

The Annual Franklin Township Community Breakfast

Monday, January 15, 2024
DoubleTree Hotel

The Franklin Township Dr. Martin Luther King Community Foundation, Inc.



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WAYS TO GIVE















Franklin Township Dr. Martin Luther King Community Foundation

FTMLKCF@gmail.com

Text FTMLK to (732) 538-8898

Community Fellowship Mass Choir

Established in 2013 and directed by Gabriel Cordeiro, CFMC has become a bastion of the local community, comprising of 100+ members, from over 20 local churches and surrounding cities. They have raised their instruments, both choir and band, in support of the local area and beyond, CFMC's message is international and they were honored to join the Belfast Community Gospel Choir on stage during their USA tour. Most recently the director Gabriel Cordeiro received an award for Outstanding Community Services from the Non-Profit organizations FORNJ and CARE ministries.

OUR GOAL



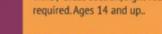
To help other ministries meet their needs and goals by donating concert proceeds for education, assisting local and international charitable organizations (i.e. Shelter for battered women, hurricane relief and orphanages), local and international missionaries, and the needy.



INVITE YOUR CHURCH CHOIR OR SINGERS!

All are welcome to the CFMC, we believe that music can break the barriers of denomination, and we can come together to spread the hope and good news of The Gospel of Jesus Christ throughout our community and beyond.

GET SOCIAL!



/cfellowshipmasschoir



/gcord



WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?



Anyone with any singing experience and love for God can participate in the choir, no auditions required. Ages 14 and up.

BE PART OF THE BAND!

To participate in our band, you must have intermediate skill level in your instrument. For the wind / brass section, sight reading will be required. Ages 14 and up..

HOW TO PARTICIPATE?

Go to www.cfmchoir.org and fill out the online registration form. You will be notified via email that you have been registered, the dates of rehearsals and events.

WE CELEBRATE FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP'S ANNUAL REV. DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. COMMUNITY BREAKFAST

If you encounter an obstacle while pursuing your dreams, don't change your decision to go... change your direction to get there.

M. L. PERRY, CPA CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT



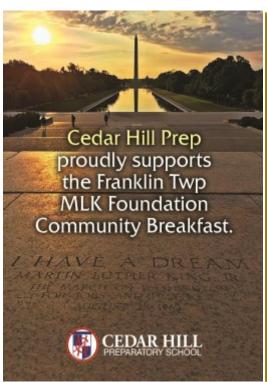
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Special Thanks to the Franklin Township Community Band for entertaining the community and supporting Franklin's 2024 Graduates

PBA Local 154
Proud Supporter of the Franklin
Township Dr. Martin Luther
King Community Foundation



Visit us at www.facebook.com/pba154

Congratulations to the Scholarship Awardees!



"THE FUNCTION OF EDUCATION IS TO TEACH ONE TO THINK INTENSIVELY AND TO THINK CRITICALLY. INTELLIGENCE PLUS CHARACTER - THAT IS THE GOAL OF TRUE EDUCATION."

- REV. DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.



Eight Villages, One Community www.FranklinReporter.com

Franklin Township Public Schools

Excellence, Opportunity and Affirmation For Every Child



On behalf of the Franklin Township School Administrators, Officers and Membership, we extend our sincere support for the Dr. Martin Luther King Community Foundation. In keeping with the spirit of "Keeping the Dream Alive," we encourage and inspire all people to actively seek peace around the world.

Rutgers

The State University of New Jersey

Dr. Francine Conway



Dr. Francine Conway is the Chancellor of Rutgers University–New Brunswick, a Top 20 public university (*U.S. News and World Report*) and member of the Big Ten Academic Alliance with more than 20 programs and schools in the nation's top 20; a more than \$300 million research portfolio across STEM, the humanities, and the arts; and a proud culture of diversity among 40,000 students and 10,000 faculty and staff.

