

MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY, WITH GUSTO



Martin Luther King Day 2017 may not have been celebrated with much emotion at the presidential transition tower in New York City under the whole world's gaze, but you couldn't escape the excitement at the Boys, Girls, Adults Community Development Center at Marvell, Arkansas.

BGACDC's AmeriCorps VISTA program and the M.M. Tate Community Development Center partnered to give a throng of the community's youngsters a vivid celebration of what Dr. King's work and death had meant for their own lives and millions of others. Anna Huff Davis and Rev. Jerome Turner, prominent community leaders, talked about the progress made by Dr. King's journey, the value of black history to each of their futures, and the challenges they all face.

M.M. Tate provided chili, vegetable soup, hot dogs and more refreshments. VISTA volunteers arranged the fun and games. Each child created his or her own Freedom Bell. They played Rosa's musical chairs, a childhood favorite with an inspirational twist, where the object is to avoid sitting at the back of the bus. It was Rosa Parks, "the first lady of civil rights," who resolutely refused a bus driver's order at Montgomery, Ala., to give up her seat to a white person and go to the back of the bus, causing her arrest and triggering the pivotal event in the civil rights movement with Dr. King - the Montgomery bus boycott.



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