form friendships, and learn lessons that will last a lifetime. Members work long hours, doing hard but important service. They serve in communities near their campuses, but they also travel to other states for short-term projects, called "spikes," which often require camping and "roughing it." Members generally serve five days per week, with two days off. The first few weeks on campus consist of training in areas such as leadership, team building, citizenship, and physical conditioning. Skills for specific projects are taught before members begin their community efforts. Members generally serve

their ten months of service with the same team, and live with one or more roommates.

Who is eligible to join AmeriCorps*NCCC?

AmeriCorps*NCCC is open to young adults ages 18 to 24, who are committed to solving community problems. Members must be citizens, nationals, or lawful permanent resident aliens of the United States. Applications are accepted year-round. Selection is based on the application, personal references, and a telephone interview. All selected applicants undergo drug testing and a background check.

What are the benefits of joining AmeriCorps*NCCC?

Upon successful completion of the program, members receive an education award of \$4,725 to help pay for college, graduate school, or training, or to repay student loans. During the term of service, members receive lodging, meals, uniforms, skills training, limited health benefits, loan forbearance, and a modest living allowance. Members with dependent children may receive matching funds to assist with child care costs. AmeriCorps*NCCC also provides travel to the campus, and back home at the end of service.

For more information or an application, call 1-800-942-2677 (TDD 1-800-833-3722.)

❑ HUMAN NEEDS

Veterans' Health. AmeriCorps*NCCC teams created rehabilitation and therapeutic programs to improve the quality of life for veterans. At the Veterans Administration Center in Perry Point, Md., members developed and implemented a recycling campaign that now serves as a model for VA facilities nationwide. In Denver, members transported patients to and from the VA Medical Center and provided companionship. In San Diego, members worked in collaboration with a local Vietnam Veterans group to organize daily walks, weightlifting programs, sports events, and recreational trips.

Immunization. AmeriCorps*NCCC teams from Charleston and San Diego conducted child health initiatives covering twelve communities in nine states. Members compiled lists of patients in need of immunizations and updated local databases. Teams also implemented a community-wide immunization education program.

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Summary of Projects
DC Campus
1997-1998 Program Year

The campus based in the District of Columbia serves four states in addition to the District. Those states are: VA, WV, PA, AND OH. There are 100 Corps Members serving on nine teams based at what was the DC Village, a closed down nursing home.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Metropolitan Police Department Oct. 27, 1997 - July 1998

Working with Youth and Family Services of the police department, a team of Corps Members are tutoring and mentoring youth at the Police Boys and Girls Club. Corps Members are also spearheading an identification program with the Police Department. The program is based out of the schools and involves making photo identifications and fingerprint records of the students.

DC Public Housing Oct. 27, 1997 - July 1998

One team is working at Fort Lincoln, a high-rise for senior citizens that is managed by DC Public Housing. NCCC is renovating the common areas and each of the 120 units of the apartment complex under the renewal program administered by David Gilmore. Corps Members are also working with the senior citizens on several activities throughout the year.

Washington Center for Aging Oct. 27, 1997 - July 1998

This is a project with one of two nursing homes that are funded by the DC government. The nursing home does not have adequate staff and Corps Members are planning and implementing recreational activities for the residents. Additionally, the team assigned to the project has been working to develop a relationship between the nursing home and a neighboring elementary school.

Pediatric Community Health Center Oct. 27, 1997 - July 1998

A team has renovated the third floor of this health clinic located in the Shaw neighborhood of the District. The third floor had previously been unusable. Corps Members are conducting activity groups with children at two health clinics and tutoring children at Marie Reed Elementary School. Corps Members at this project will be conducting an immunization campaign in a targeted neighborhood later in the year. The final stage of the project will entail the leveraging of community volunteers and training the volunteers to assume the responsibilities of the team.

Jubilee Enterprise at Livingston Manor Nov. 10 - Dec. 19, 1997

A team is renovating apartments for lower income residents. Renovations will include dry walling, painting, plumbing, tile laying, etc. The team is also tutoring children from the community in after school programs run through the Community Management Office.

Ronald McDonald House December 1 - December 20, 1997

A team is making renovations and repainting much of the Ronald McDonald House located in Northeast DC near Children's Hospital. Incorporated into their day are activities with the children staying at the house including Christmas related activities and help with homework and tutoring.

MARYLAND

Compassion Center December 1 - December 20, 1997

A serene garden escape for families and friends of people who have died is being developed in College Park, MD by a woman who herself is terminally ill. The gardens have been 'put to bed' for the winter and a team is helping with renovations of the interior of the house that will serve as the offices and center for this project.

WEST VIRGINIA

West Virginia Trade School Oct. 27 - Dec. 19, 1997

A team will live at a community center sleeping on cots and cooking for themselves while serving in this Southwestern coal town in the Appalachian Mountains. The team will help to bring six more homes "up to code" before Christmas. Many of the homes have no plumbing and no central heat.

VIRGINIA

S.E.R.V.E. Oct. 27, 1997 - Dec. 19, 1997

Located in Manassas, SERVE is a home for families in transition and provides services such as emergency food and emergency housing, counseling, job training, etc. An NCCC team will convert a room in a basement into two separate apartments for two families, make external repairs to and paint a long-term home for families in transition.

Additionally, the team will organize community volunteers in a turkey drive/food basket program at Thanksgiving and for the Toys for Tots project.

DC Initiative Summary AmeriCorps ★ NCCC

Lincoln Middle School-- April 30 through July 18, 1996

Two teams of AmeriCorps ★ NCCC Members worked at Lincoln Middle School. The accomplishments of this group of 24 Corps Members are listed below:

- Removed graffiti throughout the interior of the school;
- prepped and painted eight public restrooms, 700 lockers, and all of the hallways and stairwells in the three story building;
- replaced 1,200 ceiling tiles in the gymnasium and 25 fluorescent ballasts;
- installed 75 fluorescent light pedestal bases and 1200 fluorescent light bulbs;
- reconstructed damaged locker frames;
- mentored and managed student volunteers who assisted the teams after school; and
- managed a Community Day with members of the community working on the exterior of the school.

Cost: Approximately \$16,000-- paid through private donations made by businesses, individuals, and organizations to the Corporation for National Service Gift Fund.

Fire Code Violation Abatement at 16 Schools-- April 30 through July 18, 1996

Corps Members abated fire code violations in: one adult education; two senior high; four middle; two junior; and seven elementary schools. Following are the accomplishments of this group of 12 Corps Members:

- Inspected 120 fire extinguishers;
- removed exposed wiring, ceiling tiles and decayed floors;
- installed 76 door closures, 66 panic bars, ceiling tiles, fluorescent light bulbs, new floors and door frame windows;
- replaced 51 doors, four push/pull plates, three fire glass covers, and hand rails;
- repaired 93 door hinges, 56 locks, and a fire exit door; and
- plastered numerous holes in walls.

Cost: Uncertain-- paid entirely by DC Schools.

Cardozo Senior High School-- November 11, 1996 through present

One AmeriCorps ★ NCCC team has been working at Cardozo High School since. The accomplishments, to date, of the ten Corps Members are listed below:

- Prepped, primed and painted 24,000 square feet of walls, 18, 000 square feet of ceilings and four bathrooms;
- spackled and repaired numerous holes and cracks in the walls and ceilings;
- tutored two hours a day, three days a week in an after school program at Garrison Elementary;
- assisted instruction and provided one-on-one attention in approximately eight different classrooms for the last period of the day;
- mentored and managed student volunteers who assisted the teams after school; and
- served as the organizational structure that absorbed over 90 volunteers on April 12th for Hands-on-DC.

Cost: Approximately \$19,000-- \$12,000 paid by donation of materials from Service Master; \$5,000 paid by donation of materials from Home Depot; and \$2,000 worth of materials provided by DC Schools.

Training for all of the school projects: Provided by DC Schools Facilities/Maintenance. Orientation for each of the school projects: Provided by community members and organizations: principals, students, Junior ROTC, local police, Calvary Bilingual Multi-Cultural Learning Center, Washington Parent Group Fund, Latin American Youth Center, etc.

Project Proposal
Cardozo Senior High School—Martin Luther King Day Project

Project Title: MLK- Cardozo
Sponsoring Agency: Cardozo Senior High School
Project Supervisor: Miss Magazine
Position/Title: Director of Facilities and Maintenance
Mailing Address: 13th and Clifton Streets, NW Washington, DC 20009
Office Telephone: 673.7385
Office Fax: 673.2232

Project Site: Cardozo Senior High School
Project Site Supervisor: Miss Magazine
Project Telephone: S/A
Project Fax: S/A
Project Team(s) beginning and end dates: January 12, 1998 - January 19 (for team 1); January 12 - January 26, 1998 (for team 2)
Minimum # of CMs: 22
Maximum # of CMs: 66 (MLK Day)
Lodging: N/A

Project Plan

Project Mission and Objectives

The proposed project is to provide much-needed facelift for Cardozo High School classrooms through extensive painting. Cardozo High School is the only comprehensive high school in Ward One. Cardozo serves a diverse student body with a wide range of needs. While the majority of Cardozo's over 900 students are African American, the student body is composed of many students from Latin America, African, and Caribbean countries with varied ethnic, language and cultural backgrounds. The overwhelming majority of Cardozo students come from low socio-economic backgrounds.

Cardozo High is located in the heart of an integrated and flourishing community, close to the U Street Corridor which is currently experiencing substantial re-investment and revitalization. The Cardozo building, constructed in 1913, is in fairly good condition, considering the extremely limited resources available to DC schools for general maintenance and repairs, not to mention physical improvements. The last overall paint job of the school classrooms was completed in the mid 1970's and the school walls are in desperate need of repainting. Major roof repairs this past year was completed and water damage

has been repaired in ceilings and walls throughout the third floor classrooms. Chipped and dull paint and patchwork is prevalent.

The project is critical to the redesign and renewal of the educational program at Cardozo. The educational program was recently reconfigured the educational program to feature four specialized learning communities: Ninth Grade Explorers; Transportation Technology Academy; Fine Arts and International Studies; and, Sports Management and Business Technology. It is essential that the physical environment at Cardozo is appealing so that students from across the city will not be turned away from attendance here due to an unflattering environment.

Additionally, the attractiveness of any educational facility has a major impact on the human climate of the building. At a time when budget cuts have reduced services, materials and even the number of teachers, many segments of the Cardozo Family are suffering from low morale. Improving our school's physical atmosphere is more important than ever, in creating a positive attitude about attending school as well as building respect for this historical institution.

This project is geared toward a collaborative community project in honor of Martin Luther King's birthday on January 19th. At least 100 volunteers are expected to participate with the two teams on this day.

Tasks and Methods

Two teams of Corps Members will be involved in sanding, scraping, priming and painting 30 (or more) classrooms on the third, second, and first floors of the school. The prep work will be completed in the classrooms to ready the school for the community volunteers expected on January 19th. Each classroom has ceilings that are 15 feet high. The classroom sizes vary. One set of tasks for the Corps Members will be to develop a list of tools needed for the community volunteers and to plan the organization for the day event. The schedule of the teams will be 2:00 - 10:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Groups of four Corps Members each can tackle a classroom a day. With 22 Corps Members, the two teams should be able to prepare 5-6 classrooms a day.

Martin Luther King Day will be the last day of work at Cardozo for Team 1. Team 2 will continue on at Cardozo for one week ensuring the completion of all jobs that were started and cleaning up from the community day.

Long term goals

Activities for this project fit into the long range goals of the school by creating a more attractive physical environment for students and faculty, it assists us in

attracting new students to attend Cardozo and as will be discussed later this proposal, it engages Cardozo students in taking greater responsibility for their school and environment.

Team Effort

This project lends itself to a team effort by engaging the entire two teams of 22 Corps members in the painting of the classrooms.

Accomplishments

The success of the project will be measured by the square footage of the scraped, sanded, primed and painted ceilings and walls. Success will also be measured by the number of volunteers that participate on January 19th and the bringing together of people from around the city for the common goal of helping Cardozo improve its interior to make a better learning environment for our city's youth.

The Cardozo family will benefit from the project in other ways as well: team building among students, parents, faculty, administration and staff in support of the project; increased volunteerism at Cardozo; an increase in appropriate behavior resulting from the Corps Members positive role modeling; increased school spirit and sense of belonging at Cardozo due to the shared experience of painting and renewing the physical environment.

Corps Members will learn painting skills. They will experience the satisfaction of contributing to the physical transformation of the school and will recognize that their efforts have created a better place for learning to occur. Corps Members will learn about the culturally varied and rich Cardozo-Shaw community. Corps Members will observe and learn about the realities of poverty and the difficult circumstances of urban education.

Project Support

April Copes, Service Learning Coordinator for Cardozo, will coordinate the involvement of students with the Corps Members during the two week period after school. Miss Copes will also leverage 50 students to work with the team on Martin Luther King Day.

The team will receive an orientation to the project and to the school and be introduced to pertinent staff. An historical tour of the Shaw neighborhood will be conducted. Student made literature about the restaurants and other local attractions will be shared with the team.

Safety concerns and training for use of the scaffolding will be conducted.

During the work day, the team will be given access to the teacher's lounge (which has a refrigerator and microwave) and faculty restrooms will be available as well.

Miss Magazine will provide oversight of the project and will provide timely feedback to NCCC Members.

NCCC will provide brushes, rollers, some ladders and other painting related equipment for the two teams.

DC Schools will provide the primer, paint and painting equipment for the volunteers and tarps.

Martin Luther King Day

Corps Members will be heavily involved in the planning of this event. Corps Members will also be supervisors for the volunteers on the day of the event and will organize and direct all activities on this day.

Volunteers that have been engaged to date follow:

Student Conservation Association ----20-30 high school students from around the city;

Cardozo High School---- 50 students;

KaBOOM!!---- 13 employees;

AmeriCorps AFOP---- 40-60 members;

AmeriCorps NCCC---- 66 members (including the two Cardozo teams);

Leveraging of volunteers that still needs to be done:

local churches;

local community based organizations;

neighborhood residents and businesses;

A guest speaker still needs to be lined up for the event. A brief program needs to be put together. Media releases need to be written. Invitations to city officials, congressmen, etc. need to be written and sent.



A m e r i C o r p s * N C C C

AmeriCorps* NCCC is part of a network of AmeriCorps programs operated by the Corporation for National Service.

AMERICORPS*NCCC PROJECTS. Members of AmeriCorps*National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC) help solve community problems in urban and rural areas throughout the nation. Following are examples of projects that have been completed to date.



ENVIRONMENT

Chesapeake Bay. AmeriCorps*NCCC members worked with 28 federal and state agencies on five projects to help restore the Chesapeake Bay. Members were involved in shoreline and beach restoration, erosion control, fish migration, and spawning efforts. They also worked with at-risk youth to survey the area and identified 27 pollution sources. A 20-minute video that was produced on the project has been presented to more than 600 students.

Cultural Resources/Archeological Dig. AmeriCorps*NCCC members helped uncover California's long neglected first European settlement. They also helped discover evidence revising historians' theories of the San Diego Presidio. Members excavated, surveyed, classified, and preserved artifacts and worked with area school-children to increase awareness of early Hispanic-American history.

Trail Building. AmeriCorps*NCCC members created or improved more than 200 miles of hiking trails in 25 states nationwide. Teams cleared trees and brush, leveled trails to comply with federal guidelines on handicapped access, implemented erosion control techniques, and created and updated signs. These trails are located in rural, urban, and national parks from California to Maine, and are used by tens of thousands of Americans each year.

