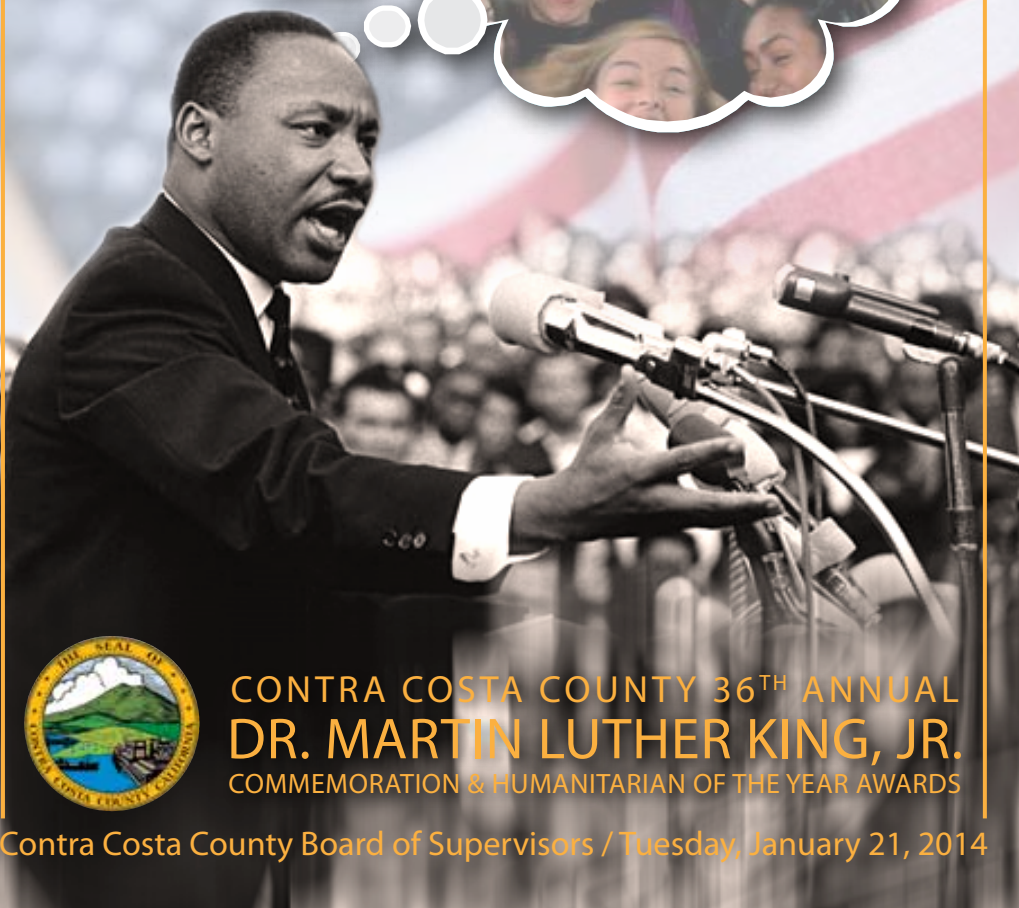


# THE PURSUIT OF OUR DREAM



CONTRA COSTA COUNTY 36<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL  
**DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.**  
COMMEMORATION & HUMANITARIAN OF THE YEAR AWARDS

Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors / Tuesday, January 21, 2014



**T**he **Letter from Birmingham Jail** (also known as “Letter from Birmingham City Jail” and “**The Negro Is Your Brother**”) is an open letter written on April 16, 1963, by Martin Luther King, Jr.

The letter defends the strategy of nonviolent resistance to racism, arguing that people have a moral responsibility to break unjust laws. After an early setback, it enjoyed widespread publication and became a key text for the American civil rights movement of the early 1960s.

The Birmingham Campaign began on April 3, 1963, with coordinated marches and sit-ins against racism and racial segregation in Birmingham, Alabama. The non-violent campaign was coordinated by Alabama Christian Movement for Human Rights and King’s Southern Christian Leadership Conference. On April 10, Circuit Judge W. A. Jenkins issued a blanket injunction against “parading, demonstrating, boycotting, trespassing and picketing”. Leaders of the campaign announced they would disobey the ruling. On April 12, King was roughly arrested with Ralph Abernathy, Fred Shuttlesworth and other marchers—while thousands of African Americans dressed for Good Friday looked on.

King met with unusually harsh conditions in the Birmingham jail. An ally smuggled in a newspaper from April 12, which contained “A Call for Unity”: a statement made by eight white Alabama clergymen against King and his methods. The letter provoked King and he began to write a response on the newspaper itself. King writes in *Why We Can’t Wait*: “Begun on the margins of the newspaper in which the statement appeared while I was in jail, the letter was continued on scraps of writing paper supplied by a friendly black trusty, and concluded on a pad my attorneys were eventually permitted to leave me.”

# DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

## 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Commemoration & Humanitarian of the Year Awards

Welcome & Introductions .....Glenn E. Howell, MLK Committee Chair  
Mistress of Ceremonies .....Karen Mitchoff, Board Chair  
Video Presentation ..... MLK Committee  
Introduction of Band .....Glenn E. Howell, MLK Committee Chair  
Musical Selections ..... The Danny Armstrong Quintet  
(featuring Faye Carol and Joules Broussard)

### Keynote Address:

Reverend Harry Williams

### Presentation of Humanitarian Awards:

2014 Student Humanitarian Award ..... Karen Mitchoff, Board Chair  
2014 Humanitarian Award ..... Karen Mitchoff, Board Chair  
Musical Selections .....The Danny Armstrong Quintet  
(featuring Faye Carol and Joules Broussard)  
Adjournment ..... Karen Mitchoff, Board Chair

### Lunch Reception

### Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors:

District 1: John M. Gioia  
District 2: Candace Andersen  
District 3: Mary N. Piepho  
District 4: Karen Mitchoff  
District 5: Federal D. Glover

### Special thanks to our sponsors:

Animal Services Department	Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
Human Resources Department	Contra Costa Television (CCTV)
Community Services Bureau	Board of Supervisors
Community Services Bureau	Public Works Department
(Child Nutrition Department)	Martinez Police Department



## Reverend Harry Louis Williams, II

Keynote Speaker

Harry Williams was born in Brooklyn, New York and was raised in Asbury Park, N.J. Williams received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Kean University in Union, N.J. He holds a Master of Divinity degree from the Palmer Theological Seminary, Philadelphia, PA.

In the 1980s, Harry Williams recorded under the name "Incredible Mr. Freeze." Mr. Biggs of Afrika Bambaata and the Soul Sonic Force recently named him one of the "architects" of hip hop. Williams' love for music and culture interweaves its way through his written works and sermons. As a minister, he is known to use snippets of rap lyrics and borrow imagery from the art form.

Williams is the author of *No Easy Walk: The Dramatic Journey of African Americans*. He also co-authored *On The Jericho Road* with the Reverend Dr. J. Alfred Smith, Sr. However, he is best known for his urban fiction books, *Straight Outta East Oakland* and *Straight Outta East Oakland II: Trapped On The Track*. These novels were inspired by his ministry in the streets of Oakland, California, America's third most dangerous city.

Reverend Harry Williams is a noted advocate on behalf of the victims of human trafficking in Oakland. In 2011, he helped found the Streets Disciples ministry which offers aid to the victims of commercial sexual exploitation and domestic violence. He has also offered technical support to organizations and ministries that are moved to create

ground level support for this population.

In 2012, Williams and his community partners held the "Stop The Gunfire Gathering" in the most dangerous corner of East Oakland. Rival gang members gathered to share peaceful thoughts and partake of barbecue food. Many thought that such an event could inevitably end in bloodshed but, reversely, it proved to be a day of healing and peace.

Each Tuesday evening, Harry Williams can be found at the famed Glide Memorial Church in the San Francisco Tenderloin where he presides over Bible Study. He is employed full-time as an Education and Employment Specialist at an organization which offers assistance to foster youth. Harry Williams is also the President of Hood Movement 21, a grassroots organization formed to quell urban violence. He is currently completing his next book: *Street Cred: A Concise Guide To Urban Ministry*.

The Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. is one of Harry Williams' most revered models of ministry. Williams often quotes from a scripture which Dr. King held dear: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, to preach the acceptable year of the Lord." Luke 4:18-19.



## Sister Ann Weltz

2014 Humanitarian of The Year

Our Humanitarian of the Year has devoted more than three decades to rescuing some of our most vulnerable Contra Costa residents: youth who are at-risk of becoming victim of child abuse. Sister Ann Weltz is a very modest woman, and although she doesn't particularly enjoy the spotlight, Sister Ann undoubtedly deserves our recognition and thanks for the implementation of her vision, a new strategy to prevent child abuse.

Sister Ann is the founder and Executive Director of the Bay Area Crisis Nursery, located in Concord. Sister Ann grew up in Martinez and taught in Bay Area schools. As a teacher, she saw first-hand the situations that developed when a family was in crisis or under a great deal of stress. Determined to find a way to help these families, she spent two years at Casa de Los Ninos, a crisis nursery in Arizona, working as Assistant Director and learning how to run the vital operation.

Sister Ann returned to Contra Costa County, raised \$300,000 in donations and loans, and in 1981 opened the doors to the Bay Area Crisis Nursery. Sister Ann has a Bachelor Degree from

Mt. St. Mary's College in Los Angeles and a Master in Non-Profit Administration from the University of San Francisco.

Contra Costa County is not the only entity to honor Sister Ann for a lifetime of service to families. Sister Ann received the 1991 Vineyard Award from the Golden Gate Chapter of the National Society of Fundraising Executives. In 2013, she received the prestigious Jefferson Award, which is known as the "Nobel Prize for public service." The Jefferson Award honors extraordinary individuals and companies whose profound achievements and commitment to their communities are making the world a better place to live.

