



Strong Organizations ... Strong Youth

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News Release

MLK Words Remain Strong, Relevant for Today's Youth

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"Our loyalties must transcend our race, our tribe, our class, and our nation; and this means we must develop a world perspective."

-Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

BIG BAY – For more than 10 years the Great Lakes Center for Youth Development has recruited volunteers for the Martin Luther King Jr. Service Day project. Volunteers go into 4th grade classrooms throughout Marquette and Alger counties to talk about King and the Civil Rights Movement.

One key element in the success of the MLK Service Day Project is the support of local service clubs. Clubs throughout Marquette and Alger counties donated the money needed to put the book *Heroes of America: Martin Luther King, Jr.* in every 4th grade classroom in the two counties. The books will stay in the classrooms on a permanent basis ensuring the program will continue long into the future. The Martin Luther King, Jr. Service Day project gives students the opportunity to learn about King, who left his footprint of peace, understanding and justice.

For 2009, each 4th grader was also given a copy of the book *Harriet Tubman: Freedom Leader*. This book will be theirs to keep courtesy of the Great Lakes Center for Youth Development and the Public Enrichment Foundation.

With the help of about 50 volunteers, The Center coordinates the MLK reading project throughout the months of January and February. The project reaches about 800 students in 16 school districts of the two-county region. The volunteers and students participate in activities designed to increase awareness, understanding and knowledge of the man who gave the civil rights struggle a name and face.

Since 1994, the birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr. has been promoted nationwide as a day of community service as well as a day to increase awareness and understanding of tolerance, justice and equality.

For more information on the Martin Luther King Service Day project, please call 877-33-YOUTH, email polson@glcyd.org, or visit www.glcyd.org.

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Photo Cutline: Melynda Konyha, a Northern Michigan University student and marketing communications intern for the Great Lakes Center for Youth Development read and discussed the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. with 4th grade students in Carla Champagne's class at Powell Township School in Big Bay.