



THE MARIN CITY

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Coalition

QUARTERLY

The Official Newsletter of the Marin City Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Coalition

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OUR MISSION

Our mission is to build a safe, healthy, thriving and self-determining Marin City

The Marin City Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Coalition was established in 2009 to strategize about policy advocacy that benefits Marin City and organize one of the largest community events in the neighborhood, the Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Celebration.

City Library, Manzanita Child Development Center, and A Love That Heals, Inc.

As we move forward in the New Year, our community faces new challenges. Under the persistent currents of our nation's economic downturn, our communities and families continue to brave difficult times. Longtime residents are losing their homes, more workers are facing unemployment, an even higher number of workers are struggling to secure jobs that provide livable wages, and other issues such as academic achievement gaps between our community's youth continue to exist.

In an effort to address these types of issues and advocate for policies that promote security for working families in Marin City, the following 7 points—identified by our Policy Committee—are key issues areas that will guide our work in the upcoming 2010 year. Using this newsletter as a channel for communication from our Coalition members to the broader community, we will continue to keep you informed about the progress of our work and opportunities where you can make your voice heard in decisions that matter.

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We are a broad-based partnership of local organizations whose mission is to help build a safe, healthy, thriving and self-determining Marin City.

Our Coalition includes representatives from the following 19 organizations: Grassroots Leadership Network of Marin, First Missionary Baptist Church, ISOJI, Marin City Community Land Corporation, Marin City Community Service District, Marin City Community Development Corporation, Marin City Health and Wellness Clinic, Marin City Network, Marin City School Readiness, Women Helping All People, Marin City Community Clinic, Golden Gate Village Resident Council, Conservation Corps North Bay, Cornerstone Community Church, DH Production Crew, Growing Great and Twilight After School Program of the Sausalito-Marin City School District, Marin

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7 Points for Community Change

1. Community Ownership, Development & Land Use
2. Education & Recreation (Early Childhood/Youth/Continuing Adult/Seniors)
3. Economic Development (Employment, Training, & Business Development Opportunities)
4. Public Wellness, Health & Safety
5. Community Outreach, Capacity Building & Organizational Development
6. Incorporation of Marin City
7. Housing

THE 12TH ANNUAL *Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.* BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

This year's 12th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Celebration held on January 18th in Marin City was an event to remember for years to come.

Despite the morning storm, over 450 guests braved the harsh weather to honor Dr. King and participate in the event.

The Celebration included three main events: an Outdoor Community



Beautification Project at new MLK, Jr. Academy, a Community Leadership Breakfast Forum and Awards and a Community Festival & Lunch.

The Outdoor Community Beautification Project was lead by Conservation Corps North Bay and the GrowingGreat Program of the Sausalito-Marín City School District. Over 277 volunteers braved the rain and mud to install a new community garden at the school that includes a wide variety of different fruits, vegetables, and other organically grown plants open to the local community.

Across the way, the Community Leadership Breakfast Forum & Awards Ceremony provided a space where community leaders, pastors,

children, and people could gather together to hear guest speakers reflect upon Dr. King's legacy and sing along to gospel songs with the performing choirs. Held in the morning at the Marin City Recreation Center, civic leaders of all sectors at the local, county, state, and nationwide level participated in the Forum as special guest speakers. This year's speakers included: Congresswoman Lynn Woosley, California State Senator Mark Leno, California State Assemblymember Jared Huffman, Marin County Supervisor Charles McGlashan, Marin City Community Services District General Manager Johnathan Logan, Jr. and Sausalito/Marin City School District Board President Mark Trotter, Reverend Rondall Leggett, Reverend Fred Smalls, and Reverend Veronica Goines.

One of the many other highlights of the day included the formal introduction of the Marin City Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Coalition, our mission, and the blueprint of our action agenda, "7 Points for Community Change" to the Marin City community and the larger Marin County.

Community Leadership Awards were also presented during the Forum to Dr. Shirley Thornton, Ms. Frankie Perelson, and Ms. Bettie Hodges for their exceptional leadership work within the community.

In addition to great food and company, the community enjoyed uplifting feature performances during the Community Festival and Lunch. Musical performances were presented by ensembles like the

Marin City MLK Community Choir, Women Helping All People Choir, the Martin Luther King, Jr. Academy Steel Drum Band, and local singers including Carl Thomas, Jenia Fusilier, D'George Hines and Jamal Freeman. Several talented students were also honored at the event for their exceptional artwork in MLK Youth Creative Art & Essay Contest Awards hosted by the Marin City Network.

This year's event was a powerful and positive reminder of how Dr. King's legacy continues to play an important role of our daily lives and communities. Having so many people from all different walks of life come together on this day brought to life the very essence of the Dream that Dr. King and so many others struggled (and still struggle) for.

We would like to thank all the community members, elected officials, organizations, volunteers, and sponsors whose generous support helped make this event an amazing success. We look forward to seeing you all again at next year!



HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED

Interested in learning more information about the Coalition, its efforts, and what you can do to get involved?

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