



ANNUAL COMMUNITY REPORT  
2020-2021

# Letter from Leadership

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Dorothy Thomas  
MLKCC Chairperson

Looking back on 2020, one thing that truly stands out for us is a deep and abiding sense of gratitude for the work we've done together and how you—our community—has supported us and challenged us to stand for what is right. Expressing our gratitude can indeed feel radical in the face of what we're experiencing across the country—a heightened awareness of racism, attacks on our democracy, inhumane treatment and injustices against people of color, and the rolling back of victories so many of our movements have fought for. Times like these remind us that it's not enough to just tear down what's not working—we need to stand more firmly in our values than ever before and boldly imagine the kind of just and equitable world we want instead. We need new structures, new systems, and—most importantly—new ways of being with each other where justice and humanity can flourish. We're grateful to work shoulder to shoulder with organizations committed to education, community and service. We are grateful to Freeport LNG for its vision to place their trust in us. Their support affirms how our efforts are all bound up together. We are changing the landscape of our community. We are **Stronger Together**.

2020 was a pivotal year. Two months into the year, the pandemic reared its ugly head. COVID-19 came with a vengeance. Many of our loved ones lost their fight against this deadly virus. We had to learn how to reimagine life in a pandemic. We learned how to conduct virtual meetings, produce a virtual celebration and host a drive by holiday parade. Celebrating the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was goal even in the midst of a difficult season. We understand well that the challenges of COVID-19, vaccines and our economic recovery are just some of the issues that must be addressed in 2021. However, knowing what we've come through together this year gives us a strong foundation to build on and the optimism of continued progress.

As we close the book on 2020 and prepare for our 36th year of service to the Brazoria County Community, we are excited about the next chapter of the Movement in Brazoria County. As they say, to whom much is given, much is required. We are empowered to impact our community, change lives and prepare for a dynamic future.

Thank you for joining this journey with us.

# Purpose Statement

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The Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration Committee (MLKCC) is a non-profit organization that exists to perpetuate the memory of Dr. King and his legacy of achievement to future generations. Since 1986, MLKCC has sponsored events to celebrate the holiday honoring Dr. King and serves as advocates of social, racial, and ethnic harmony – cornerstones of Dr. King’s dream for justice, fairness, and equality.

The purpose of The Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration Committee of Brazoria County is to plan and implement appropriate ceremonies and activities to educate individuals of Brazoria County about the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and the contributions that he made to all mankind; to educate citizens of Brazoria County regarding the principles of racial equality and nonviolent social change as espoused by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr; to serve as an educational resource regarding the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.; and to conduct other educational activities as shall be deemed appropriate to accomplish the foregoing.

# Mission Statement

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MLKCC seeks to honor Dr. King's admonition of service to the community by sponsoring both the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Dennis R. Edwards Memorial scholarships to deserving high school graduates, participating in various worthy community uplift projects, and encouraging its members to take roles in numerous civic, charitable, and cultural endeavors.

# A CALL TO SERVICE

“If you want to be important, wonderful.

If you want to be recognized, wonderful.

If you want to be great, wonderful.

But recognize that he who is greatest among you shall be your servant.

That's a new definition of greatness.

And this morning, the thing that I like about it:

by giving that definition of greatness, it means that everybody can be great, because everybody can serve.

You don't have to have a college degree to serve.

You don't have to make your subject and your verb agree to serve.

You don't have to know about Plato and Aristotle to serve.

You don't have to know Einstein's theory of relativity to serve.

You don't have to know the second theory of thermodynamics in physics to serve.

You only need a heart full of grace, a soul generated by love.

And you can be that servant.”

