

KEY EVENTS 'N YOUR AREA

Central Arkansas & Beyond!

The Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission Addresses Hunger on Juneteenth



by Today's Communique staff

"We take food for granted. We take the idea of giving for granted. This event can help this city feel a little better."

~Gerald Canada – Commissioner, Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission

According to the Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance, 22.5% of Arkansans are food insecure. To help address the issue, the Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission hosted a drive-thru food giveaway on Juneteenth Monday, June 19th in Jacksonville. For more than 4 years, the King Commission has been hosting food giveaways across the state. According to Executive Director, DuShun Scarbrough, "We've been all over the state of Arkansas to all four congressional districts hosting these types of important events."

But the event wasn't only about giving away more than 10,000 pounds of food for families in need, but also an act of community-service learning. Joe 'Broadway Joe' Booker is not only the station director of Power 92.3 JAMS, but also the CEO of the Mighty Viking football league. All coaches and players in the league participated in the giveaway.

Says Booker, "We're [adults] not going to be here all the time, so hopefully they [the kids] will learn from our example". Gerald Canada, a Commissioner for the King Commission agrees, "We're hoping that it has an impact on them. We take food for granted. We take the idea of giving for granted. This event can help this city feel a little better." And besides, explains Booker, "Everybody needs an extra lift, sometimes."



*DuShun Scarbrough, Executive Director
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission*



KEY EVENTS 'N YOUR AREA

Central Arkansas & Beyond!



Joe 'Broadway Joe' Booker loads a food box into a waiting car.



Commissioner Gerald Canada with Commissioner Jonelle Fulmer

Commissioner Canada further reflected on Dr. King's famous quote, 'Anybody can be great because everyone can serve'. He explains, "In light of what the community has been through with the recent tornado, the Martin Luther King Jr. Commission is honored to be able to give back and have an impact on the city in collaboration with the Better Dads program and Jacksonville's native son, Broadway Joe".

Service is a key mantra for the Commission; it builds and strengthens 'bridges'. Scarbrough expounded by stating that hosting the food giveaway right after Father's Day and on Juneteenth, promotes racial harmony, multicultural diversity, and social equality. "Its service at its best!", he said.

The help doesn't stop there. The King Commission will repeat the effort on Monday, July 3rd from 11:00am – 2:00pm at St. Luke Baptist Church (8205 AR-161, North Little Rock). First come, first served.

Learn more about the Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission by visiting www.arkingdream.org