Urban Gardens. AmeriCorps*NCCC members partnered with low - to moderate-income residents to turn empty lots into community gardens. On abandoned and misused property, green space was created through landscaping, removing debris, mulching, and planting gardens. Members also developed an educational program

to teach students about plants, trees, and animal life brought to their communities through the project.

EDUCATION

Tutoring And Mentoring. AmeriCorps*NCCC teams tutored and/or mentored more than 7,500 children between kindergarten and high school in subjects ranging from reading, writing, arithmetic, and social studies to environmental studies and American Sign Language. In Maryland, members worked within seven Harford County Public Schools to create a mentoring program and crisis prevention center. They assisted students, including at-risk and special needs students, with their social and academic development and tutored students to help increase their high school state proficiency test scores.

Life Skills. AmeriCorps*NCCC teams worked with organizations to help improve life skills. Members helped Urban League staff in three program areas — job development, peer education, and pregnancy prevention to teach interviewing and job skills to immigrants, refugees, and people labeled "hard to employ." Members facilitated discussions with adolescents about the realities of unintended pregnancies, developing positive attitudes, and making positive life choices.

Dropout Prevention. AmeriCorps*NCCC members worked with students to increase attendance and provide support services one-on-one. They helped develop a Life Skills course and facilitated discussions on self-esteem, leadership, teamwork, and citizenship. Teams also built and refurbished outdoor recreation facilities including a soccer field, a ropes course and a baseball diamond.

■ HUMAN NEEDS

Veterans' Health. AmeriCorps*NCCC teams created rehabilitation and therapeutic programs to improve the quality of life for veterans. At the Veterans Administration Center in Perry Point, Md., members developed and implemented a recycling campaign that now serves as a model for VA facilities nationwide. In Denver, members transported patients to and from the VA Medical Center and provided companionship. In San Diego, members worked in collaboration with a local Vietnam Veterans group to organize daily walks, weightlifting programs, sports events, and recreational trips.

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Landmark Restoration. An AmeriCorps*NCCC team worked to restore one of Denver's historical landmarks, the Temple Events Center. Their efforts helped to provide an accessible and affordable facility for community-based conferences and activities. The restoration of the center, located in a high-crime area, symbolized the revival of the neighborhood and added to the aesthetic and financial strength of the community. Members were trained in historical conservation techniques and wood and stained glass restoration.

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JGOMPERT @ cns.gov
01/19/98 11:23:00 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Diana Fortuna, Katherine Hubbard, Stephen B. Silverman

cc:

Subject: The News from King Day . . .

The Corporation's King Day efforts won terrific press coverage. Here are two of the early stories, filed in the course of the afternoon. We will get additional clips soon, but I wanted people to have the chance to see the reports that went out to most news outlets across the country.

In addition, at the end of the Reuters piece, I have included the full text of the President's comments to the press at Cardozo, and then the President's remarks to the assembled groups of AmeriCorps members and community volunteers at the end of the Cardozo event.

Sorry for the length of this message, but I expect that there are a lot of people who want to get the fullest possible report. Let me know if you have questions or comments. Thanks. JG

Clinton Volunteers in Honor of King

.c The Associated Press

By MIKE HOUSEHOLDER

WASHINGTON (AP) - President Clinton did his part to promote volunteerism on Martin Luther King Day by helping paint a classroom at a local high school.

Wearing blue jeans, brown cowboy boots and a gray Stanford University T-shirt donated by daughter Chelsea, Clinton helped 65 members of AmeriCorps and 300 community volunteers repair and paint classrooms at the District of Columbia's Cardozo High School.

``We really wanted to emphasize that Martin Luther King's birthday is a day of service - a day on, not a day off," Clinton said as he applied beige paint to the walls of a third-floor classroom.

The president was assisted at Cardozo High by Harris Wofford, head of the Corporation for National Service, which coordinated the day's activities.

``It's a dream coming true," Wofford said. ``We who knew him (King), know he would want us to be doing this."

Cardozo's third-floor classrooms had not been painted for 15 years and were damaged because of a leaky roof.

Since last week, volunteers have spackled, primed and applied two new coats of paint to 27 classrooms and a 220-foot long basement hallway leading to the cafeteria. Work is expected to be completed in one week.

``It was an amazing experience to help out and serve next to the president," said Jen Brindisi, 23, a full-time AmeriCorps worker from Struthers, Ohio, who helped Clinton paint Room 306.

Clinton spoke to the volunteers in the cafeteria after he had completed his work, thanking them for their efforts.

``You're not just painting a school today, you're painting a very different picture for America's future, and it's a beautiful one because of you," Clinton said.

Reuters Story

Monday January 19 3:21 PM EST

Clinton Helps Paint High School to Honor King

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - President Clinton took a paint roller to the walls of a Washington high school classroom Monday to highlight his call for service in commemoration of Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday.

Clinton, who last week urged Americans to remember the slain civil rights leader with a day of service on the holiday celebrating King's birthday, spent part of his morning painting literature classroom 306 at Washington's Cardozo High School.

"We really wanted to emphasize that Martin Luther King's birthday is a day of service -- a day on, not a day off," Clinton, dressed in blue jeans, cowboy boots and a gray Stanford University football T-shirt, told reporters.

The president joined volunteers from the Americorps service program and from the high school. The school had grown dilapidated after neighborhood riots and white flight in the 1960s, but it has begun to experience a revival and is now regarded as a showcase of ethnic diversity.

Clinton worked for about 45 minutes rolling on beige paint, accompanied by a tape of soul music, Elvis Presley and Fleetwood Mac put together for his benefit by the volunteers.

"He was a pro at it. He got right in there," Americorps volunteer Jen

Brindisi said in describing Clinton's painting skills to reporters. She said Clinton even gave the volunteers painting tips, and stayed until the room was finished.

Clinton said getting a president who knows his way around a paint tray was one of the benefits of electing someone with a middle-class upbringing. "You get people who know how to do these things in life," he said.

Clinton also dispatched members of his Cabinet and other government officials Monday to join in service projects and other commemorative events across the nation.

First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton joined Education Secretary Richard Riley and others in reading to Washington-area children and making bookcases at a local sports arena.

The idea of a day of service to commemorate the King holiday was embodied in 1994 legislation. The holiday was first officially observed in 1986.

"All over America there are young people working today, tens of thousands of them," Clinton said. "That's the image of our young people I'd like the rest of America to see and I hope that they will inspire more people of all ages to get involved in community service."

Harris Wofford, head of the Corporation for National Service which oversees the Americorps program, said the idea of a day of service in honor of King had spread. "It's caught fire," Wofford told reporters.

King, who won the Nobel Peace Prize for his nonviolent struggle for civil rights, was born Jan. 15, 1929, and assassinated April 4, 1968.

The White House also announced a package of stepped-up civil rights enforcement measures Monday.

The measures, to be included in Clinton's fiscal 1999 budget request next month, would expand mediation programs for employment disputes, use new techniques to fight housing discrimination and bolster the Justice Department's civil rights efforts.

Clinton plans to seek an increase of \$86 million, or more than 16 percent, in funding for civil rights enforcement in his fiscal 1999 budget request next month, the White House said.

The President's remarks on service are in red (for those who are reading this in color).

January 19, 1998

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT IN PHOTO OPPORTUNITY AT CARDOZO HIGH SCHOOL

11:55 A.M. EST

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

January 19, 1998

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
IN PHOTO OPPORTUNITY AT CARDOZO HIGH SCHOOL

Washington, D.C.

11:55 A.M. EST

Q Mr. President, according to Ambassador Seitz, the British believe that Jean Kennedy Smith passed along intelligence information to the IRA. Does that concern you, sir?

On another subject -- (laughter) -- sir, I didn't hear, I'm sorry, I'm getting hard of hearing. Well, on another subject, after Saturday are you persuaded you may prevail if the Jones case actually does go to trial?

THE PRESIDENT: You know, the judge asked us not to talk about it and I think at least somebody involved in it ought to follow her instructions.

Q You mean the judges gag order, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: Mr. Bennett will say anything that I have to say about that.

Q Did you see that Seitz story, sir, the Ambassador Seitz book?

You've seen the news from Guatemala. Is there anything the United States can do to safeguard U.S. citizens down there?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, first of all, it's a terrible thing what happened with that. I have a lot of concerns, obviously, for the victims and their families. But we're persuaded that the government is taking appropriate action. And it is -- where they were, you know, there had been some difficulties. But I think that the government is doing what it can and we've been in touch with them. The main thing we need to do now is be concerned with the victims and their families and do whatever we can to minimize such things happening in the future.

Q Are you discouraged about the advance word that Prime Minister Netanyahu may not have anything to say that would advance the peace process?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I'm looking forward to the meeting. I'm committed to making it a success. I'm going to do my part and I just want us to have constructive relations where we can move this forward. And I've been working on it all morning, that's why I'm a little late here today. I'm going to be prepared to reach out a hand in cooperation to both the Prime Minister and to Mr. Arafat and we'll see what happens. But I've got high hopes. I've worked hard on it. The United States, I think, is viewed rightly as a country that just wants a just, stable and lasting peace. And we're all going to have to make some moves if we're going to get there. But I'm looking forward to this meeting.

Q When was the last time you painted a wall, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: Not very long ago. This is the third painting project I've done with the national service, with the AmeriCorps people. But we really wanted to emphasize Martin Luther King's birthday as a day of service, a day on, not a day off. And I want to thank the people from the D.C. school system and the city government and General Becton and the others. This is encouraging to have all these young people out here. And all over America there are young people working today, tens of thousands of them. That's the image of our young people I'd like for the rest of America to see and I hope that they will inspire more people of all ages to get involved in community service.

Q Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT: You guys need to give Sam his cuts, he didn't have to work hard today. (Laughter.)

Q Sir, could you look into that Smith thing?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, I will. I will.

Q Mr. President, how much painting experience do you have?

THE PRESIDENT: When I was a younger man I did quite a bit of it.

Q For who?

THE PRESIDENT: For myself -- that's the advantage -- when you elect a real middle class President, you get people who've had to do things like this in life.

Q What's the shirt mean, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: It's just a shirt my daughter gave me.

Q And the numbers on the back?

THE PRESIDENT: I'm not sure. I have no idea. I hope it's not something embarrassing, I don't have a clue. (Laughter.)

END 12:00 P.M. EST

President's Remarks to Crowd at Cardozo

January 19, 1998

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT TO VOLUNTEERS AT CARDOZO HIGH SCHOOL

12:49 P.M. EST

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

January 19, 1998

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT TO VOLUNTEERS AT CARDOZO HIGH SCHOOL

The Cafeteria of Cardozo High School

12:49 P.M. EST

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you. Are you having a good day?

AUDIENCE: Yes!

THE PRESIDENT: Me, too. I want to thank Mr. Ballard, the principal, and I want to say a special word of appreciation to the officials who are here with me today. First, the head of the Corporation for National Service, Harris Wofford. (Applause.) D.C. City Council Chairperson Charlene Drew Jarvis. (Applause.) General Becton; School Board President Harvey; Terry Green (phonetic), the PTA president. (Laughter.) And the other school board members and

representatives of Council members, and especially I want to thank all the volunteers in the Americorps NCC program. And thanks for this. I like my little jacket here. (Applause.)

Thirty-one years ago Martin Luther King came to this very neighborhood and urged the people here to engage in citizen service to rebuild their lives and their community and their future. That's what you're doing here today. You are honoring the legacy of Martin Luther King and answering the highest calling of citizenship in this country.

My staff did a little research to illustrate what we could all do if we just gave back a little to our community. And they swear that if just everybody with the last name of Clinton and Gore in America, just the people whose last name is Clinton and Gore in America would put in two hours a week, they could paint every classroom and every public high school in America by Martin Luther King's next birthday.

Now, that gives you an idea of what we can do if we serve and work together. That's why I have invested so much in Americorps, our national service program, that I'm so proud of. And all of you who are involved in the program, let me thank you from the bottom of my heart. I hope that you're getting a lot out of it. I know the Americorps volunteers I painted with today made me feel proud that we started this.

That's why I have strongly supported, along with all the former presidents, General Colin Powell, and the Presidents' Summit on Service and the work that he is doing and that tens of thousands of people across America are doing to give all of our children a good chance in life.

But finally let me say that this country will never be all that it can be and your future will never be all that it can be unless we decide we're going to build that future together. We will never be able to bridge the racial and other divides in this country unless we decide we're not only going to work together and learn together but we're going to serve together.

We actually have to believe that we're all better off when our neighbors are better off. We actually have to believe that we'll do better if we go forward together. We actually have to believe that this diversity we have is a blessing; and that the fact that some of us start out life poorer than others is a condition that can be overcome if we work hard to give people who deserve it a hand up; and that as we do that, we are all happier, more fulfilled, and living in a stronger America. That's what this is about.

This is not just about painting the walls of a school, although I passionately believe it's important. I personally, as a student, preferred old buildings to new ones, but every student deserves to go into a clean building with bright walls and clear

windows, sending a signal that the student and his or her future is important.

But you're not just painting a school today, you're painting a very different picture for America's future, and it's a beautiful one because of you. Thank you and God bless you. (Applause.)

END

12:54 P.M. EST



*"Everybody
can be great,
because anybody
can serve."*

**JANUARY 19, 1998 IS
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY OF SERVICE**

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day is a day on, not a day off—
an opportunity to serve others and realize
the greatness in yourself and your community.
For information about how you can get involved, visit
www.nationalservice.org

OFFICE OF PUBLIC LIAISON

Please deliver to:

DIANA FORTUNA

Organization:

Fax Number:

7431
456-882100

oops sorry
Phone Number:

From:

Melinda Baskin Hudson

Fax Number:

(202) 565-2794

Phone Number: (202) 606-5000 ext 193

We are transmitting a total of ____ pages, including this cover page.

Message

Stuff on Cardozo

They're walky turn to
Choose a couple of activities
and projects this afternoon



Martin Luther King Day Project 1998
AmeriCorps★National Civilian Community Corps
Capitol Region Campus

Two teams will be deployed to Cardozo High School on January 12. They will be supervised and trained by a member of the facility management crew from Cardozo. The two teams will prep 30 classrooms for painting.

Prep will include: sanding patchwork that has been completed in these classrooms; priming the walls and ceilings (in rooms where the ceilings will be painted); taping; cutting out the classrooms (painting the corners and a foot out from corners or other areas); and, prior to January 19th moving furniture and tarping the floors.

On January 19th 200 volunteers are expected and the volunteers will be able to just roll paint onto the walls.

The two NCCC teams that will be at Cardozo prior to the 19th will supervise the other AmeriCorps members and volunteers. Supervision will include training volunteers, ensuring that all volunteers are engaged in work, and ensuring that the work is of a professional level.

Volunteers will be of a variety of ages, so the 'supervisors' should be prepared for working with elementary students, high school students, young adults and older adults.

Four NCCC Members will sit at the front door signing in the volunteers who arrive throughout the day. Six NCCC Members will escort the volunteer(s) up to the third floor where they will be assigned to a working group and introduced to the NCCC classroom supervisor. The classroom supervisor will be responsible for a specific classroom and a specific group of volunteers.

Another NCCC Member will be responsible for the monitoring of tools, materials and paint.