In the three decades of the Crisis Nursery's existence, more than 22,000 young children have found safe haven there. Funded solely by donations, all services are provided free of charge to the children and their parents. The Bay Area Crisis Nursery operates 365 days a year, 24 hours a day. For her devotion and dedication to the children of Contra Costa County, we are proud to honor Sister Ann Weltz as our Humanitarian of the Year.



## Anand Kannappan

2014 Student Humanitarian of The Year

Our Student Humanitarian of the Year has dedicated much of his young life to bringing positive change to his school, his community and beyond. Anand Kannappan, a junior at Dougherty Valley High School in San Ramon, holds Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., as both an idol and role model. Anand has read countless writings from and about Dr. King, and immersed himself into the literature to the point where he could see the vision and truly understand Dr. King's life experiences.

"To be even associated with one of the world's most passionate, strong-willed and moral leaders is an honor by itself," Anand said when learning of his award from the County. "Dr. King's vision of creating a world where human beings could hold hands with each other and stay united in their goals is the vision we must all share."

Anand does much more than just talk the talk. His humanitarian efforts have resulted in concrete action to help others. For his Eagle Scout project, Anand led a group of volunteers in building a fire escape sand path for special education students at his former middle

school. In high school, he successfully juggles academics with a wide variety of clubs. He holds leadership roles in the UNICEF Club, the Cure Club (dedicated to cancer research,) and the Junior State of America Club. He volunteers regularly at John Muir Hospital, for Congressman Eric Swalwell, and is very active in speech and debate as part of the National Forensic League. His speaking experience also includes delivering Dr. King's "I Have a Dream" speech to a social studies class.

Anand has seen the need to serve outside his community as well, counting a trip to Mexico to build houses for the homeless as one of his most life-changing experiences. He befriended a bright teenager whose opportunities were the opposite of his own, simply because of the circumstances in which the teenager lived: in poverty and without access to education. That experience helped to focus Anand's goals on promoting equality in the world, underscored by his passion for community service. Contra Costa County is proud to honor Anand Kannappan as our Student Humanitarian of the Year.



## In Memory of Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela

1918 – 2013

Former South African President Nelson Mandela died last month at the age of 95, having challenged the inequities and atrocities of racism in his own country during the same era Dr. King was fighting for equality in the United States. Dr. King's battle motivated freedom fighters around the world long after his assassination in 1968. Mandela, who was imprisoned for 27 years for challenging apartheid in South Africa, found inspiration in Dr. King. Three years after his release from prison, Nelson Mandela was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for his efforts to bring democracy to South Africa. In his acceptance speech, he said: *"Let the strivings of us all prove Martin Luther King, Jr. to have been correct, when he said that humanity can no longer be tragically bound to the starless midnight of racism and war. Let the efforts of us all prove that he was not a mere dreamer when he spoke of the beauty of genuine brotherhood and peace being more precious than diamonds or silver or gold. Let a new age dawn."*

Two heroes and symbols of freedom gone; their legacies continue to inspire generations now and in the years to come.

## 2014 Humanitarian of the Year **Sister Ann Weltz**

### Past Recipients of the Humanitarian of the Year Award

Doug Stewart, 2013	Mary Perez & Neil &
Corrine Sain, 2012	Carol Wilson, 1998
Laura Johnson, 2011	Helen Troxel & Rollie Mullen, 1997
Della Randolph, 2010	Charles Wilson, 1996
Larry Lewis, 2009	Perfecto Villarreal, 1995
Charles D. Tinsley, Dr., 2008	Lloyd Madden, 1994
Veronica Pope, 2007	Bessanderson McNeil, 1993
Jerrold L. Hatchett, 2006	Lucy Donly, 1992
Bishop Curtis Timmons, 2005	January Fredenburg, 1991
Mr. Walter Ruelig, 2004	Yoshiye Togasaki, M.D., 1990
Reverend Phillip Lawson, 2003	Lonnie R. Bristow, M.D., 1989
Robin Poindexter, 2002	Rev. Malcolm & Jo Lee, 1988
Troy Greer Grove, 2001	John "JJ" Johnson, 1987
Eddie Menosse, 2000	Charles Spears, 1986
Orin Allen, 1999	Donald Fibush, 1985

## 2014 Student Humanitarian of the Year **Anand Kannappan**

### Past Recipients of the Student Humanitarian of the Year Award

Casey Leonard, 2013
Andrew Gonzales, 2012
Mario Alvarado, 2011
Shae Hughes, 2010
Brittany Watson, 2009
Jessa Mabellin, 2008

### 2014 Committee Members

Glenn E. Howell – Chair	Vicki Carr
Betsy Burkhart	Derrick West
Tiffany Lennear	Nancy Zandonella
Maceo Trotter	Vincent Manuel