

# Volunteer: Make a Difference in the Name of Dr. King

By Helen Silvis  
Of *The Skanner News*

Inspired, uplifted and committed to making a difference in our communities: That's how millions of Americans feel when they think about Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Now, all of us have another opportunity to make Dr. King's message ring out loud across Portland, by volunteering, Jan. 13-16, over the King holiday weekend.

"What was Martin Luther King's life about? It was a

life of service," says Jay Bloom, interim director of United Way of the Columbia Willamette, "I think if he was with us today, he'd be calling on us to give our service."

Since it began 26 years ago, the Skanner Foundation's Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Breakfast has honored those who give voluntary service to others. This year the foundation is supporting United Way's 5th annual Martin Luther King weekend of service.

"Let's show we heard Dr. King's message by making this the biggest volunteer weekend ever," said Bernie Fost



"Life's most persistent and urgent question is, 'What are you doing for others?'"

— Martin Luther King, Jr.



**At Home Forward**, we are committed to answering Dr. King's urgent question. We support participation of minority-owned, women-owned and emerging small businesses on Home Forward projects. Contact us to learn more about what we are doing for others and how you can get involved.

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er, publisher of *The Skanner News*.

Whatever your interests and skills, with more than 50 projects on offer around the Metro-region, United Way has a project for you. You can volunteer for as little as two hours or for all four days if you like. You can be outdoors or indoors. You can even bring along the family.

Cultivate East Side Pride by helping the Rosewood Initiative get a new café and community center up and running. Help feed hungry families by stocking the pantry at Oregon Food Bank. Or get down and dirty with Hacienda's Salon Comunal, who are cleaning up the Cully neighborhood.

Bloom says there is no better way to honor the slain civil rights leader than to make his holiday 'A Day on Not a Day Off.'

"It's like that old saying, 'I complained I had no shoes until I met a man who had no foot,'" he says. "Each of us have blessings and we can all help our neighbors."

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