Volunteers expected to date, include:

AmeriCorps★NCCC Members (beyond the two teams)	44
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Greater Mount Calvary Holy Church	10

Multi Cultural Urban Health Corps- YouthBuild	20
Calgary Bilingual Multi Cultural Learning Center	10
Howard Sororities/Fraternities	25
Potomac High School	20
Episcopal Church Youth Group	10
Cardozo Alumni Association	5

MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY: A DAY OF SERVICE TALKING POINTS

"Everybody can be great, because anybody can serve."

-- Dr. Martin Luther King

" Giving every citizen at the grass roots a chance to make a difference in his or her own life is a big part of what our efforts are all about. This law helps us to do that by linking the observance of Dr. King's birthday to a day of national service -- an extraordinary idea...Nothing could better serve the legacy of Dr. King. He was apathy's sworn enemy and action's tireless champion."

-- President Bill Clinton

Martin Luther King Day: a day "on," not a day off. The Martin Luther King Holiday affords us a great opportunity to honor Dr. King's life through service -- one of the fundamental elements of Dr. King's philosophy and actions. In 1994 President Clinton signed into law the King Holiday and Service Act making the holiday a day of service that brings people together, promotes racial cooperation and helps to solve problems through citizen action. This year the Corporation for National Service provided \$225,000 in grants to 73 sites across the nation to help spur service related MLK Day projects.

Leading by example. On January 19th, President Clinton, the First Lady, Vice President Gore, 12 Cabinet Secretaries and Agency heads, members of the President's Race Initiative Advisory Board, and numerous other White House and Administration staff members will join Americans across the country to celebrate the Martin Luther King holiday by serving or participating in community events highlighting the importance of service. The Corporation for National Service is working with MLK Day service projects in at least 47 states and 137 cities across the country and American territories. Many other projects are being organized locally.

Building One America. Service is also an important part of the President's vision for building a more united America for the 21st century. Research shows that having people work together is the key to changing attitudes about race. The process of working together helps people get beyond stereotypes of different racial groups and focus on individual character.

Service as civic responsibility. To make the forces of the 21st Century work for us, not against us, we must restore an ethic of citizenship and civic responsibility through service -- not as a form of charity or an alternative to government, but as an essential part of what it means to be an American. Service unites people of all ages and all racial and ethnic backgrounds in a common mission to solve community problems and improve the lives of other Americans.

Taking action to continue service. President Clinton will soon submit legislation to reauthorize the programs of the Corporation for National Service -- AmeriCorps, Learn and Serve America, and the National Senior Service Corps. The proposal would extend the programs for five years and provide opportunities for more Americans to serve their communities. The President will also propose expanding the Peace Corps to 10,000 volunteers by the year 2000.

President Clinton's commitment to service. Service has been at the center of the President's agenda since he took office. From the creation of AmeriCorps and the Corporation for National Service to the 1997 Presidents' Summit for America's Future, President Clinton encourages all Americans to serve in their communities. The President's work to promote service has included:

- **AmeriCorps.** In September 1993, President Clinton signed the National Service Act creating the Corporation for National Service and AmeriCorps, a programs that offers young people the chance to serve our nation in exchange for increased access to higher education. Since 1993, more than 100,000 people have had the opportunity to serve through AmeriCorps meeting the vital needs of thousands of communities across the country.
- **The 1997 Service Summit.** As co-chair of the Presidents' Summit for America's Future, President Clinton helped bring businesses, non-profits, states and communities, and volunteer groups to Philadelphia in April 1997 to focus on service and to ensure that every child in America has five key resources -- a caring adult, a safe place, a healthy start, a marketable skill, and a chance to serve.
- **America Reads.** A comprehensive literacy strategy, America Reads is working to meet the goal of ensuring that all children can read well and independently by the end of third grade. America Reads will provide tutors after school, improve teaching, and help parents help their children learn to read.
- **Other National Service Programs.** In addition to AmeriCorps, national service includes: Learn and Serve America -- a program that helps students perform service in their communities and link their experiences to what they are learning in school; and The National Senior Service Corps -- a program that taps the experience of more than half a million older Americans to help solve community problems through the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP), the Senior Companions Program, the Foster Grandparents Program, and the new Seniors for Schools initiative.
- **National Service Scholars.** President Clinton announced the first 1,700 National Service Scholars in the summer of 1997 as an opportunity for schools and communities to recognize young people for outstanding volunteer service while helping them continue their education.
- **AmeriCorps Scholarships.** This initiative gives young people the opportunity to serve in AmeriCorps, but asks nonprofit charity or religious organizations to pick up the living expenses of the volunteers.

AMERICA HONORS MARTIN LUTHER KING THROUGH SERVICE

President Clinton Calls for a "Day On, Not a Day Off"

"Citizen service must be at the heart of our efforts to prepare America for the 21st century, as we work to guarantee all Americans the opportunity and conditions to make the most of their own lives..."

-- President Clinton, November 29, 1997

On January 19, 1998, Americans across the country will celebrate the Martin Luther King holiday through service to their communities. The President, the Vice President and Mrs. Clinton will mark Dr. King's birthday by joining other volunteers in service and commemoration. Community service was at the heart of Martin Luther King's philosophy and action, as Dr. King said, "Everybody can be great because anybody can serve -- you only need a heart full of grace and a soul generated by love." By celebrating his birthday as a "day on and not a day off" Americans will be honoring Dr. King's life of service.

PRESIDENT CLINTON'S COMMITMENT TO SERVICE:

Service and the well-being of our nation's children have been at the center of the President's agenda since he took office.

AMERICORPS -- Serving Thousands of Communities Across the Country

The President came into office with a vision of a national service program that would offer young people the chance to serve our nation in exchange for increased access to higher education. In September 1993, President Clinton signed the National Service Act creating the Corporation for National Service. Within the next few weeks, the President Clinton will submit legislation to reauthorize the programs of the Corporation for National Service -- AmeriCorps, Learn and Serve America, and the National Senior Service Corps, extending the programs for five years. Today, the Corporation for National Service's AmeriCorps is a great success. Since 1993, more than 100,000 people have had the opportunity to serve through AmeriCorps. And in this year alone, nearly 50,000 young people will take advantage of the opportunity to serve, either on a full-time or part-time basis, allowing them to earn an award of up to \$4,725 to pay for college or repay student loans. Thousands of communities across America have seen that national service helps them meet vital needs in education, public safety, health care, the environment, and other human needs.

THE 1997 SERVICE SUMMIT

The Presidents' Summit for America's Future brought businesses, non-profits, states and communities, and volunteer groups to Philadelphia in April 1997 to focus on service and to ensure that every child in America has five key resources -- a caring adult, a safe place, a healthy start, a marketable skill, and a chance to serve. Since the Summit, the Administration has followed up on the goals with more AmeriCorps members; reading tutors for children through the America Reads initiative; mentoring efforts by federal agencies; new food recovery efforts; the child care initiative; and the \$24 billion Children's Health Insurance Program signed into law this summer, which will give up to five million children who are now without access to health insurance a healthy start.

AMERICA READS -- Ensure Every Child Can Read By The 3rd Grade

The President's America Reads Initiative, a comprehensive literacy strategy, is working to meet the goal of ensuring that all children can read well and independently by the end of third grade. America Reads will provide tutors after school, improve teaching, and help parents help their children learn to read. New AmeriCorps members and thousands of senior volunteers are recruiting more than 100,000 volunteer reading tutors and state teacher training and family literacy efforts will receive additional funding. In addition, Work-Study is an important part of the America Reads Challenge and colleges are answering the President's call. To date, 838 colleges and universities have accepted the President's America Reads Challenge and have pledged to send work-study students into surrounding schools and communities to provide extra reading practice for children who need it.

OTHER NATIONAL SERVICE PROGRAMS

In addition to AmeriCorps, national service includes programs for students and seniors. Learn and Serve America supports service-learning programs involving more than a million students in K-12 schools and colleges and universities. Students perform service in their communities that is linked to what they are learning in school. The National Senior Service Corps taps the experience of more than half a million older Americans to help solve community problems through the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP), the Senior Companions Program, the Foster Grandparents Program, and the new Seniors for Schools initiative.

NATIONAL SERVICE SCHOLARS

President Clinton announced the National Service Scholars program in 1996 as an opportunity for schools and communities to recognize young people for outstanding volunteer service while helping them continue their education. This initiative offers a matching \$500 scholarship for one high school junior or senior selected by each principal. Scholars receive \$1000 or more which is intended for college. For 1998, the Clinton Administration has secured funding that will allow the program to expand to 10,000 high schools -- close to half of all high schools in the nation.

AMERICORPS SCHOLARSHIPS

This initiative gives young people the opportunity to serve in AmeriCorps, but asks nonprofit charity or religious organizations to pick up the living expenses of the volunteers. At the Service Summit, the President announced that the Administration would provide 50,000 of these new AmeriCorps scholarships over the next 5 years to organizations that offer young people the chance to serve. The response since the Summit has far exceeded the Administration's expectations. Seventy-seven organizations answered that challenge, offering to sponsor 10,000 new AmeriCorps members. In June, 8,900 scholarships were approved, well ahead of our first-year plan for 5,000 scholarships. [Corporation for National Service, 10/97]

Administration Events in Honor of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service

January 19, 1998

Members of the President's Cabinet have taken up the challenge of honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. by making Monday, January 19 a day on rather than a day off. Members of the Cabinet and the Advisory Board of the President's Initiative on Race will participate in events with AmeriCorps members, Martin Luther King, Jr. grantees, and City Year Youth honorees, in addition to other events relating to their agencies' service commitments and policy initiatives.

Below is a description of what the Cabinet and Advisory Board are doing in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

THE CABINET

Department of the Treasury

On January 15, Secretary Rubin delivered a speech at Jesse Jackson's Wall Street Project conference in New York City.

Department of Defense

Deputy Secretary Hamre will participate in a Washington, D.C., Young Marines Unit mentoring event with kids, parents, and mentors honoring Dr. King.

Department of Justice

On January 19, Attorney General Reno will visit Jackson, Mississippi to hold a town hall meeting on service and to help rebuild a home that was donated to Habitat for Humanity. Joining the Attorney General will be AmeriCorps volunteers, U.S. Attorney Pigott, and others from the community.

On January 19, Acting Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights Bill Lann Lee will participate in a MLK, Jr. Day event in Detroit, MI. He will speak on hate crimes at an event sponsored by Focus:Hope, the Federal Bar Association, and the Wolverine Bar.

Department of Interior

On January 19, Secretary Babbitt will be in Philadelphia, joining Mayor Rendell and Dr. Deloris Tucker in the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Association's annual luncheon and commemorative bell ringing. Secretary Babbitt will speak on the ethic of service at the luncheon.

United States Department of Agriculture

On January 19, Secretary Glickman will attend an Operation Push for Excellence breakfast in Chicago, IL with Reverend Jesse Jackson, Rep. Jesse Jackson, Jr. and Senator Carol Moseley-Braun.

Department of Labor

On January 15, Secretary Herman traveled with the President to New York City for Jesse Jackson's Wall Street Project conference. On January 16, she will host an MLK celebration at the Department of Labor with Martin Luther King III.

Department of Health and Human Services

On January 19, Secretary Shalala will serve breakfast to homeless veterans at the Maryland Center for Veterans Education and Training, Inc. in Baltimore.

Department of Transportation

On January 19, Secretary Slater will participate in King Center events with the Vice President in Atlanta, Georgia. He will also participate in the Do Something service activities.

Department of Energy

On January 15, Secretary Peña gave a keynote address at the Energy Department's Forrestal Auditorium. On January 20, the Secretary will also participate in a community service initiative with the Department of Energy's Adopt-a-School.

Department of Education

On January 19, Secretary Riley is participating, along with the First Lady, in a DC Reads literacy fair in Washington, D.C., with the Corporation for National Service at the MCI center. This program will focus on instilling the value of reading in children by giving away free books, library cards, and simple lectures on Dr. King's philosophy.

Department of Veterans Affairs

On January 10, Acting Secretary West gave a keynote address in Chicago, IL at the 26th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Dinner held by the Minority Economic Resources Corporation.

Environmental Protection Agency

On January 15, Administrator Browner delivered remarks to commemorate the birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr., to employees of the EPA and the U.S. Customs Agency.

Council of Economic Advisors

On January 19, Chair Yellen will join children in Washington, D.C., from the Horton's Kids mentoring and tutoring program as they serve the community. Children from the Horton's Kids program will prepare food for the homeless at Martha's Table.

Office of Management and Budget

On January 19, Director Raines will participate in the Washington, D.C., Horton's Kids program at Martha's Table with Chair Yellen.

Small Business Administration

On January 19, Administrator Alvarez will participate in a program at Sarah House in Washington D.C. This program is run by Howard University students who plan to teach non-violence and conflict resolution to children in the Shaw community through games, presentations, entertainment, and toy exchanges (violent toys for educational toys).

Office of Personnel Management

On January 19, Director Lachance will be in Connecticut working with AmeriCorps members at the Volunteer Center for Greater Bridgeport. The holiday will kick off four months of service, including recruiting 200 young people for 10 hours of service, visiting nursing homes, helping out with a pregnant teen support program, and designing and painting a mural. Senator Dodd will also participate.

General Services Administration

On January 19, Administrator Barram will host a "One America: Conversation" in Washington, D.C. at the Cannon House Office Building with 150 high school students. The focus of this dialogue is to provide the audience of Jewish and African-American students with tangible skills to combat discrimination.

Social Security Administration

On January 15, Commissioner Apfel hosted SSA's Martin Luther King, Jr. Breakfast in Baltimore, MD. On January 19, he will participate in the Capitol Area Food Bank project with AmeriCorps and community volunteers to sort food that has been donated in order to get it ready for distribution.

THE PRESIDENT'S INITIATIVE ON RACE ADVISORY BOARD**John Hope Franklin**

On January 19, Dr. Franklin will accompany the Vice President to Atlanta for MLK Day activities.

Linda Chavez Thompson

On January 19th, Ms. Thompson will be in Silver Spring, MD to participate in service activities held by the Montgomery County Volunteer and Community Service Center, River Road Unitarian Church, and People's Community Baptist Church. This project connects churches of different ethnic and racial backgrounds with children from the Montgomery County Police Activities League (PAL) and will present a living memorial to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr..

Reverend Suzan Johnson Cook

On January 18, Reverend Cook will be joining the New York Metropolitan Martin Luther King Center for Non-Violence in the Bronx. She will also join hundreds of people at the Central Synagogue in Manhattan for a silent prayer march. On January 19, the Reverend will be speaking at the Riverhead Church 13th annual breakfast honoring Martin Luther King, Jr. at the Radisson Hotel.

Angela Oh

On January 19, Ms. Oh will be the keynote speaker at the Varsity Theater in Davis, CA. She will be

speaking on race relations in the 21st century. After her speech, Ms. Oh will engage the audience in a community forum on race relations in America. The Human Relations Commission is the sponsor of this event for the City of Davis.

Robert Thomas

On January 19, Mr. Thomas will be attending the Naugle Amaturro Theater at the Broward Center for the Performing Arts, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida celebration in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Governor William Winter

On January 19, Governor Winter will be the keynote luncheon speaker at the Itawamba County (Mississippi) Community Summit. During the morning session, the invitees will be dispersed into five different groups depending on their area of focus (education, youth, economy, health, and quality of life). These groups will discuss what they can do in the future to help Itawamba County.

Judith A. Winston

On January 19, Ms. Winston will accompany the Vice President to Atlanta for MLK Day activities.