Education

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# Boys & Girls Club

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Amber Newman - CEO

Supporting Education during the  
Pandemic



**Chromebooks gifted by Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration Committee of Brazoria County, Inc. and Hope for Tomorrow to Twenty-five students throughout Brazoria County.**





# Scholarships

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Supporting Education in  
Brazoria County

# Congratulations Second Chance Scholarship Recipients

Jada Harris



Cherita Tolbert



# Congratulations to Cherita Tolbert and Jada Harris

- MLKCC is presenting the Second Chance full-ride scholarship in partnership with Brazosport College. This scholarship is aimed at students who will be attending Brazosport College who have been out of school for two years or more, have a high school diploma or GED/HSE certification, never attended college or began college and never completed but still want to pursue a higher education past the secondary level.
- The Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration Committee announced the first two recipients of **its Second-Chance Scholarships** program during its virtual celebration Jan. 16.
- Cherita Tolbert of Sweeny and Jada Harris of Clute will receive the scholarships and will be attending Brazosport College starting with the spring semester.
- The two-year scholarships are available to local residents who graduated high school at least two years ago and have not earned a college degree. They cover the cost of books and tuition up to \$1,200 per semester.
- Tolbert plans to focus on earning an associate of arts degree in business administration, while Harris will work toward an associate of arts degree in education.
- Source: [https://thefacts.com/living/article\\_7cbbf5fc-a2a1-5d2c-a97b-ec47fb0b62e9.html#tncms-source=login](https://thefacts.com/living/article_7cbbf5fc-a2a1-5d2c-a97b-ec47fb0b62e9.html#tncms-source=login)

# SCHOLARSHIPS

## Fall 2020 Scholarships

Name	Scholarship	School	Amount
Kevin Davis	DRE*	Brazosport	\$300
Le'Shea Neal	DRE*	Brazosport	\$500
Denitra Nelson	MLKCC	Brazoswood	\$500
Bryce Sidney	DRE*	Brazoswood	\$300
Mikayla Williams	MLKCC	Brazoswood	\$500

\*DRE – Dennis R. Edwards Memorial  
Scholarship

# SCHOLARSHIPS

## Fall 2021 Scholarships

Name	Scholarship	High School	Amount
Jalen Branch	MLKCC	Angleton	1500.00
Brooke Morgan	DRE*	Angleton	1000.00
Aja Gore	MLKCC	Brazosport	1500.00
Tyra Dolly	DRE*	Brazosport	1000.00
Nayson Goins	JSM* STEM	Brazosport	1000.00
Rae'Vyn Jackson	MLKCC & DRE*	Brazoswood	2500.00
Gary Epps	MLKCC	Columbia	1500.00
Breyonce Nichols	MLKCC & JSM* STEM	Columbia	2000.00
Grant Crawford	MLKCC	Shadow Creek	1000.00
Calon Amey	MLKCC	Sweeny	1500.00
Bryon Randon, III	DRE*	Sweeny	1000.00
Pristene Hysten	JSM* STEM	Sweeny	1000.00

\*DRE – Dennis R. Edwards  
Memorial Scholarship

\*JSM – John Smith III Memorial  
STEM Scholarship

# Teacher's Aid Recipient

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Teachers were selected to receive  
aid towards school supplies

Chaveli Solis

Spanish II

Pearland High School



# Community Grants

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- The primary purpose is to provide a hot nutritious meal to the disabled, elderly, homeless, and needy in the Brazoria County area.

Blessing in a Bowl, New Hope Church  
\$4,500





Brazoria  
County Head  
Start Early  
Learning  
Schools, Inc.  
\$4,500

- The Brazoria County Head Start Early Learning Schools, Inc. (BCHS) Science, Technology, Engineering, Math, Multi-Lingual, and Family Engagement (STEMM~FE) program is a combined approach to learning where educational concepts are explored through hands-on projects in which children and families are educated in Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics, and multiple languages.



Brazoria  
County  
Juneteenth  
Committee  
\$1,800

- The purpose of the project is to plan and implement a heritage parade that will be celebrated instead of the usual festivities due to the ongoing pandemic.



