



THE ELYRIA DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. HOLIDAY COMMISSION

Elyria City Hall
131 Court Street, Suite 202
Elyria, OH 44035
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CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

2026 ELYRIA DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. AWARDS

The **Elyria Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Commission** is pleased to announce our 2026 40th Day of Service King Holiday Awards Program. The awards will be presented during the annual observance of Dr. King's birthday. We are excited to recognize outstanding citizens in Elyria and organizations in Lorain County for their commitment to service and significant achievements.

Dr. King once said, "Life's most persistent and urgent question is, " what are you doing for others." The commission is aware that Lorain county has many individuals and organizations who have answered the question by their exemplary service and constant commitment to making a difference in the lives of others.

We ask that you please nominate those who meet the enclosed award criteria, and have performed acts of service for which no compensation was earned. Persons submitting nominations for an award must clearly demonstrate one or more of Dr. King's six principles of non-violence.

You may duplicate the enclosed nomination forms for distribution to individuals and organizations. Nominations must be received by Friday January 2, 2026 to be considered. Forms should be delivered to Elyria City Hall, c/o Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Commission, 131 Court Street, Suite 202, Elyria, Ohio 44035.

The 40th Celebration Dr. King Day of Service program will be held at 11::00 a.m. on Monday January 19, 2026 in the Elyria High School Performing Arts Center, 600 West Avenue, Elyria. Our theme is: The "Mountaintop" Today!

Kind regards,

Regan L. Phillips

Regan L. Phillips, Chair
Elyria Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Commission



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The Elyria Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Commission seeks to recognize the service and achievements of residents and organizations whose work reflects the teachings and example of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Dr. King dedicated his life to advancing racial, social, and economic justice through nonviolent action—an effort that uplifted not only those who faced oppression, but society as a whole.

Each year, the Commission presents awards in several categories to honor individuals and groups whose efforts embody both the concrete achievements and the enduring spirit of Dr. King's dream for our nation.

Cultural Awareness Award

Presented to an individual or organization that fosters understanding, appreciation, and respect for the rich diversity of cultures within our community. The recipient promotes dialogue, inclusion, and mutual respect through education, art, advocacy, or community engagement—reflecting Dr. King's belief in the “beloved community,” where all people are valued and differences are celebrated as strengths.

Education Award

Recognizes an individual or organization that demonstrates exceptional dedication to learning, teaching, and expanding educational opportunities for all. The honoree works to inspire intellectual growth, critical thinking, and social responsibility—upholding Dr. King's conviction that “intelligence plus character—that is the goal of true education.”

Health Equity Award

Recognizes outstanding efforts to promote health and wellness in underserved or marginalized communities. The recipient demonstrates leadership in addressing disparities in access, education, or outcomes—ensuring that every person has the opportunity to achieve optimal health, consistent with Dr. King's belief that “of all the forms of inequality, injustice in health is the most shocking and inhuman.”

Social Justice Award

Presented to an individual or organization demonstrating exceptional commitment to advancing equity, fairness, and opportunity for all. This honoree works to challenge injustice, dismantle systemic barriers, and promote inclusive communities in the spirit of Dr. King's lifelong pursuit of justice through peaceful means.

Youth Leadership Award

Recognizes a young person (under the age of 21) who demonstrates exceptional leadership, integrity, and dedication to positive change. The recipient serves as an inspiration to peers and the community, embodying Dr. King's vision that “everybody can be great because anybody can serve.



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2026 AWARDS NOMINATION FORM

Eligibility Criteria

The Elyria Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Commission Awards are given annually to persons or organizations whose deeds are consistent with Dr. King's teachings of non-violent social and economic change. The awards seek to recognize outstanding service and achievements by residents and organizations in areas that uniquely exemplify Dr. King's six principles of nonviolent social change. These principles are:

1. Cultivate a way of life for courageous people
2. Seek to win friendship and understanding
3. Endeavor to defeat injustice not people
4. Hold that suffering can educate and transform
5. Choose love instead of hate
6. Believe that the universe is on the side of justice

All nominees must live or work in the City of Elyria

Instructions

Please complete this nomination form as thoroughly as possible. Only completed nominations will be considered. Supporting documentation should be attached to the nomination form.

I. Nominee Identification (Please Print or Type)

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____

City/ State _____ Zip _____

Phone # _____ Email _____

Award Categories Please check one box which best relates to the contribution of the nominee)

- A. Cultural Awareness Award
- B. Education Award
- C. Health Equity Award
- D. Social Justice Award
- E. Youth Leadership Award



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II. Personal Data

Please attach additional sheets if necessary to fully demonstrate the nominee's commitment and qualifications in the select award category.

- A. How long has the nominee served in the capacity indicated in the category?
- B. Discuss the type of accomplishments/ contributions beyond a compensated position the nominee has made in the category. Please note whether the nominee is an individual or organization.
- C. Describe the positive impact made in the category selected.
- D. Is there any additional information you would like to share about the nominee?

Nomination submitted by:

Name _____ Address _____

City/ State/ Zip _____ Phone _____

Email _____

MAIL TO: Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Commission
131 Court Street, Suite 202
Elyria, OH 44035
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PHONE: 440-326-1552

DEADLINE: Friday, January 2, 2026