Martin Luther King Day Project 1998
AmeriCorps ★ National Civilian Community Corps
Capitol Region Campus

Two teams will be deployed to Cardozo High School on January 12. They will be supervised and trained by a member of the facility management crew from Cardozo. The two teams will prep 30 classrooms for painting.

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Potomac High School	20
Episcopal Church Youth Group	10
Cardozo Alumni Association	5

January 17, 1998

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service

DATE: January 19, 1998

LOCATION: Cardozo High School, Washington, D.C.

TIME: 11:00am - 12:30pm

FROM: Stephen B. Silverman

Bibb Hubbard

Diana Fortuna

I. PURPOSE:

To commemorate and promote Dr. Martin Luther King's vision that, "Everybody can be great because anybody can serve.", you will paint a classroom and help to restore Cardozo High School with 300 Cardozo students, AmeriCorps' National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC) members, and community volunteers. On Monday, Mrs. Clinton will read to children and build bookshelves at the MCI center. In addition, 12 cabinet and 6 members of your race advisory board will participate in service-related events around the country and in Washington, D.C. (see attached list).

By engaging in community service on MLK Day, you illustrate the importance of service and highlight the fact that having people work together is key to changing attitudes about race and helps move us closer to becoming One America.

II. BACKGROUND:

Martin Luther King Day of Service:

In 1994, Harris Wofford and John Lewis sponsored and you signed the King Holiday and Service Act. The legislation mandates that the observance of Martin Luther King's birthday be transformed into a day of service that reflect's his life and teaching - bringing people together, breaking down the barriers that divide us, and working to solve our problems through citizen action. Traditionally, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day (MLK Day) had been commemorated with memorial services and a "day off". However, this year millions of Americans will gather to recognize King's legacy by participating in a "day on" rather than a "day off". By recognizing his legacy, Americans will pay their respects by promoting racial cooperation through citizen action.

In addition to the Administration's participation, there are community service activities taking place in honor of MLK Day nationwide. The 70 communities to which you awarded Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. service grants in November will conduct service activities. CityYear, an AmeriCorps program that has racial diversity as a core mission, will launch its Young Heroes program. The Young Heroes program consists of pairing junior high school students with CityYear members in eight cities on service projects over 16 consecutive Saturdays. AmeriCorps and its National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC) program is also responsible for hosting over 117 community service activities across the country. The NCCC is a team of young people, between the ages of eighteen and twenty-four, whose primary efforts are focused on tackling environmental issues and disaster relief.

Cardozo High School

There is a rich history at Cardozo High School. Until 1950, Cardozo was called Central High School, and it was an elite all-white school in the era when D.C.'s schools were segregated. Cardozo alumni include Helen Hayes, J. Edgar Hoover, ambassadors, judges, and generals. Shifting demographics led Central to be way under capacity, and neighboring all-black Cardozo to be very over-crowded. In an effort to fend off court challenges to segregation, the D.C. Board of Education voted in 1950 to close Central and move Cardozo students to the building. It was a major controversy at that time, with whites opposed and blacks in support. The white superintendent of schools went so far as to confiscate the cornerstone of the building, causing black groups to call for his prosecution. (The cornerstone is still in a warehouse in South West D.C.)

The active white alumni association had little interest in Cardozo High School or its students until very recently. Attempts in the 1970's to get the Central alumni to create scholarships for Cardozo kids failed. However, in 1993, elderly members of the alumni association voted to give scholarships to Cardozo students and become involved in Cardozo. (See attached *Washington Post* article and History of Cardozo.) Some of the Central alumni volunteer their time at Cardozo and are likely to participate at the MLK Day event on Monday.

You may remember that in October of 1997, the Promise Keepers wanted to help renovate and clean-up at a large number of D.C. schools. At the time, Judge Kaye Christian, the federal judge who presided in a lawsuit filed by a parents group over school reconstruction, denied the Promise Keepers' efforts to help renovate D.C. schools. Expressing disappointment at her decision were Superintendent General Becton, some D.C. Council Members, and Rep. Dick Armey. Consequently, the Promise Keepers worked only at Taft School. The lawsuit has since been settled and the NCCC's on-going work at Cardozo has been warmly received and appreciated by the high school.

Cardozo High School met the criteria we used to determine your site for MLK Day. Cardozo is a racially diverse school with 60% of the students African-American, 30% Hispanic and 10% Asian. The NCCC is actively involved with the school in an on-going partnership. Cardozo supports unique programs to help foster productive relationships with their diverse student body. For example, the First Lady visited Cardozo in April 1997. She went to learn about and participate in a program where Cardozo 10th graders help teach reading to elementary school students. One of the goals of this program is to relieve tension between African Americans and Latino students at school.

Participation of D.C. Elected Officials:

For your MLK Day event at Cardozo, Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton, Mayor Marion Barry, City Council Members Charlene Drew-Jarvis, Linda Cropp, Frank Smith, D.C. School Board President Wilma Harvey, D.C. School Board Members, Control Board Chairman Andrew Brimmer, Superintendent General Julius Becton and the Director of Facilities for D.C. Schools General Charles Williams were all invited to participate.

Of these, Drew-Jarvis, Becton, Williams, Harvey and ten D.C. School Board Members are planning to attend. Frank Smith will be represented by a staff member (Cardozo is in his City Council Ward). Most of the officials will be attending other MLK Day events within their respective districts, with many attending an event at the MLK Library downtown. White House staff has been advised that D.C. officials are supportive of your MLK Day event and that they are comfortable with your service event taking place concurrently with other events in D.C.

You should know that all invitees have been instructed as to the working nature of the Cardozo event; should any arrive in business attire, it is merely reflective of their attendance at other events.

Ongoing Administration Efforts on Community Service:

Since the Philadelphia Summit, your administration has made real progress in promoting citizen service by aggressively implementing commitments made in Philadelphia. (See attached your November 1997 letter to General Powell and the appended report on the Administration's accomplishments.) For example, the Department of Justice has convened a new public/private Mentoring Alliance to promote the Summit's mentoring goal. The Social Security Administration, Department of Labor, Department of Health and Human Services, Department of Transportation, and General Services Administration have all started new partnerships with schools.

The Corporation for National Service, led by Harris Wofford and his chief of staff John Gomperts, is in a boom period. Harris Wofford has participated in dozens of mini-summits sponsored by America's Promise and AmeriCorps. It's reauthorization legislation (which you announced in November) will be transmitted to the Hill shortly. The National Service Scholarships will be expanded this year to include 10,000 high schools - close to half of all high schools in the nation. Also, Wofford is working closely with White House, HHS and America's Promise staff to develop a plan to educate Americans about the newly available medicaid funds available to help children.

III. PARTICIPANTS:

Pre-brief participants:

YOU

Stephen Silverman

Diana Fortuna

Bibb Hubbard

Arrival Greeting the Local Officials:

YOU

Harris Wofford, CEO, Corporation for National Service
Reginald Ballard, Principal of Cardozo High School
General Julius Becton, D.C. School Superintendent
General Charles Williams, Director of Facilities, D.C. Schools

Painting the Classroom Event:

YOU

Harris Wofford
Jennifer Brindisi, NCCC Member
Julia Butler, NCCC Member
Kenneth Gutierrez-Garth, Cardozo High School Student
Abebech (Abby) Abebe, Cardozo High School Student
Margaret McLawhorn, 9th grade English Teacher (you are painting her classroom)
Terrell Munson, Community Volunteer and Teacher

Cafeteria Greeting

YOU

250 volunteers
Charlene Drew Jarvis, Chairperson Pro Temp, D.C. City Council
General Julius Becton, Superintendent, D.C. Schools
Wilma Harvey, President, D.C. School Board
Reginald Ballard, Principal, Cardozo High School

Board of Education Members

Wilma Harvey, President
Sandra Butler Truesdale
Tania Kinlow
Jay Silberman
Ann Wilcox
Don Reeves
Angie Corly
Benjamin Bonhum
Terry Hairston
Linda Moody
Rev. Robert Childs

IV PRESS PLAN:

- A. Pool Spray for Classroom Work
- B. Press Pool for Cafeteria Greeting

V. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS:

YOU arrive at Cardozo High School and are greeted by Harris Wofford, the Director of the Corporation for National Service, Reginald Ballard, Principal, General Julius Becton, the Superintendent of D.C. Schools, and General Charles Williams, Director of Facilities, D.C. Schools.

YOU, along with Harris Wofford, 2 AmeriCorps NCCC members, 2 Cardozo High School students, the teacher of the classroom and a community volunteer help paint the interior of classroom 306.

YOU greet the local officials and proceed to the cafeteria where the 250 volunteers are gathered for lunch.

YOU greet volunteers.(A stand-up mike will be available for you for your remarks.)

YOU give brief remarks and proceed to work a rope line.

Note* If time allows, you will take a group photo with 65 AmeriCorps NCCC members on your way out of the event.

VI. REMARKS:

Talking points will be provided by speech writers.

MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY: A DAY OF SERVICE

January 19, 1998

" Giving every citizen at the grass roots a chance to make a difference in his or her own life is a big part of what our efforts are all about. This law helps us to do that by linking the observance of Dr. King's birthday to a day of national service -- an extraordinary idea...Nothing could better serve the legacy of Dr. King. He was apathy's sworn enemy and action's tireless champion."

President Bill Clinton

Today, President Clinton, the First Lady, Vice President Gore, 12 Cabinet Secretaries and Agency heads, members of the President's Race Initiative Advisory Board, and numerous other White House and Administration staff members join Americans across the country to celebrate the Martin Luther King holiday by serving or participating in community events highlighting the importance of service.

MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY: A DAY "ON," NOT A DAY OFF. The Martin Luther King Holiday affords us a great opportunity to honor Dr. King's life through service -- one of the fundamental elements of Dr. King's philosophy and actions. In 1994 President Clinton signed into law the King Holiday and Service Act making the holiday a day of service that brings people together, promotes racial cooperation and helps to solve problems through citizen action. This year the Corporation for National Service provided \$225,000 in grants to 73 sites across the nation to help spur service related MLK Day projects.

LEADING BY EXAMPLE. Service has been at the center of the President's agenda since he took office. From the creation of AmeriCorps and the Corporation for National Service to the 1997 Presidents' Summit for America's Future, President Clinton encourages all Americans to serve in their communities.

BUILDING ONE AMERICA. Service is also an important part of the President's vision for building a more united America for the 21st century. Research shows that having people work together is the key to changing attitudes about race. The process of working together helps people get beyond stereotypes of different racial groups and focus on individual character.

SERVICE AS CIVIC RESPONSIBILITY. To make the forces of the 21st Century work for us, not against us, we must restore an ethic of citizenship and civic responsibility through service -- not as a form of charity or an alternative to government, but as an essential part of what it means to be an American. Service unites people of all ages and all racial and ethnic backgrounds in a common mission to solve community problems and improve the lives of other Americans.

TAKING ACTION TO CONTINUE SERVICE. President Clinton will soon submit legislation to reauthorize the programs of the Corporation for National Service -- AmeriCorps, Learn and Serve America, and the National Senior Service Corps. The proposal would extend the programs for five years and provide opportunities for more Americans to serve their communities. The President will also propose expanding the Peace Corps to 10,000 volunteers by the year 2000.

+ Robin Bachman

cc Ann Lewis
Steve Silverman
Bobb Hubbard
Mignon Moore
Stacie Spector
Materials from the
Corporation, I have it on disk.
—Diana Fortuna

1998 King Holiday Press Materials

**For Ann Lewis
January 13, 1998**

Contents:

- **Talking Points**
- **Draft Press Release**
- **Letter to Editorial Page Editors**
- **Twenty MLK Projects**
- **Wofford Op-Ed**
- **Brochure**

Martin Luther King Holiday Talking Points

"The greatest birthday gift my husband could receive is if people of all racial and ethnic backgrounds celebrated the holiday by performing individual acts of kindness through service to others."

-- Coretta Scott King

On January 19, 1998, Americans across the country will celebrate the Martin Luther King holiday through service to their communities. Congress has designated the Corporation for National Service as the lead agency for making Martin Luther King Day a day of service, and national partners for this day include the Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change, Inc., the Points of Light Foundation, the United Way of America, and Do Something.

The Martin Luther King Holiday is an appropriate time to honor Dr. King's life through service.

- Service was at the heart of Martin Luther King's philosophy and action. Dr. King said, "Everybody can be great because anybody can serve," and urged Americans to make a "career of humanity" – to take action to improve our communities and the lives of our fellow citizens.
- The King Holiday and Service Act of 1994 was intended to make the holiday a day of service that brings people together, promotes racial cooperation, and solve problems through citizen action.
- The holiday is a good opportunity to help improve the lives of children and youth, as called for at the Presidents' Summit for America's Future.

Service breaks down the barriers that too often divide Americans.

- Research shows that having people work together is the key to changing attitudes about race. The process of working together helps people get beyond stereotypes of different racial groups and focus on individual character.
- According to a recent study, the national service experience gives participants a greater respect for the realities and challenges that people unlike themselves face.
- Well-managed service unites people of all ages and all racial and ethnic backgrounds in a common mission to solve community problems and improve the lives of other Americans.

Service is a proven strategy for solving community problems.

- National service participants -- AmeriCorps members, students who serve their communities through Learn and Serve America, and older volunteers involved in the National Senior Service Corps -- provide leadership and structure to support tens of thousands of other volunteers.
- Through national service, AmeriCorps members, students, and older Americans help teach children to read, make neighborhoods safer and stronger, help communities recover from natural disasters, restore national parks, and much more.
- On January 19, Americans across the nation will renovate housing and schools, clean up neighborhoods and parks, organize food drives, tutor young people, and meet other important community needs. Many of these projects will continue beyond this day.

Congress will soon consider legislation to continue national service programs.

- This month the President will submit legislation to reauthorize the programs of the Corporation for National Service – AmeriCorps, Learn and Serve America, and the National Senior Service Corps.
- The administration's proposal would extend the programs for five years and provide opportunities for more Americans to serve their communities.

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
JANUARY 15, 1998**

**CONTACT: Anne Bushman
(202) 606-5000 ext. 304
Sandy Scott
(202) 606-5000 ext. 255**

AMERICANS HONOR MARTIN LUTHER KING THROUGH SERVICE ON HOLIDAY

Service Projects Advance President's Race Initiative

WASHINGTON, D.C. – For tens of thousands of Americans across the country, January 19 will be a day “on” for service – not just a day off work – as they honor Martin Luther King by working together in service activities across racial and ethnic barriers.

[SUGGESTED POTUS QUOTE]

“Thirty years after Martin Luther King’s death our country is once again engaged in a dialogue on race,” said President Clinton. “But to achieve One America, we must go beyond words to deeds. Serving together on the King Holiday – and everyday – will bring our nation closer together and help meet some of our toughest challenges.”

“Martin Luther King once said the ‘Everybody can be great because anybody can serve,’” said Harris Wofford, chief executive officer of the Corporation for National Service. “We encourage all Americans to use this holiday, which celebrates both America’s history and future, by serving their fellow citizens and making this a better country.”

Four years ago, Congress passed the King Holiday and Service Act, establishing the King Holiday as a day of service reflecting his life and teachings. This year citizens in every state will join together, crossing all racial and ethnic boundaries, to tutor children, build homes, clean parks, paint classrooms, deliver meals and perform countless acts of service and kindness.

“The greatest birthday gift my husband could receive is if people of all racial and ethnic backgrounds celebrated the holiday by performing individual acts of kindness through service to others,” said Coretta Scott King.