Brazosport  
Area  
Alumnae  
Chapter of  
Delta Sigma  
Theta  
Sorority, Inc.  
\$2,500

- The Girls Secret Service Project will allow 50 5th and 6th grade economically disadvantaged girls to recoup their loss of instructional time, gain skills in Reading, Writing, Math, and Science, and build the characteristics of an effective 21st Century Learner.



- The BEYFA project is to promote youth football in Brazoria County.

Brazosport  
Elite Youth  
Football  
Association  
\$1,250



Charlie  
Brown  
Heritage  
Foundation  
\$2,500

- Provides tutorial services, homework assistance, and aids to minimize learning deficits from the lack of hands-on learning due to Covid 19.



Communities  
in Schools  
(CIS)  
\$2,700

- The purpose of the proposed project is to educate elementary students in Columbia-Brazoria Independent School district on anti-bullying, anti-gang, and conflict resolution.



Dream  
Builders, Inc.  
\$2,000

- To instill in at risk young men ages 7-16 that reading is fundamental and to create an atmosphere of acceptance while encouraging the yes you can outlook on life.



- To encourage youth to maintain high moral, ethical, and scholastic standards and to strive for excellence in the career field of their choice.

Educators  
500 Club  
\$3,000





FMBC  
Community  
Development  
Corp.  
\$2,000

- Purpose: The FMBC Community Development Corporation offers an after-school program two times a week for children ages K-12.



GMZ  
Education  
and  
Development  
Center  
\$5,000

- Goals are to cultivate curiosity and create a love of learning for underrepresented minorities students and those who live in rural areas.



Matagorda-  
Brazoria  
Cancer  
Assistance  
Program  
\$5,000

- Purpose: to assist persons in Matagorda and Brazoria Counties who are victims of cancer to off-set some of their expenses incurred.



Noah's Ark  
Children's  
Transitional  
Care  
Foundation  
\$1,500

- The purpose of Noah's Ark Children's Transitional Care Foundation (NACTCF) is to provide support and resources to families who have experienced the death of a child, or their child has a terminal illness and has been referred to palliative care.



Smart  
Scholars  
Foundation  
\$1,250

- This summer (2021) their goal is to initiate a Police Cadet summer camp program for students in the Brazoria County area with a focus on Law/Police Academy.



Sweeny  
Independent  
School  
District  
\$5,000

- Purpose: Sweeny ISD will ensure that all staff are trained in culturally responsive practices.



West  
Columbia  
Parks &  
Recreation  
Board  
\$5,000

- Purpose: to improve the condition of the community 's only public basketball court which is in Dixon Memorial Unity Park. This will assist to enhance the viability of our city for our youth.



- Purpose: Aid community members, elderly, youth, cancer patients, dialysis patients as needed.

