

## **MLK Day of Service Conversation Points for Youth and Volunteers**

1. Who was Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.?
  - An activist, known for his leadership in the Civil Rights Movement
  - A minister
  - A father of four
  - A man who was not done living his life when he was killed at the age of 39 for standing up for justice.
  - He would have celebrated his 97<sup>th</sup> birthday on January 15<sup>th</sup>
  
2. What is the Civil Rights Movement?
  - Slavery is a horrible part of our country's history. But even after slavery ended, black Americans were denied civil rights—voting, property, going out to eat, transportation, education...
  - Over many years, people knew that this treatment was wrong, but the voice of the community was not loud enough or large enough to rise over the hate and prejudice woven into everyday life.
  - The Civil Rights Movement (1950s – 1960s) was a time in history where voices started to be heard: together, people gathered to raise awareness and recognize discrimination. This was done through nonviolence: marches, gatherings—coming together in peace with the hope that change could finally start to take place.
  - Martin Luther King, Jr., was a leader in this movement, inspiring others to come together and ask for real change through love and unity.
  
3. What is MLK Day of Service?
  - The MLK Day of Service is a federal holiday that honors the legacy of Martin Luther King, Jr. and the impact he made on creating opportunity and equality for all.
  - Through volunteering, when we come together, we can learn about each other, learn from each other, and share kindness and hope.
  - There is more work to do. But we are one step closer to building a world less divided.

### **Suggested Activities and Follow up for Child Watch/CELC/BASE:**

Discuss or read a book about Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s work; play part of his "I have a Dream" speech.

- Ask: What does kindness look like?
- Ask: How can we show kindness to others?
- Fill out a Kindness Card and draw their own version of what kindness looks like ([Kindness Card Template](#)).

- Ask: If there was one thing that you could do to make a positive change in your community, what would you do?
- Write or draw their action item. Display in Lobby area.
- Create a cheer poster or flowers for the upcoming Night to Shine event ([Y staff instructions and guide](#)).

### **Suggested Activities and Follow up for Teens:**

Discuss Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s work; play part of his "I have a Dream" speech.

- Ask: What does it mean to be a Social Advocate for your Community?
- Ask: What is your Dream for a better Chester County?
- Write their own "I have a Dream" speak for Chester County. Display speeches in your lobby area.
- Create a cheer poster or flowers for the upcoming Night to Shine event.

### **MLK Day of Service and the YMCA Of Greater Brandywine:**

- We honor Martin Luther King, Jr. and share kindness through learning and volunteering in our community.
- We share kindness today and every day. All are welcome at YGBW!
- We have so much more to do! Share kindness every day. Speak up when someone is doing something wrong to others.
- [Diversity, Equity and Inclusion at the Y | YMCA of Greater Brandywine](#)
- [Social Responsibility | YMCA of Greater Brandywine](#)
- [Branch MLK Registered events for Members](#) (ActiveNet)
- Blog on 2026 MLK Day of Service

*"The time is always right to do what is right."*

*"Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that."*

— Martin Luther King Jr.