The Corporation for National Service was established in 1993 to make service the common expectation of all Americans. It administers AmeriCorps, the National Senior Service corps and Learn & Serve America which currently involve more than 1.2 million people of all ages and backgrounds in results-driven service.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: For more information about the projects mentioned below, or about projects that may be occurring in your area, contact Anne Bushman 202-606-5000 ext. 304 or Sandy Scott 202-606-5000 ext. 255.)

Service projects on the King holiday of Service include:

- In **Washington, DC** AmeriCorps members, high school students and volunteers from the community will help refurbish Cardozo High School located in the District's Shaw neighborhood.
- In **Chicago, Illinois** World Relief will sponsor volunteers from across the Chicago area who will travel by bus to Birmingham, Alabama where they will spend one week helping to rebuild the burned Avenue M Church of God and Christ.
- In **Homestead, Florida** 30 AmeriCorps members, local farmers and approximately 100 community volunteers from local high schools and churches will participate in the Farm Share Food Recovery Program. Participants will glean food from nearby fields on the morning of the holiday and distribute it to needy families.
- In **Atlanta, Georgia**, the King Center and Hands on Atlanta co-sponsor a three-day summit to engage more people in service to achieve the five goals identified at the Presidents' Summit in Philadelphia, and will culminate in 500 volunteers fanning out over Atlanta for community-based service projects.
- In **Philadelphia, Pennsylvania** the YouthBuild project will engage AmeriCorps members and community volunteers in three community clean-ups helping to restore and repair public places and will highlight the ethnic diversity of the neighborhoods.
- In **Los Angeles, California** students and volunteers will clean-up, restore and beautify public housing complexes in the Watts community.
- In **Brooklyn, New York** students and parents will go door-to-door collecting winter clothing and food which will be distributed over the winter to those in need.
- In **El Paso, Texas** volunteers from the University of Texas, Casas Por Cristo and return Peace Corps volunteers will complete two houses with Habitat for Humanity in five days of sustained service.

January 9, 1998

Mr. Hoyt Canady
Editorial Page Editor
The Knoxville News-Sentinel
P.O. Box 59038
Knoxville, TN 37590-9038

CORPORATION
FOR NATIONAL
★ SERVICE

Went to 250
Editorial page Editors

Dear Mr. Canady,

The Martin Luther King Holiday is just around the corner. For most of your readers, January 19 will be a day off from work and school. But for tens of thousands of Americans, the King Holiday will also be a day on -- a day of service in the community honoring his legacy.

Four years ago President Clinton signed legislation designating the King Holiday as a national day of service. Next Monday, many communities and individuals across the country will remember Martin Luther King the way he would have liked, with service projects reflecting his belief that "everyone can be great because anybody can serve." In every state, citizens will join together to tutor children, build homes, clean parks, paint classrooms, deliver meals and do countless other things to improve their communities.

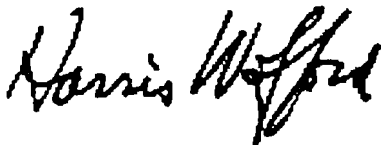
Thirty years after Martin Luther King's death our country is once again engaged in a dialogue on race. Talking together is certainly important, but serving together to achieve common goals is essential if we are to improve race relations. The King Holiday can help break down the barriers that divide us by bringing people together to solve problems through citizen action.

As you plan your page for Dr. King's birthday on Thursday, January 15, or the holiday on Monday, January 19, I hope you'll consider running an editorial or feature about the day and encouraging readers to serve on the holiday and throughout the year, particularly in projects that focus on children and youth.

As Coretta Scott King said, "The greatest birthday gift my husband could receive is if people of all racial and ethnic backgrounds celebrated the holiday by performing individual acts of kindness through service to others."

Please call me at (202) 606-5000, ext. 167, if you have any questions or require additional information.

Sincerely,



Harris Wofford
Chief Executive Officer
Corporation for National Service

Enclosures



TOP 20 MLK DAY PROJECTS - 1998

-Draft-

1. Washington DC - MCI Center and Cardozo High School

MCI Center

Children, parents, and tutors who participate in literacy tutoring programs throughout the District are coming to the MCI Center on MLK Day to help further the children's knowledge of Martin Luther King, Jr., as well as broaden their access to reading. The gym will be set up as a literacy service center, with stations providing children with a range of services and activities such as receiving their first library card from the MLK Library in downtown DC and participating in reading circles and in short history lessons about King, his philosophy and his legacy. AmeriCorps*NCCC members will be assembling child sized bookshelves for children to take home as their libraries.

Contact: Anne Bushman

202-606-5000 x304

AmeriCorps*NCCC at Cardozo High School

Sixty-five AmeriCorps* NCCC members, 50 Cardozo students, 50 students in the Student Conservation Association, and at least 300 community volunteers will paint 30 classrooms in the school, which has not been renovated for the past 15 years.

Contact: Anne Bushman

202-606-5000 x304

2. Columbia, South Carolina - City Year Young Heroes

Fifty Young Heroes (junior high school students who serve with City Year members) will join 300 community volunteers to work on the restoration of the Modjeska Simpkins home, named for a local civil rights activist. Simpkins is considered the matriarch of the civil rights movement in South Carolina and her home will be used as a museum.

Contact: Nicole Sanchez

617-927-2500

3. Atlanta, GA - King Center, Hands on Atlanta

A three-day summit to engage more young people in service to achieve the five goals identified at the Presidents' Summit will culminate in 500 volunteers fanning out over Atlanta for community-based service projects.

Contact: Michelle Nunn

404-872-2252

4. Clayton, LA - Delta Service Corps

Over 50 AmeriCorps members will join about 70 community volunteers in two small Louisiana towns. The volunteers will renovate two municipal parks, clean city streets, restore the Ferriday High School gymnasium and help create a community center for Clayton out of an old gym. Carpentry work will be performed by the AmeriCorps Habitat for Humanity members. Mayor Montgomery of Ferriday (whose husband was the first

African American elected official in that area of Louisiana) now will be speaking about the civil rights movement Sunday evening at the kickoff. The Mayor of Clayton (Mayor Washington) will be speaking on Monday before the service project.

Contact: Joe Green-Church

800-DSC-4719

5. Chicago, IL - World Relief

Volunteers from the Chicago area will travel by bus from Chicago to Birmingham, where they will spend one week helping rebuild the Avenue M Church of God and Christ, which has been burned down. The project will begin 8 a.m. on Martin Luther King Day. The afternoon of the 19th they will participate in a memorial service honoring Dr. King with members of the church they will help rebuild. Last year volunteers traveled to Georgia where they helped rebuild a church burned at the hands of arsonists committing a hate crime.

Contact: Milton Clark

773-583-9191

6. Homestead, FL - Farm Share Food Recovery Program

Thirty AmeriCorps members, local farmers and approximately 100 community volunteers (from high schools and churches) will glean food from nearby fields on the morning of the 19th and distribute it to needy families as part of a larger celebration of the legacy of King. Secretary of Agriculture, Dan Glickman is scheduled to join in the project.

Contact: Patricia Robbins

305-246-3276

7. Philadelphia, PA - YouthBuild

AmeriCorps members and community volunteers will do three community clean-ups followed by community fairs that will restore and repair public places and will highlight the ethnic diversity of the neighborhoods.

Contact: Taylor Fromme

215- 627-8671

8. Southport, NC - Brunswick County NAACP

Young people and senior citizens from black and white churches will be paired together in mentoring relationships and will perform beach and roadside clean-ups. The project will be ongoing --- the teams will continue to serve together, a black church paired with a white church, one Saturday a month for the remainder of the year.

Contact: Johnnie Grant

910-457-5080

9. Buffalo, NY - West Seneca Youth Bureau

One hundred AmeriCorps members and 200 volunteers will work on projects around the King Urban Life Center, located in one of the poorest communities in Buffalo. They will be painting the health clinic, day care center, and a greenhouse on the property.

Contact: Mark Lazzara
716-677-2434

10. Los Angeles, CA - LA Conservation Corps

Students and volunteers will clean-up, restore and beautify public housing complexes in the Watts community.

Contact: Bruce Saito/Mira Kong
(213) 362-9000 x207.

11. Denver, CO - Denver AmeriCorps*NCCC

AmeriCorps members and community volunteers will install smoke alarms in low-income housing. Lessons will also be provided to young children on how to avoid the dangers of fire.

Contact: Karen Labatt
303-340-7305

12. Brooklyn, NY - Community School District #23

Students and parents will fan out and do door-to-door collecting winter clothing and food which will be distributed over the winter to those in need.

Contact: Olivia Henderson
718-270-8663

13. Jackson, MS - Jackson Servant Leadership Corps

Youth groups and AmeriCorps members will fan out across the city in teams of ten --- balanced to ensure that each is composed of teens from different racial backgrounds and different churches. The projects, developed by the young people themselves, include demolition of abandoned homes to prepare the site and launch a Habitat build painting a mural at an old school that is being transformed into a community center, sorting and boxing up food at the Mississippi Food Network, and painting classrooms at a public school.

Contact: Leeanna Varga
601-355-4384

14. Guntersville, AL - Marshall County RSVP

Retired and senior volunteers and AmeriCorps*VISTA members will organize community volunteers to create a mini-park at a public housing project so that young children will have a safe place in the after-school hours. The plan for the day is to transform a debris-strewn lot behind the housing project into an oasis for children that attend the after-school center within the housing project.

Contact: Jean Ann Moon
205-571-7734

15. Frankfurt, KY - Kentucky State University

Volunteers will rehabilitate apartments to be used by homeless families.

Contact: Dr. Mary Smith
502-227-6520

16. Baton Rouge, LA - Mid City Redevelopment Alliance, Inc.

Volunteers from Serve Mid City, 100 Black Men, the Junior League, and national service participants will clean-up The Sweet Olive Cemetery, the oldest African-American cemetery in the city.

Contact: Elizabeth Thomas
504-383-1174

17. Passaic, NJ - Anderson Lee Vocational and Technical School

In partnership with the NAACP youth chapter, local inner-city youth will participate in the renovation of a local community center, learning valuable skills such as carpentry and plumbing. When the community center opens in March, it will offer the city's youth with positive alternatives for their free time.

Contact: Anderson Lee
973-773-3577

18. El Paso, TX - Casas Por Cristo

Volunteers from the University of Texas, Casas por Cristo and returned Peace Corps volunteers will complete two houses with Habitat for Humanity in five days of sustained service.

Contact: Wesley Bell
915-565-7800

19. Iron Mountain, MI - North Dickinson County School #3

Senior citizens will teach middle school students about civil rights and the children will teach the seniors about computers.

Contact: J. Eric Farsing
906-542-9281

20. St. Louis, MO - St. Louis Partners AmeriCorps

AmeriCorps members will serve in projects such as a clean-up of an African-American cemetery and painting the MLK, Jr. Center of St. Louis, and work with Habitat for Humanity, building homes.

Contact: Jennifer Rodis
314-772-9002 x181

A DAY ON, NOT A DAY OFF

Draft Op-Ed for USA Today

Today for the fifteenth time Americans will celebrate Martin Luther King's birthday as a national holiday. Yet many aren't sure of the best way to mark the day. The man we honor gave the answer with his challenge: "Life's persistent and most urgent question is: 'What are you doing for others?'"

Nothing would have frustrated Martin Luther King more than people just sitting at home watching TV, sleeping late or shopping. The King Holiday should be a day on, not a day off, a day of action, not apathy, a day of responding to community needs, not a day of rest and recreation. That's a self-evident truth.

Certainly we should celebrate the civil rights victories won in the decade of nonviolent direct action Martin led. But we all know he would want us to look ahead to the work yet to be done. When he died, he was trying to move up the next steep slope, the mountain of poverty in our cities, the mountain faced by a generation of young people lacking hope and opportunity.

Four years ago President Clinton signed legislation transforming the King Holiday into a national day of service. This law remembers Martin the way he would have liked, reflecting his belief that "everyone can be great because anybody can serve." A day that brings out the greatness in people – especially the young – by bringing them together to make a difference in their communities.

Today citizens across America will put this idea into practice. In Philadelphia, 6,000 volunteers will fan out across the city to renovate schools, clean neighborhoods and read to children. Students in Brooklyn will go door-to-door collecting food and clothing for the homeless. California's several thousand AmeriCorps members are leading a drive to clean parks, remove graffiti and plant community gardens. In every state, citizens are joining together to honor Martin's legacy with service projects.

Thirty years after Martin's death, his dream has not yet come true. We still don't live in a nation where all God's children are judged by the content of their character, not the color of their skin.

Recognizing this, the President has launched a race initiative to move our country forward. He is profoundly right to lift our sights to the goal of One America. Achieving that goal – and Martin's dream – will take dialogue, study and, most important, action. Investing in education, eliminating discrimination, and providing more economic opportunity to those who've been left behind are among the steps needed. But as our population grows ever more diverse, we must also find effective new ways to connect Americans.

One direct and powerful way to do this, open to every American, is service – working together to solve problems through citizen action. There is strong evidence that people serving together can bridge the gap between people of different backgrounds – whether in the intense experience of full-time service in the military, the Peace Corps or AmeriCorps, or part-time volunteering in the community. Working side-by-side in pursuit of common goals shatters stereotypes and helps people understand that our similarities are greater than our differences.

Indeed one of the best ways to achieve a breakthrough on race may be to focus on something entirely different than race. Serving together may do more to unite Americans than talking together. That's particularly true if we focus on a great common goal: meeting the fundamental needs of our children and youth. All Americans, regardless of race, want a better life for their children. Tapping the human spirit to help millions of at-risk young people have a bright future is the kind of galvanizing, central goal that can bring our country together, much as the World War II and the civil rights movement did before.

Mobilizing the forces of society to help millions of children have a brighter future was a key idea behind the Presidents' Summit for America's Future held in Philadelphia last April. The campaign launched in Philadelphia – America's Promise: The Alliance for Youth -- is now underway, led by General Powell and backed by President Clinton and all the former Presidents. Achieving the Summit goals will take a whole new level of personal and national commitment. And in focusing on these goals, the same ones waiting to be pursued when Martin was killed, our nation will come closer together as it gets vital things done.

Words -- Martin's words -- will always be part of what we celebrate. Next to Lincoln's, his are probably the most moving words in American history. But let us remember and honor Martin most of all by his deeds -- and our own.

John Gomperts
1201 New York Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20525
(202) 606-5000 ext. 121
(202) 565-2784 fax

**CORPORATION FOR
NATIONAL SERVICE**

To: Ann Lewis, Stacy Specter, Steve Silverman, Bibb Hubbard, Diana Fortuna

Date: January 15, 1998

I think that this article will be very useful to the President for his visit to Cardozo and also with the press.

thanks

cc Lowell Weiss
I think Cardozo
is in the Shaw
neighborhood.
-Diana

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
Shaw Urban Renewal Public Meeting
Washington, D.C., March 12, 1967

"PREPARE TO PARTICIPATE"

"Washington, D.C. has always held a very special place in my heart. This city has always been a symbol of hope to me.

When news came to me that you, the people of the Shaw area, were preparing to launch a comprehensive assault on the central city problems of human decay and physical decay, my heart literally leaped for joy. For there is no more serious domestic issue facing our nation today than that of the crisis of our cities.

I come here today to salute you, to encourage you and to bid you God's speed on the important journey upon which you now embark. I salute you for your vision, your honor and your courage. I encourage you because the task to which you now set your hands will be a difficult one. I pray for you because I believe, with God's help, you on these 6.75 acres called Shaw can point the way for this nation out of her most serious domestic dilemma.