Women of  
Destiny  
Ministries  
\$500

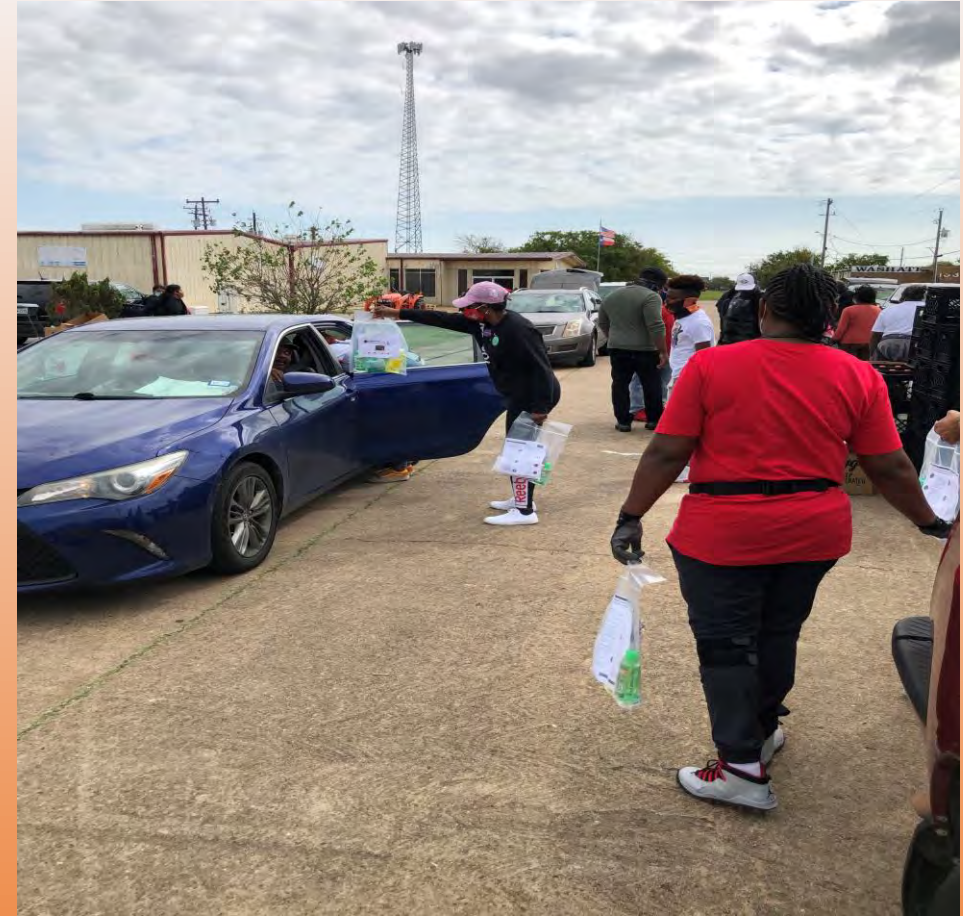




# COVID Prevention

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# MLKCC gives 500 kits to aid in COVID-19 prevention



Source: [https://thefacts.com/news/article\\_77be6ecb-51a6-5dd2-bc65-0eba986b0f3f.html](https://thefacts.com/news/article_77be6ecb-51a6-5dd2-bc65-0eba986b0f3f.html)

# MLKCC surprised shoppers with gift card



# RISE UP RALLY

MLKCC and other groups encouraging citizens to get out and vote



# Vaccine Support

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Partnering with  
Community Health  
Network & Brazosport  
Area Alumnae Chapter  
of Delta Sigma Theta  
Sorority, Inc.

# Operation Community Care

Special Thanks to:

Greater Mt. Zion  
Church  
Brazoria, TX.  
225 Vaccines

&

First Missionary  
Baptist Church  
Angleton, TX.  
167 Vaccines

Total Vaccines  
Administered: 392



Diversity

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# HAVING OUR SAY

THE DELANY SISTERS'  
FIRST 100 YEARS

May 14-23, 2021





# Having Our Say

The Delany sisters will take you on a remarkable journey with tales drawn from their rich family history and careers as pioneering African-American professionals. Their story shines a light on American history, told through the eyes of two trailblazing women as they look not only to the past, but also ahead to the twenty-first century.

# HAVING OUR SAY

MLKCC Awards Sponsorship to Center Stages for “Having Our Say”





# Say Their Names Exhibit

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# Say Their Names Exhibit unveils in Clute

- Members of the Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration Committee of Brazoria County are hopeful the newly unveiled Say Their Names Memorial Exhibit engages communication about systemic racism for visitors now able to put a face on a victim.
- The MLKCC and The Center For The Arts and Sciences on the Brazosport College campus joined together Friday morning to open the exhibit for public viewing.
- Vice President Terry Gordon walked by all 50 columns outside the center at 400 College Blvd. Each had four photos for each side, memorializing civil rights leaders such as Malcolm X, everyday citizens like Breonna Taylor and George Floyd and children like Tamir Rice and Emmett Till.
- The 200 photos represent some of the lives lost from police brutality, racial injustice or racism.
- “We now have an opportunity right here in our own area to bring this to people and it is simply awesome and at the same time so eye-opening,” Gordon said. “It’s heartbreaking there are so many and it’s just very moving.”
- Treasurer Cornell White also took the tour for the first time. It pained her knowing every picture represented a senseless death. She frequently envisioned one of her children could have easily been one of those in the memorial.
- “It’s a really nice exhibit to put a face to some of the names you heard,” White said. “I think what’s so touching is seeing how young some of these babies were young children and what did they do to deserve this. To actually take time and look at the pictures, it really causes you to think.”
- White and Gordon were both troubled knowing the names listed were just a few compared to everyone killed from systemic racism.
- The memorial was something President Dorothy Thomas felt everyone needed to see and was proud to bring it to southern Brazoria County.

