

A SURGE FOR BETTER HEALTH ON KING DAY

What better way to honor Dr. Martin Luther King on his day than to put rural Phillips County on the path to better health?

The Boys, Girls, Adults Community Development Center collaborated with a half-dozen community organizations for an all-day health fair January 20 at the BGACDC headquarters in Marvell. VISTA workers and assistants from clinics and community groups helped about 175 persons from outside the city of Helena-West Helena sign up for insurance under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (otherwise known as Obamacare) or get diabetes and blood-pressure screenings or assistance with prescription drugs.



Cadria Mitchell of the Arkansas Minority Health Commission enrolls Dedrick Collins in an insurance plan under the Affordable Care Act.

It was a joint effort of BGACDC, the Arkansas Minority Health Commission, Tri-County Rural Health Network, the Mid-Delta Community Consortium, M.M. Tate Development Center, the Ministerial Alliance, and the Helena Family Health Center. VISTA workers and other assistants processed people with basic information and funneled them to professionals who provided health screenings and drug assistance, or to others who signed them up via the Internet for insurance through Medicaid or the subsidized marketplace provided by the Affordable Care Act.

"They had done a lot of work in Helena-West Helena to sign up people in the city for health insurance," said Gregory Davis of the Minority Health Commission, "but we got the word out to all the rural communities through radio, the churches and other avenues that people needed to take advantage of this great opportunity to get screened, to get help with prescriptions and, for many of them, to get medical insurance for the first time in their lives." The information provided that day should bring many others into the fold, Davis said.

"It takes a village sometimes to get something done on this scale," said Beatrice Shelby, executive director of BGACDC.



To help BGACDC continue serving the community, please visit our website at www.bgacdc.com, and click on "Donate."

February 2014