Let me first, therefore, emphasize the fact that the task ahead of you will not be easy and that if it is to be accomplished you must participate.

You have said that you want the area planned with the people. If you expect to affect the planning of your neighborhood, then you the people must attend the neighborhood meetings. So prepare to participate.

You have said, secondly, that you want this area renewed by the people who live here. If you are to do the job and make the money, then you must get the training. Prepare to participate.

You have said, third, that you want to renew this area for the people who live and work here. If this goal also is to be realized you must prepare to participate.

Now I know that with respect to each of these goals -- renewal with the people, by the people and for the people there are those who are saying it cannot be done.

But so were there people who told Moses that the children of Israel could not possess the land of Canaan. But so were there those who told Dr. Ralph Abernathy and myself in Montgomery that we can't make these white folks let us ride anywhere on a bus that we want. But so did they tell us in Selma that you can't change Selma and Jim Crow and Dallas County. You can't do that, but some few soldiers in God's nonviolent army believed and acted upon that belief. They marched until they were joined by white men and black men from all over the country.

Black and white together they marched until the patter of their feet became the thunder of the marching men of Joshua and the nation rocked beneath their tread. If you prepare to participate the Shaw neighborhood can be renewed with the people, by the people and for the people.

Don't fail us; we are looking to you. Prepare to participate! Prepare to participate and there will be better schools for your children. Prepare to participate and your young men will get the jobs rebuilding this community. Prepare to participate and the business of the community will not only serve you but sustain you. Prepare to participate, and delinquency, drop-out and crime rates will go down. Prepare to participate and health, welfare and municipal services will go up.

Prepare to participate and you will give our city and our nation an instructive example of how we can deal with one of the most serious problems confronting us today -- the crisis in our cities. Because of you and what you propose to do in Shaw, I still have a dream.

— Youth Svc - ready
— Diversity
— Saturdays - ?
— Pres Memo

Recent Cardozo press:

- 4/97: First Lady visited program where Cardozo/10th graders help teach reading to elementary school students; refers to tension between African Americans and Latino students at school
- 2/97: Student stabbed in school; second-hand metal detectors weren't working
- 1/95 and after: Much press when a student is shot and killed in the school. The principal is removed for failing to maintain order.
- 1/95: column on violence against Asian-Americans at the school; apparently prior reports of conflict between Latino and African American students.

Promise Keepers

- 10/97: Promise Keepers wanted to work at a large number of DC schools, but Judge in charge of lawsuit by parents group over school reconstruction wouldn't allow it due to lack of notice and detail. Expressing disappointment at her decision were Gen. Becton, some DC council members, and Rep. Dick Armey. So they worked only at Taft School.

School test scores?

Munchison
Walker
Graham

*fax to Pam VanWie
5-~~00~~ 1596*

MEMORANDUM TO THE PRESIDENT

FROM: Harris Wofford *HW*
DATE: December 31, 1997
SUBJECT: President's Youth Service Awards

CORPORATION
FOR NATIONAL
 SERVICE

Your commitment to citizen service, and especially youth service, is, of course, a hallmark of your administration. The creation of AmeriCorps, the growth and development of many other service programs, especially those related to service-learning, are in many ways the direct result of your dedication to the idea that young people in America should be asked and inspired to serve. The Presidents' Summit for America's Future helped to amplify that message with its call for universal youth service in Goal Five.

One of our challenges has been to find effective ways to encourage and recognize those young people who do serve. The education award approach has been very successful with AmeriCorps. After your announcement at the Penn State commencement, we have also developed the National Service Scholars Program, which awards \$1,000 scholarships to high school students who have a record of outstanding service to the community. This will be available for 10,000 high schools this year (with a local match of \$500). Also, you'll be happy to know that one of the first two of the new daily Points of Light, to be announced by you and President Bush, will go to one of the high school leaders with whom we have been working since the Summit, Amy Achor of Waco, Texas (who we hope will soon be a youth member of the Corporation's board).

The President's Youth Service Awards provide another excellent opportunity to recognize millions of young people who make a significant commitment to service. In early 1998, we intend to re-launch these awards under new terms.

In 1993-1994, the Corporation for National Service, through an agreement with the American Institute for Public Service, implemented the President's Youth Service Awards program, which provided recognition awards to young people engaged in voluntary community service. The program's structure was similar to the President's Physical Fitness Award, with awards going to young people who had demonstrated excellence in service. The award was initiated by the Congress with the special sponsorship of Senator John Heinz, and was provided for in the National

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Getting Things Done.
AmeriCorps, National Service
Learn and Serve America
National Senior Service Corps

and Community Service Act of 1990, as amended in 1993. The idea continues to have strong bi-partisan support.

We intend to re-launch the program with a clearer, sharper focus tied to the fifth goal set forth at the Presidents' Summit. The Summit target is that by the year 2000, 2 million additional young people will complete 100 hours or more of service each year. With General Powell's strong support, as evidenced in his recent *Time* Magazine article, the Corporation is leading the effort to achieve this goal. Young people who complete the 100 hours will be eligible to receive the award, if their school, tutor or participating non-profit organization certifies their service. Like the President's Physical Fitness Awards, the program will be self-financing, administered by the nonprofit organization selected through a competitive process to be announced soon in the Federal Register.

We believe that the American Association of School Administrators and the National Association of Secondary School Principals will be supportive. The head of the national YMCA (with whom I had a very successful meeting in Chicago) says that local YMCAs will be prepared to use the new President's Youth Service Awards as an incentive for a larger number of their several million youth members to serve at least 100 hours. We expect other large youth-serving organizations such as the Boys and Girls Clubs will do the same.

We know that recognition is a key factor in encouraging young people to serve their communities, and we think that these President's Youth Service Awards will provide an effective, locally-driven way to provide that recognition. Under your leadership, the program will enable us to spread the ethic of service to millions of young people nationwide.

VIEWPOINT

General Colin L. Powell, U.S.A. (Ret.)

Everybody's Children

Giving helps young people grow

ONE OF THE MOST FRIGHTENING SCENES IN Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* occurs when the Ghost of Christmas Present reveals to the yet unredeemed Ebenezer Scrooge two ragged and wolfish children—a boy and a girl, cowering in the folds of his robe. Even hint-hearted Scrooge is intimidated by the sight of them: "Where angels might have sat enthroned, devils lurked, and glared out menacing."

"Spirit," he asks, "are they yours?"

"They are Man's," the ghost replies. "And they cling to me, appealing from their fathers. This boy is Ignorance. This girl is Want. Beware them both, and all of their degree, but most of all beware this boy, for on his brow I see that written which is Doom unless the writing be erased."

Children can be angels or devils, depending on the kind of nurturing they receive from others. They can grow into responsible and contributing members of society, or they can become its dependents, predators and outcasts. And because they are "Man's" children, they are everybody's children. The whole society has a stake in their destiny and a duty to help them grow up strong and confident.

As chairman of America's Promise—The Alliance for Youth, I see angels enthroned and devils lurking every day that I deal with this country's young people. I never cease to be amazed at how little it takes to turn one into the other. In a land as richly blessed as ours, it is indeed tragic to reflect that for want of a little guidance and encouragement, a child may drop out of school, turn to drugs or crime, or create new life before he or she is mature enough to assume the responsibilities of parenthood. Yet as many as 15 million American youngsters are at risk of falling prey to these or other social scourges of our time.

America's Promise was created to give these kids a better chance at life. By the end of the year 2000, we aim to provide at least 2 million of them with five basic resources we believe they need to make it in today's America. These are: an ongoing relationship with a caring adult; safe places and structured activities from which to learn and grow during nonschool hours; a healthy start and a healthy future; a marketable skill through effective education; and an opportunity to give back through community service.

The logic of the first four resources is immediately obvious; the logic of the fifth is less so. If youngsters lack basic needs, does it make sense to ask them to give?

Paradoxically, the answer is yes. Young people—like adults—usually find that when they make a real effort on behalf of others, they get back more than they contribute. Many youngsters report that volunteering in their communities has helped them under-



stand people who are different from themselves, has opened up new career possibilities to them and has enlarged their horizons. According to one poll, more than half of teenage respondents said that their grades improved as a result of volunteering. In Maryland, which has a "service-learning" requirement that students must fulfill to graduate from high school, one initially reluctant volunteer later wrote a first-person account for the *Washington Post*, in which she confessed that her experience in community service was generally positive and actually added value to her résumé.

Even youngsters from disadvantaged backgrounds find that they are enriched by giving of themselves. The Corporation for National Service (AmeriCorps) has some very uplifting stories to tell of young people whose lives have been transformed by serving others. A 20-year-old victim of a drive-by shooting in Los Angeles went on to counsel other youths on how to settle conflicts peacefully. Another AmeriCorps volunteer, a former gang member and drug dealer in Milwaukee, Wis., later founded an organization that helps teenagers break away from gangs.

Recently, I attended a rally for America's Promise in San Antonio, Texas. One of the speakers was a young man who had dropped out of high school at age 15. But his experience as a volunteer inspired him to earn his graduate-equivalency diploma, which set him on the road to college. "Because of community service," he told a hushed crowd of several thousand people, "my life has changed like night and day, and in the process I have made a difference in other people's lives."

Time and again I have been heartened by the willingness of so many young people to embrace an ethic of citizenship that includes service to community and nation. In response to the call issued by America's Promise, the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts of America have pledged millions of additional hours in service projects, as have the youth affiliates of the Kiwanis and Rotary clubs. Not long ago, the Boys & Girls Clubs of America presented me with a "promise book" of commitments made by Boys & Girls Clubs all across the nation. That book is two inches thick!

Giving to our youth, and helping them learn the joys of giving back, could literally transform America, if we were all willing to involve ourselves in this effort. At this time of year, more than any other, it behooves us to ask ourselves honestly if we are doing enough for "Man's" children. If not, Ignorance and Want will dog our steps and dampen our holiday cheer until we do.

The author is chairman of America's Promise—The Alliance for Youth. Those interested in volunteering should call 888-55-YOUTH.

John Lewis

POTUS - 94 signing & ra → Beverly, Kevin, Robin



*"Everybody
can be great,
because anybody
can serve."*

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*Found the Cardoso article - very
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*I'm in the office til 9:30 - Then will be in
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me

Melinda



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December 21, 1997, Sunday, Final Edition

SECTION: MAGAZINE; Pg. W16

LENGTH: 3742 words

HEADLINE: NEW SCHOOL TTES; Central High was a beneficiary -- and a casualty -- of segregation. Part of its legacy is the question of how, half a century later, the alumni can best remain true to their school

BYLINE: Eugene L. Meyer

BODY:

A hundred members and guests of the Central High School Alumni Association are gathered for a luncheon at the Charles Sumner School Museum at 17th and M streets NW. The old auditorium upstairs is filled with chatter about retirement and grandchildren and the dearly and recently departed. Someone is playing their songs on the piano, standards from the '30s and '40s. As the alumni sit down to their chicken and rice, their easy camaraderie suggests that their association

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remains quite lively even if their alma mater was consigned to history almost half a century ago.

On this sunny Saturday in May, they are honoring Henry Louis Collomb, class of '47, who retired from the Air Force with the rank of lieutenant colonel; Robert C. Lautman '41, who made his career as an architectural photographer; and Nicholas Pistolas '34, captain of the undefeated 1933 football team, then a player at Columbia with Sid Luckman, and then a children's eye doctor. In remarks acknowledging his certificate of distinction, each man explicitly thanks not only old teachers and coaches, but also Central itself for instilling in him self-confidence and the will to succeed. "You had to be something," is how Pistolas puts it. A Central education, he says, placed you in "an upper-class situation."

Central was actually as elite as a public school could be. At a time when the District's schools were the best in the region, Central was the most prestigious of the District's schools, a place that prepared young men and women for accomplishment in business, medicine, the law, the military -- any field worthy of their endeavor. The school had an endless list of alumni luminaries, a roster of legendary teachers, a tradition of winning athletic teams and a magnificent building in Columbia Heights. Even parents from outside the District -- federal

*Melinda
Here's the
article
- Julie*

employees, who could send their children to D.C. schools for free — sought
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out Central for the advantages it conferred.

Today, however, the alumni are looking forward as well as back. At another point, Fred Dunn '42, a retired Montgomery County educator, rises to introduce Andrea Jones, a 17-year-old senior at Cardozo High. The alumni association is awarding her a scholarship of \$ 1,000.

Only moments before, Dunn had explained to her how her school came to occupy the building on the heights, and how his school ceased to be. How the public schools were segregated then, and how Central was reserved for whites, Cardozo for blacks. How the District school board, in the spring of 1950, closed Central and put Cardozo in its building. It was a desperate -- and doomed -- attempt to keep the school system segregated.

With light streaming in through the auditorium's tall windows, Jones stands before a microphone on the floor and tells the crowd that she will be going to Howard University to major in nursing. She introduces her mother, a 1980 Cardozo graduate who is seated nearby. By way of conclusion she adds, "I'd like to say I'm delighted to be in the presence of all you Central High alumni."

As she returns to her seat, the alumni applaud warmly and easily, as if Cardozo scholarships have been a longstanding part of their ritual. In fact,
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these prizes are only four years old. It took nearly half a century for the Central alumni to come home. In that half a century, Central's past, always formidable, became something both to celebrate and to overcome. Within the alumni association, history died hard.

It was said to be Washington's first high school, but that claim overlooked the creation a few years before of a black high school, the M Street School, which was housed in the Sumner building when it had its first graduation in 1877.

Central opened in 1882 at Seventh and O streets NW as Washington High, and was renamed in 1890, after the District built other schools. With overcrowding came pressure for a new building, which opened in 1916 at 13th and Clifton streets NW, on a hillside that commanded a sweeping view of the city from the Capitol to the Washington Monument. The facility boasted a stadium, swimming pool, rifle range, armory, indoor track, tennis courts, greenhouse, library and the best school auditorium in town. Through the 1920s and into the '30s, Central swelled with more than 3,000 students.

The alumni association was formed in 1904, and over the years grew in numbers and importance. Alumni officiated at the laying of the cornerstone at the "new" Central in 1915. They contributed funds for the library, and to send
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Centralites to college. They raised money for a three-panel Holy Grail Frieze to hang in the library to memorialize Central's World War I dead. In 1924 the association, with a mailing list of 8,000, was said to be the largest for any public high school in the country.

Central's alumni, moreover, were compiling a remarkable record of individual achievement. Over the years they included FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover, actress Helen Hayes, CBS correspondent Charles Collingwood; an ambassador to China and a District school superintendent; judges, lawyers, doctors and mid- to high-level bureaucrats by the bushel. Centralites serving in World War II included 29 generals, six admirals and the first officer killed in the Normandy invasion.

"Central High School is more than just a building of brick and stone," rhapsodized the last yearbook. "It is a symbol of the American way of life, a foundation of knowledge, a haven for youth and a challenge for a better tomorrow. Her spirit dwells in the hearts of over twelve thousand Centralites scattered throughout the world."

Central had an unchallenged position atop a "dual" school system that had been operating in Washington since before the Civil War. "We didn't create the segregated system," says Gerry Wagshal, who graduated from Central in 1946. "We found ourselves growing up in it."

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Indeed, in the 1940s a kind of apartheid prevailed in the nation's capital. Virtually every public facility in the city -- restaurants, theaters, playgrounds, subsidized housing -- was segregated by law or by custom. Even neighborhood associations were divided by name: Blacks belonged to "civic" associations, whites to "citizens" associations.