# Say Their Names Exhibit unveils in Clute

“We wanted some location in Brazoria County that was centrally located to all of our neighboring southern towns,” Thomas said.

“The north side, Pearland area, is always venturing to Houston but here we have other neighbors like Matagorda County that we are hoping would also venture in to see this. We were just wanted to bring it here to southern Brazoria County.”

Thomas hopes for a good turnout so residents can jump-start communication about systemic racism and resolutions to fix it.

“I hope when they visit, they are reminded of the lives that were lost,” Thomas said. “I hope it will spark some sort of commitment or dedication to talk about it. When you talk about it, it helps us open up and creates opportunities for us to work on things to make them better.”

Gordon called the exhibit “something you really wouldn’t want to miss.”

“You have an opportunity right here in your own backyard to see something this powerful,” Gordon said. “Certainly, I would encourage everyone to come out. This is powerful.”

The center’s Executive Director, Wes Copeland, was delighted to feature an exhibit that could positively change and impact his community.

“It’s a considerable honor to host this memorial to provide a space for dialogue, to provide a space for reflection, to give visitors an opportunity to look on the faces of those whose lives were cut short too soon and to reflect on the changes we can make together as a society to ensure that there is justice for all,” Copeland said. “We have a ways to go for justice for all in this country. All lives can’t matter until black lives matter.”

The exhibit is open every day and free for public viewing outside the center from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. through March 13, Thomas said.

Visit [www.saytheirnamesmemorial.com](http://www.saytheirnamesmemorial.com) for more information and the stories of the names memorialized.

Residents can also visit [www.mlkcc.org](http://www.mlkcc.org) for updates.

Nick Irene is a reporter for The Facts. Contact him at 979-237-0149.

# Say Their Names



# West Columbia Police Department

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- MLKCC provided funds to cover the cost of 10 officers attending Mental Health Officers Training.
- This training will provide the necessary knowledge and resources the officers will need when responding to a citizen in a mental health crisis.
- Diversity is one of our program initiatives.



Other Events/Activities

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# Angel Tree

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MLKCC partnering with  
the Salvation Army to  
bless 20 children during  
the Christmas holiday  
Dec 2020