After World War II, this entire social order came under attack, especially in the courts, and the school system seemed particularly vulnerable. The change was fueled as much by demographics as by legal action: Even before the war, white families had been moving uptown from the inner city to upper Northwest. As they did so, Roosevelt and then Coolidge high schools were built to serve them, and Central's enrollment consequently declined. Even with the addition of the seventh and eighth grades, the number was down to 1,400 by 1949.

The city's black population, meanwhile, had been surging, in part because of migration from the South. The neighborhood around Central reflected the shift as

black families moved in immediately south of the school.

School demographics were also changing citywide. In the 1940s, suburban students were, for the first time, required to pay tuition to attend District schools, and their numbers dropped sharply. With relative suddenness, the District's school system had a 52 percent black majority among its students.

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Black schools were overcrowded and white schools were under-enrolled.

This shift put the District Board of Education under considerable pressure: To maintain its dual system, it was legally obligated to provide "equal" facilities for both races. Fearful that it would lose a legal challenge on that point, the board played racial checkers, shifting schools from one racial designation to the other, to try to keep up with the demographics.

Cardozo High School, occupying an old building at Ninth and Rhode Island NW, was 756 pupils over its capacity of 1,040 and operating on staggered triple shifts. The football team practiced on a makeshift field between buildings at Howard University. The drama club rehearsed at Francis Junior High, at 25th and N streets NW. Recess was in the streets. Clearly, the board had to provide a bigger building for Cardozo.

Central, less than half full, became a prime target for conversion.

Over the fall of 1949 and winter of 1950, the board held hearings. They were contentious, and polarized largely along racial lines. For the most part, white neighborhood groups, the Central alumni and schools superintendent Hobart Corning (Central '07) opposed the change. So did 1,125 Central students, who signed petitions expressing their opposition. Black neighborhood groups, the

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NAACP and progressive whites favored it. "CENTRAL FOR CARDOZO," proclaimed a full-page advertisement placed by a coalition of blacks and liberal whites in The Washington Post on December 20, 1949. The next day, real estate salesmen descended on homeowners surrounding Central with offers to buy their homes.

In a letter to its members, the Central Alumni Association warned, "There are certain pressure groups in this area who seem to thrive on controversial issues and therefore would not welcome a workable solution to this most difficult problem." It then offered its own solution: Transfer white Wilson Teachers College to under-enrolled Roosevelt High; temporarily transfer black Miner Teachers College to Wilson; temporarily transfer Cardozo to the Miner campus pending completion of a new high school building for blacks in Northeast.

Carol Thompson Cole
History of NCCC in DC schools

25 classrooms - NCCC prep'g thru wk

60 NCCC - 30 w/kg, 30 coordtz

300 Comm volr thru org. - 50 WH staff

Asian business person

50 Cardozo students

9^a-4^p

"It is now time for white people to stand in solid phalanx for their civil rights, the same as Negro people assert theirs," one citizens association representative said at a public hearing on the Central-for-Cardozo proposal. To which the president of the black Federation of Civic Associations replied, "It augurs poorly for American democracy that these people should scream, 'Keep Central for white people' when 1,700 children are housed in an inadequate building almost 80 percent overcrowded."

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Some whites, however, favored turning Central over to black students -- as a means of keeping the races apart. "Primarily, we want to defend the segregated school system," said a vice president of the white Federation of Citizens Associations. "Will we save one school and lose the segregated system?"

Amid this debate, the U.S. Court of Appeals here, in a 2-to-1 decision, upheld school segregation in Washington, finding no evidence of inequality in the assigning of school buildings or in educational opportunities. It would be four years before the U.S. Supreme Court would overturn the legal basis for segregated schools -- not only in *Brown v. the Board of Education*, but also in *Bolling v. Sharpe*, a District case that the court had agreed to hear along with *Brown*.

Still, the District board acted with dispatch. On March 8, 1950, less than a month after its last public hearing, it voted to close Central. "The tragedy that has befallen Central cannot be exaggerated," reported the Central Alumni Record. "Irreparable damage has already been done not only to Central but to the entire community of Washington."

The last day of school for Central was June 9. George Couzzens, who is now president of the alumni association, was a senior then. He recalls an assembly at which students were told that the school would close a week early, and that

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demonstrations would not be tolerated. Students were directed to clear out their lockers and leave. Rather than being resentful, Couzzens and his buddies were simply happy to be out of school sooner.

Others took it harder. "It was very emotional," recalls Bruna Lenzi Watts, a classmate of Couzzens's. "I remember a lot of us cried. I was angry -- I don't know at whom -- because I would not have a high school to go back to." Central's evacuation was so total that even the books were taken away. "We were busy and sad and involved in helping to clean out," Watts recalls. "I helped teachers pack books."

On September 11, 1950, Cardozo students entered what had been the hallowed halls of Central High. "I remember walking in there," recalls Helen Jones, a member of Cardozo's class of 1951. "It was such a tremendously large building. I felt so lost. There was so much room, you couldn't take it in all in one day. Everyone came early that morning . . . We were so elated, we didn't even go out at lunchtime. We just rejoiced."

The alumni of Central were in mourning, and like the members of an illustrious family, they sought to preserve the artifacts from their ancestral home. Over the summer, the alumni association had set about obtaining the school's trophies and plaques and other memorabilia — all the tangible

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symbols of the institution that had defined their passage out of youth. Even the Holy Grail Frieze was removed from the library.

Superintendent Corning went further: He had the building's cornerstone removed and stored in his office closet. This act prompted black groups to call for his prosecution, but ultimately the D.C. corporation counsel ruled, and the school board agreed, that Corning had acted within his statutory authority.

Meanwhile, it seemed that nobody wanted the rest of the Central memorabilia. Three promised rooms to house them at Western High turned out to be one. Some trophies went to the Chevy Chase Community Center; many were kept in the basement of McKinley High. From 1967 to 1987, all the mementos resided in two attic rooms in the Columbia Historical Society's Heurich Mansion near Dupont Circle.

Finally, they wound up at the Sumner School Museum — the building where the M Street School had once been housed. That is where they rest today: Central yearbooks fill a bookcase, records fill a closet, and the trophies and Holy Grail Frieze grace the Ella Morgan Memorial Room, named after a beloved English teacher. The cornerstone is also in the custody of Sumner, but it sits in a Southwest Washington warehouse.

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Through it all, the Central Alumni Association remained strong. There were alumni groups in New York, Boston, Cleveland, eventually Florida and Leisure World. The Washington newspapers were filled with reports of Central reunions. At one such affair, in 1958, 400 alumni turned out to sing school songs and honor various of their brethren, including Realtors, association presidents, a banker and a university professor. At these galas, issues of race were discreetly not discussed.

That changed in 1970, at the 40th reunion of the class of 1930. According to a later account in The Post, Joseph Danzansky, the class "prophet" who became a prominent businessman and was a civic leader until his death in 1979, rose to suggest that Central and Cardozo become one school with one name and one alumni association. Reported reactions ranged from silence to boos.

At another Central reunion in 1979, Eileen Shanahan, then a national economics reporter for the New York Times and a 1940 graduate, rose to receive her distinguished alumni award. While mentions of Central in newspapers were now largely on the obituary pages, Cardozo was receiving citywide renown for its dazzling marching band, and the band had an invitation to the Rose Bowl parade but a shortage of funds for the trip. Shanahan proposed that the alums get out their checkbooks and support the Cardozo kids.

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"Well, all hell broke loose," she recalls, "and people stood up outraged and said, 'We have nothing to do with them. They stole our school.' Not a single person spoke up in support. I was so mad I purposely left the little plaque they gave me on the table when I left. Somebody mailed it to me. I threw it in the trash and vowed to have nothing to do with Central High School again." In time, it became a vow she would not have to keep.

The changes came in steps, small and tentative, but forward all the same.

In the early 1980s, Charlie Kligman, who in the 1941 yearbook had "willed" his pitching arm to the trophy case, suggested that his fellow alumni fund some scholarships in Central's name at American University, from which he also had graduated. As the alumni raised \$ 100,000 to endow the fund, the issue of race emerged.

"To be very honest with you," recalls Kligman, some people said, " 'You're not going to give scholarships to black people.' So we had to fight that element. There were just two or three people, but they were vocal. They thought the scholarships should be just for white people." The opposition did not surprise him. Nor did it faze him. "We outvoted them. We let AU decide it" -- the university, not the association, would decide who got the scholarships. The money would be modest -- \$ 1,000 to \$ 5,000 -- but the gesture was

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significant. Since 1985, AU has awarded 16 scholarships in the name of Central, including three to minority students.

Also in the mid-'80s, the issue of helping out the Cardozo band came up again. This time, newsletter editor M. Gill Piquette, a 1934 graduate, said if

10's - 80's

the association didn't do it, she'd do it herself. The board voted to donate \$ 500.

What was happening was not so much a revolution as another demographic shift: With the sheer passage of time, the membership was increasingly composed of people less steeped in the values that they grew up with and more attuned to current realities. To them, Central's closing in some ways "was just something that happened," says Florence C. Marvil, a 1942 graduate, "and then we sort of outgrew it and outlived those who had any ill will."

Marion Bishop Polli, a 1946 graduate, is one of those who was largely indifferent to the closing of Central at the time. But she also says, "When you get older, you think more. I remember when I went into the banking business, blacks were only maintenance people, but we had a very good president and things were beginning to change. He asked two maintenance people to be tellers. One customer said she was going to stop banking there. But I'm glad it happened, because in the course of working with different people, I thought, 'We all

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want the same things -- a decent job, a decent education for our children.' "

So in 1993, when Polli proposed that the alumni association -- which she then headed -- contribute money either directly to Cardozo or to its students, the group was more receptive to some sort of link to the school than it had been in 1979.

"The reaction was kind of draggy at first" on the alumni board, recalls John "Gus" Plakas, of the class of 1940. "There were speakers who said they didn't think they [Cardozo] deserved it. They didn't want it racially. They said it wasn't their school anymore. I said that was not the point, that we're out to help people, we're an educational organization, we have an obligation."

"I felt if we could just touch a few people, let them know that just because we were a segregated school, we haven't forgotten them and we want to do what we can to help," Polli says. "But this wasn't something constantly discussed or brought up or whatever. It's just the passage of time. If anything's certain in life, it is that things change. That's what happened with the board."

She raised the idea first at the May 1993 board meeting. Only the month before, 15 board members had gone to Cardozo to present then-Principal Geraldine R. Johnson with a \$ 1,000 check for her discretionary use. Their

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reception, from teachers and administrators, couldn't have been nicer. There were hugs and picture-taking.

Over that summer, the Central alumni mulled over the idea of a more regular relationship. When the board reconvened in September, the only question on the table was the form of giving. The vote was unanimous to create the Central scholarships for Cardozo students. After 43 years, a direct link had been forged between the two schools.] 9/93

On the outside, the building they have in common looks much as it used to. Even an impression of the letters spelling "CENTRAL" remains behind the name "CARDOZO." But so much has changed over the decades, in the school and in the neighborhood.

In 1995, Plakas, a retired printer, thought he'd scout the old school before a planned visit by another group of Central alumni. On January 5, he drove in from his home in Montgomery County. He hoped his trip would allay any apprehension in the group. "I'd just parked the car and gotten out when I heard the shot," he says. It was fired by a 14-year-old freshman just outside the Clifton Street entrance to the school. "I didn't move. There was a second shot." The attack would leave a 16-year-old sophomore dead. "He stumbled through the [school] door. I pulled out of the parking space and left, very disheartened."

The Washington Post, December 21, 1997

Still, Plakas returned that spring with his group, and his desire to help the school remains.

Since then, visits to the building have become an annual ritual. Fred Dunn, the scholarship committee chairman, drives down in the spring to deliver applications and returns a month later to pick them up. Then his committee, which includes Marvil and Shanahan among its five members, visits Cardozo for interviews.

Of the nine applicants last spring, two were African American and the rest were Salvadoran, African, Vietnamese. After a while, a member of the committee innocently asked a student how long she'd been in the United States. "My whole life!" answered the startled girl, an 18-year-old African American. Andrea Jones and Sulciman Shifaw, from Ethiopia, were the hands-down favorites. They were honored at the Central reunion last May, and Dunn made the awards at a Cardozo assembly last June.

"Schools change names, schools change purposes," he said in the hushed auditorium. "But our alumni association still has a tremendous feeling towards the people and the building that is here."

The Washington Post, December 21, 1997

And now, the scholarships will not be the Central alumni's only legacy to Cardozo. The alumni know too well that they are nearing the end. The youngest among them is 65. Their membership is 2,200, but shrinking. This is their endgame. There's no more than \$ 50,000 in their bank accounts, but even associations must have heirs.

The Centralites have chosen theirs. When they disband, a few years hence, half their treasury will go to the Sumner School Museum, the former black school that houses their treasures. The other half will go to perpetuate the Central scholarships at Cardozo.]

Eugene L. Meyer is a Washington Post reporter. His wife's great-aunt was a 1913 Central classmate of J. Edgar Hoover's, and her grandfather graduated from Central in 1914.

GRAPHIC: Photo, linda wheeler; Photo, arthur ellis; Photo, courtesy charles sumner school museum and archives; Photo, john mcdonnell; Photo, ray wilson, A school in transition: In 1948 the old Cardozo High at Ninth and Rhode Island NW was so crowded that a health class had to meet in the basement, left. In June 1950, above, students listen during one of the final English lessons at Central. Bottom, an impression of "CENTRAL" remains at Cardozo. A Central education, one graduate says, placed you in "an upper-class situation." Top to bottom:

The Washington Post, December 21, 1997

the 1913 debate team, which included J. Edgar Hoover, far left; the building circa 1916; the 1916 prom; a '30s football game; a '40s dance; a 1972 alumni event. The Cardozo marching band, which eventually made it to Pasadena. Alumnus Fred Dunn with honorees Andrea Jones and Suleiman Shifaw.

- Cardozo alumni
- Shorten

DRAFT

January 8, 1998

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: 2 Bruce Reed
3 Steve Silverman
① Jennifer Palmieri

VIA:

CC

SUBJECT: Options for Service on MLK Day

Ann?

4 DF

Sylvia Mathews

Ann, Rahm, Podesta, Bezula, Doug, Goodin, Bibb, Julie

Steph Street

(NCCC, CY + MLK grants)

Below are five recommended options for service on MLK Day. These recommendations are the result of an extensive review of activities occurring around the nation on MLK Day, based on information from the Corporation for National Service. It would be helpful if you could indicate a few options that you would like us to pursue further. *rank a few options*
So that we can

To select these five, we used the following criteria:

- For logistical reasons, the site should be in the Eastern U.S., preferably not a site you've been to often or recently.
- AmeriCorps should be involved. We were particularly drawn to two AmeriCorps programs -- the National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC) and CityYear (which is launching its Young Heroes program on MLK Day, where 6th-8th graders from all backgrounds will serve with CityYear corps members after school and on Saturdays for an entire year, beginning with 16 consecutive Saturdays).
- The service should be real, and communicate the value of Americans serving together.
- The work should be continuing rather than a one-time effort.
- Those serving should be a racially diverse group.
- The event should be significant given the size of the community.

We attempted to find sites with legislators we are targeting for AmeriCorps reauthorization, but none fit the other criteria above.

In case the five options presented below do not offer enough choice to make a decision, we are also including six additional meritorious options that did not score as highly as the five we are recommending.

At the end of this memo is a description of the key AmeriCorps programs in these options.

RECOMMENDED OPTIONS

Below are five options in priority order, two of which are in Washington, D.C. We think it is probably best for you to serve elsewhere. ~~It may make sense for Mrs. Clinton to serve at the DC Reads event at the MCI Center.~~ *The FC's staff is int'd in hvg*

1. Renovation of Civil Rights Museum and River Clean-Up with CityYear/Young Heroes -- Columbia, SC

50 Young Heroes will celebrate the beginning of their service year on MLK Day by working with CityYear to restore the home of Modjeska Simpkins, a local civil rights activist, and convert it to a civil rights museum. Simpkins, who died two years ago, is considered the matriarch of the civil rights movement in South Carolina. She was an educator at Benedict College (an HBCU) and her home was the home of the movement in the state -- King and others stayed with her when they were in South Carolina. Work at the site will include general clean up, yard work, and renovations to the inside; porch and roof. At the end of the day, there will be a march from the Simpkins Home to the MLK Park, where they will launch Young Heroes.

*Minyan
OK (people
expect*

In addition, all of the AmeriCorps members in the region will join volunteers from UPS and community groups (approximately 300 total volunteers) to work on clearing land around the Saluda River in preparation for the creation of the future Saluda River Park. The river is an urban waterway that has suffered from years of neglect. On the day, volunteers will haul trash, clear brush, and prepare the area for the construction of the park in the Spring.

Possible Downside -- The Mayor of Charleston, SC is very eager for us to attend a service event in his city on MLK Day (listed in the second tier of options below).

possible lack of multi-rac

2. Renovation of Community Center by Delta Service Corps -- Clayton & Ferriday, LA
The Delta Service Corps was a project of Governor Clinton's that has since joined AmeriCorps. Over 50 Delta Service Corps members will join about 70 community volunteers in two small Louisiana towns to renovate two municipal parks, clean city streets, restore the Ferriday High School gymnasium, and help create a community center for Clayton out of an old gym. Clayton (population 4,000) and Ferriday (population 917) are small Delta towns, right across the river from Natchez, MS.

your whole Gov.

*diversity
Bd. Nash
consulted
positive so far*

Mayor Montgomery of Ferriday (whose husband is the first Black elected official in that area of Louisiana) will be speaking about the civil rights movement at the Sunday evening kick-off. Mayor Washington of Clayton will be speaking on Monday before the service project. This effort involves Black and White community members (which is a rare occurrence in this part of the state) as well as local Black and White churches. Everything has been donated -- from the motel rooms to the food and materials -- by the partners and the community. The building will be totally finished and used for parenting classes, youth recreational activities, and GED classes. The Head Start Center will be opened. Partners include the LaSalle Community Action Association, the Town of Ferriday, the Town of Clayton, the Ferriday Police Department (which will provide transportation for Corps members from site to site), Clayton Head Start, and the National Guard (which will provide trucks for the trash). There is one AmeriCorps*Vista volunteer who serves full-time in the area and will remain to help keep this project going.

possible logistical problems
repeat

Possible Downside -- Small event in very small and remote communities ~~must explore degree of~~ diversity further.

3. Renovation of Multicultural Museum by CityYear and Young Heroes with Sponsorship by Chicago Bulls -- Chicago

140 CityYear Young Heroes will serve with community groups and other AmeriCorps programs in a range of projects across the city. The Young Heroes project was piloted in Chicago and provides a model for the national launch that City Year will announce on MLK Day. More than 100 volunteers will participate in the demolition, cleaning, and painting of the Fairfax Museum, dedicated to telling the multicultural history of the West Side of Chicago. In the afternoon, there will be a celebratory ceremony at an historic Presbyterian Church on the South Side.

Possible Downside -- Frequent visits to Chicago; very large city may not be preferable.

4. Renovation at Cardozo High School by AmeriCorps NCCC -- Washington, D.C.

NCCC has been renovating Cardozo High School, located in the Shaw neighborhood in D.C. On MLK Day, 65 NCCC participants, 50 Cardozo students, at least one hundred volunteers from local churches, volunteers from D.C. Cares from the Potomac School in McLean, and others will paint at least 25 classrooms at the school. There is a large auditorium that would be suitable for an address. The current student body at Cardozo is 60% Black, 30% Latino and 10% Asian, and the very active alumni association is predominantly White. NCCC's work could be expanded either within Cardozo, or to renovate other public schools in the District (or other renovation projects in Shaw). They could organize their service projects to occur on seven consecutive Saturdays to accommodate community volunteers, including young students, across the city.

Possible Downside -- Must further explore ramifications of District politics; argument that school construction may not be a good issue to highlight at this time.

5. America Reads/DC Reads at the MCI Center with NCCC -- Washington, D.C.

Although you have already indicated that you are not interested in this opportunity, the Corporation for National Service feels strongly that it is a very good event, and wanted the opportunity to present it to you one final time. One option is for the First Lady to attend.

edit { Children, parents and tutors who participate in literacy tutoring programs throughout the District are coming to the MCI Center on MLK Day to help further the children's knowledge of MLK and broaden their access to reading. The arena floor will be set up as a literacy service center, with stations providing children with a range of services and activities. AmeriCorps*NCCC members will be assembling child sized bookshelves for children to take home as their libraries. Children will personalize their shelves and collect a backpack containing 10 books, one on MLK. Children will receive their first library card, and can participate in reading circles and in short history lessons about MLK, his philosophy and his legacy. The parents will be offered family literacy workshops by the Urban League on how to support their child's reading at home. This is part of the continuing DC Reads program and its efforts in sixteen elementary schools.

Possible Downside -- You have done a number of reading events recently; event may seem stagey.

OTHER OPTIONS -- These are not recommended, but meet many of our criteria and may need to be considered if none of the above are chosen. They are in priority order.

1. Reading with Youth Service Charleston and the AmeriCorps*NCCC -- Charleston, SC
Mayor Riley's National Service office, along with America's Promise and the College of Charleston, will launch "98 in 98"-- a campaign to challenge young and old to volunteer 98 hours in 1998 -- at a rally/celebration. Grants will be announced for the first "Reading Soul Mates" program, which trains 4th and 5th graders to tutor those in 1st and 2nd grade, followed by the first reading sessions at the local library. In addition, AmeriCorps*NCCC will dedicate and install park benches throughout the city. Mayor Riley is very eager for you to attend this event.

Possible Downside -- You have done a number of reading events recently; event is more of a celebration than hard service. However, we could probably work with the organizers to improve the event if we wished to pursue it.

2. Various Projects with West Seneca Youth Bureau AmeriCorps -- Buffalo, NY
Two hundred volunteers, including 100 newly sworn-in AmeriCorps members, will work on projects around the King Urban Life Center, located in one of the poorest communities in Buffalo. Service projects include cleaning up the greenhouse at MLK Park, painting the bathrooms at the Holy Innocents Day Care Center, and activities for children in the center (such as face painting and story-time). At noon, there will be a ceremony in which the West Seneca Youth Bureau (AmeriCorps) presents to the Center a quilt that has been created by approximately 40 community organizations in Buffalo (including churches, community groups and non-profits) to symbolize the sewing together of the various Buffalo communities.

Possible Downside -- Service opportunities not as strong as some others.

3. Church-Sponsored Service by Jackson Servant Leadership Corps -- Jackson, MS
Over 150 teen volunteers from eight churches will devote the day to service in King's honor and as a response to their Christian faith. Under the leadership of two AmeriCorps programs, the volunteers will fan out across the city in teams of 10 to 15 people -- balanced to ensure that each is composed of teens from different racial backgrounds and churches. The service projects have been developed by the young people themselves in a program funded by the Foundation of the Mid South and Jackson AmeriCorps. The projects include demolition of abandoned homes to launch a Habitat build; painting a mural at an old school that is being transformed into a community center (Head Start and AmeriCorps have already relocated there); sorting and boxing food at the Mississippi Food Network; and painting classrooms at a public school. At the end of the day, the young people gather downtown for a celebration and worship service. Though this service day is more of a culmination than a launch, there will be a follow-up retreat to look at how these kinds of interracial, faith-based, service projects can continue to grow in the city.

shld you not choose this,
Gov. Winter plans to attd.

Possible Downside -- Small scale and dispersed; concern that organizers limited to Christian churches; not major AmeriCorps involvement

4. Various Projects with CityYear -- Cleveland, OH

MLK day kicks off a five-day long celebration which focuses on leading children through a civil rights museum and teaching them about the civil rights movement. On the 19th, 50 Young Heroes and hundreds of school children will participate. In the afternoon, all the AmeriCorps members will gather to do a service project lead by Case Western University. The service options include art and music performances by homeless children, senior citizens linked with after-school programs, Habitat for Humanity, and indoor gardening at a nursing home.

Possible Downside -- Service opportunities not as strong as some others.

5. Book Bank Project with CityYear -- Philadelphia

Philadelphia's Young Heroes will be working at the Greater Philadelphia Book Bank. The Book Bank provides textbooks and pleasure reading books to schools that lack resources to purchase books. Young Heroes will join hundreds of volunteers in painting over the book bank's graffiti-covered walls, cleaning the building where the books are housed, and building shelves for more space. At the end of the day of service, each Young Hero will be able to look through the books and choose one for his or her collection.

Possible Downside -- While these events are extremely well organized, there is a bell-ringing ceremony at the Liberty Bell that would be difficult to skip and could overshadow your service message if you participated in it. (Secretary Babbit is eager to represent the Administration at the bell-ringing ceremony.) Also, you have done a number of reading events recently.

6. Teaching Trades to Youth at the Anderson Lee Vocational and Technical School -- Passaic, NJ

In partnership with the NAACP youth chapter, ten local inner-city youth will be provided an opportunity to learn vocational skills (carpentry, plumbing, air conditioning, etc.) while renovating a local community center. On the 19th, the young apprentices will be putting in the bathroom. There is no National Service or AmeriCorps component to this program.

Possible Downside -- Very small project with no AmeriCorps involvement.

RELEVANT AMERICORPS PROGRAMS

To understand AmeriCorps' involvement, it is useful to know the following:

- **NCCC** is AmeriCorps' National Civilian Community Corps, a national corps of over 1,000 young people who serve full-time and live on five campuses (Washington, DC; Perry Point, MD, Charleston, SC; Denver; and San Diego). They are often detailed around the country on 6-week assignments, working at AmeriCorps' direction.
- **CityYear** is an AmeriCorps program, founded before AmeriCorps began by service visionary Alan Khazei, and it has racial diversity as a core mission. It is now in 9 cities -- Boston, Chicago, Cleveland, Columbia SC, Columbus, Philadelphia, Providence, San Antonio, and San Jose.
- On MLK Day, CityYear plans to launch its **Young Heroes** program in 8 cities. Young Heroes are 6th-8th graders from all backgrounds who serve with CityYear corps members after school and on Saturdays for an entire year, beginning with 16 consecutive Saturdays.
- There are many other **AmeriCorps** programs that are run by local grantees under state auspices.
- In addition, the Corporation for National Service awarded **MLK Day Grants** to over 50 communities across the country, all less than \$5,000, for community organizations to sponsor service projects that day. Some involve AmeriCorps members, but most do not.

Addendum to West Seneca in Buffalo

The service projects on which AmeriCorps members and community volunteers will work include cleaning up the greenhouses at MLK Park (and outside if weather permits), painting the bathrooms at the Holy Innocents Day Care Center (located in the former cathedral), and activities for the children in the center (face painting, story time).

Attached is a press release on the stitching of the quilt which is occurring this Friday.

To Diana Fortuna

From Melinda

@2021606-5000 X193



MARK P. LAZZARA
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

WEST SENECA YOUTH BUREAU
620 MAIN STREET
WEST SENECA, NEW YORK 14224



PAUL T. CLARK
SUPERVISOR

Press Release

Town Council

BARBARA A. RUDNICKI
CHRISTOPHER F. OSMANSKI
JERRY M. HICKS
CHRISTOPHER P. WALSH

Date: January 6, 1998

From: West Seneca Youth Bureau/AmeriCorps

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

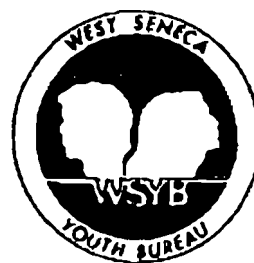
Martin Luther King Day Quilt Successfully Sews Together Buffalo Communities

Part 1 of a 2 part Martin Luther King Day project

On Friday, January 9, 1998 from 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM volunteers will gather together at the West Seneca Youth Bureau, 620 Main St., to begin a massive sewing project. The West Seneca Youth Bureau and AmeriCorps program have been working diligently the past months to organize and put together a community quilt to symbolize the sewing together of the Buffalo communities. This quilt is now represented by 40 schools, churches, community groups, and non profit organizations throughout Buffalo.

The finished quilt will be the center piece for our Martin Luther King Day Celebration on January 19, 1998 beginning at 9:00 AM at Erie I Boces (355 Harlem Rd.) and finishing at the King Urban Life Center (938 Genesee St.). All the organizations represented on the quilt will be present to gather canned goods for the needy and to perform a service project beginning at 10:00 AM at Martin Luther King Park. The Quilt will be presented to the King Urban Life Center at 12:00 noon.

Corretta Scott King, Chairperson of the King Commission, said, "The greatest birthday gift my husband could receive is if people of all racial and ethnic backgrounds celebrated the Holiday by performing individual acts of kindness through service to others. Remember, it's not a day off—it's a day on!"



We cordially invite you to our
West Seneca Americorps

1998 Swearing-in Ceremony

Monday, the nineteenth of January
Nineteen-hundred and Ninety-eight
Eric I BOCES Continuing Education Center
355 Harlem Road
West Seneca, New York 14224

You are also welcome to attend
our Martin Luther King Day
Service, Celebration and Luncheon.
Immediately following the Swearing-in Ceremony
at the King Urban Life Center,
located at 938 Genesee Street, Buffalo, New York

Please bring a
canned good to
share with the needy

R.S.V.P. by January 16, 1998
674-5600 EXT. 225



Columbia, South Carolina: 50 Young Heroes will celebrate the beginning of their service year on the morning of Dr. King's Birthday. There will be two major projects for the 300 or so community volunteers on the day. The first will deploy the Young Heroes to work on the restoration of the Modjeska Simpkins home, named for a local civil rights activist. Simpkins is considered the matriarch of the civil rights movement in South Carolina. She just died two years ago and the community has just raised enough money to renovate her house as a museum. She was an educator at Benedict College and her home was the home of the movement in the state --- King, Ellington, and others stayed with her as there were no hotels available to African Americans at the time. This is the first time the house has been touched since she died --- clean up, yard work, of course, but there is a great deal more hard core renovation to do (everything from the roof to the porch and all the inside). It's a small house, so they are planning to have the 50 Young Heroes work there.

Others will work on clearing land for the future Saluda River Park in conjunction with the Saluda River Alliance. The river itself is an urban waterway that has suffered from neglect. On the day, volunteers will haul out trash, clear brush, and prepare the area for the park that will be constructed in the spring. All the AmeriCorps members in the region will join volunteers from UPS (a big supporter of City Year in the city and of national service all over the country) and other community groups.

At the end of the day, there will be a march from the Simpkins House to the MLK park .. to launch the Young Heroes. The keynote speaker is Jesse Washington, the Executive Director of the Columbia Community Relations Council, started in the 60's to deal with race relations in the city.

DianaF 956-7431
Audrey 395-1020
Bob