# Sponsor an Angel



# 2021 Juneteenth Celebration

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Southern Brazoria  
County





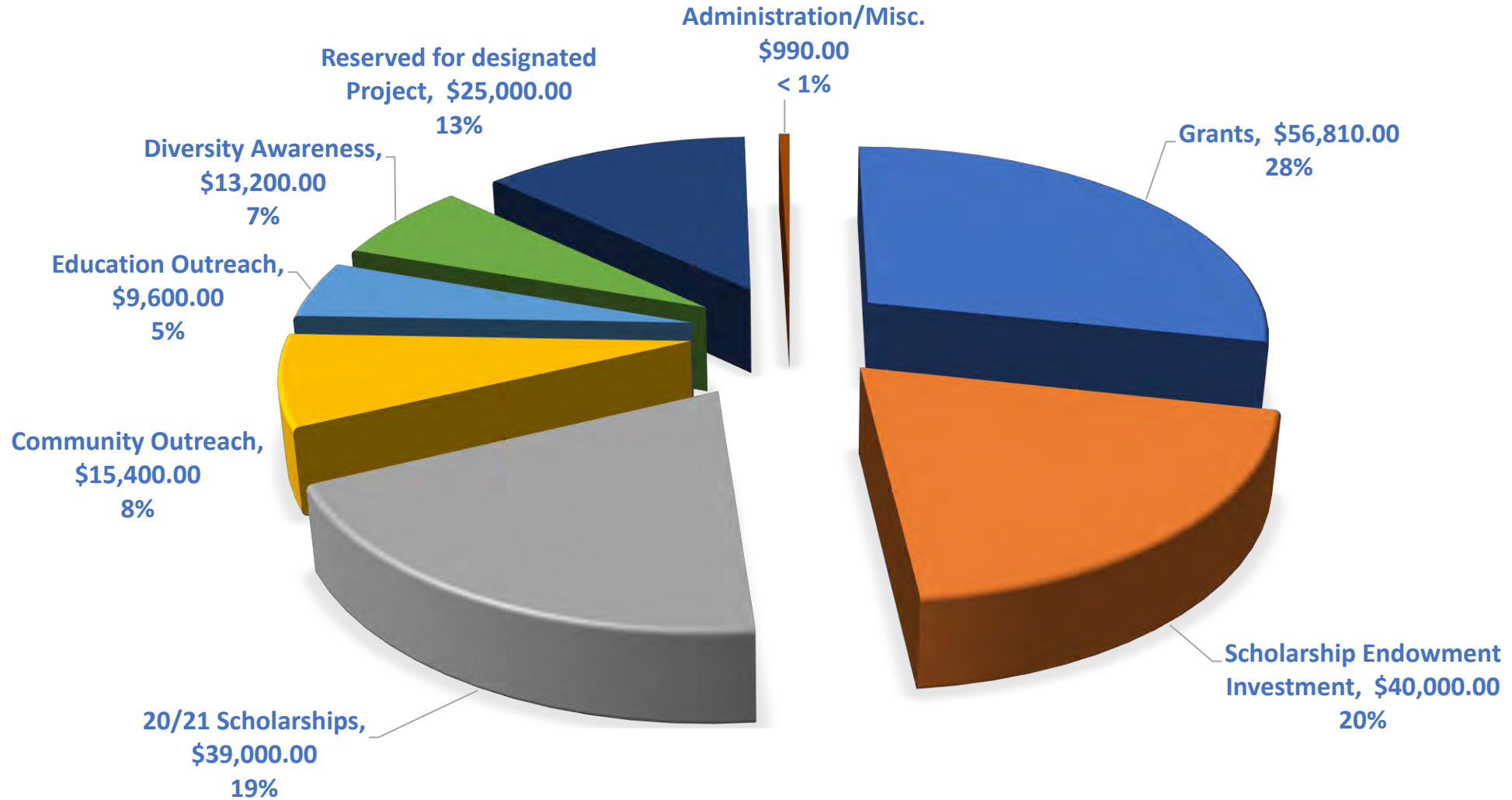
## 2021 MLK Celebration

Video can be found on YouTube via <https://youtu.be/hOzLRtNKEV4>

# Financial Position

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# MLKCC 2020/2021 Allocation of Spending



Volunteers

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# We Thank Our Wonderful Volunteers





We  
Appreciate  
Our  
Volunteers

Board Members

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Dorothy Thomas  
Chairperson



Sharon J. Barnes  
Member



Will Brooks  
Parade & Rally  
Chairperson



Lois Davis  
Member



Pastor L.C. Dews, GIG,  
DD, ThM, ThB  
Community Worship  
Service Chairperson



Carolyn Edwards  
Scholarship  
Chairperson



Terry D. Gordon  
Co-Founder/Co-  
Chairperson



Mary Frances Hall  
Publicity/Media  
Coordinator



Theresa W. Jackson  
Co-Founder



Cornell White  
Treasurer



Esther Williams  
Secretary & Banquet  
Coordinator



Pastor Winston Rossow  
General Coordinator



Jessica Willis  
Poster/Essay Contest  
Chairperson

# Save the Dates