She assumed the title of Chancellor on July 1, 2023, after serving as Chancellor-Provost since July 2021 and previously as Provost. She is also a Distinguished Professor in the Graduate School of Applied and Professional Psychology, where she served as Dean from 2016 to 2020, and is an internationally recognized clinical psychologist.

As the leader of Rutgers-New Brunswick, Chancellor Conway champions the Academic Master Plan, a comprehensive blueprint for the institution's future based on Four Pillars of Excellence: Scholarly Leadership, Innovative Research, Student Success, and Community Engagement. Its implementation includes bold new initiatives to reimagine the student experience from enrollment to retention and graduation; establish a public health and prevention-focused approach to wellness; create interdisciplinary scholarly communities to address society's grand challenges; expand the access and affordability of higher education; and more.

As Provost, Dr. Conway prioritized diversity and inclusivity, working to create an environment that reflects New Jersey's diversity and addresses equity gaps. She also developed a robust suite of faculty support initiatives including the Center for Faculty Success, the position of the Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs, the Rutgers Associate Professor Project (RAPP), and the Provost's Fellowships in Teaching and Faculty Advancement.

Throughout her career, Chancellor Conway has also made significant contributions to the field of clinical psychology, having treated children in hospitals and private practice for more than two decades, and through the Cultivating Compassion Project, a mentalization-based psychotherapy treatment for children with ADHD and their families.

Chancellor Conway has served as a past president of the National Council of Schools and Programs of Professional Psychology and as an editor for prestigious journals in her field.

Dr. Conway completed her education at Cornell University, Columbia University, and the Gordon F. Derner Institute for Advanced Psychological Studies at Adelphi University, where she later joined the faculty for 13 years.



Joshua Amponsah is 4-year member of the New Jersey Orators, Inc., a 38-year-old non-profit youth organization that teaches the art of public speaking, an appreciation for literature, reading and media arts literacy, civic engagement and college readiness workshops, and life skills to youth from 7 to 18 years of age in preparation for college and advanced degrees. Joseph is a hardworking and accomplished orator with requests from the community to demonstrate his oratorical and public speaking skills.

He is a 5th Grade student at Constable Elementary School located in South Brunswick, New Jersey. He, as well as his sister Jayna and younger brother James, have been active

in their school community as well as active members of the New Jersey Orators Somerset Chapter since 2019, He has honed his public speaking skills by presenting at community events and being awarded "Excellence" and other high honors at NJO statewide competitions. He recently presented before 110 attendees for the Piscataway African American Senior Club's Black History Month program.

New Jersey Orators

732-846-5011

www.oratorsinc.org



Thank you MacAfee Road School !!!

PEACE QUILT

In January, the fourth grade students at MacAfee Road School began discussing the life of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., his accomplishments, ideals and beliefs. Students used their knowledge to design a quilt square to represent the ideals that Dr. King fought for.

The quilt serves as a symbolic representation of our classrooms and the community of Franklin Township. Each square on our quilt is unique and beautiful standing alone. However, when they are joined together, they form a spectacular quilt. Students discussed how this concept is mirrored in the diversity of our classrooms and community. Each individual is unique and special in their own way. However, working together, we form something truly spectacular!

Please look at the Peace Quilt during the Breakfast and see the work of MacAfee students.

Mission Statement

The Mission of the Franklin Township Dr. Martin Luther King Community Foundation is to fulfill Dr. Martin Luther King's Dream of 8unity among the races through promotion of racial harmony, equality and justice for all, opportunity for building strong relations among all people, educational opportunities and services, scholarships for the youth of Franklin Township and unity celebrations for our entire community.

Franklin Township Dr. Martin Luther King Community Foundation, Board of Trustees

Captain Sean Hebbon, President / Franklin Township Police Department
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Trustees Emeritus

*Eva Nagy, Past Foundation President / Past President, Board of Education
Dr. Shirin Poustchi, The Baha'is of Franklin Township
Barbara Nicol, Somerset Presbyterian Church
Orvyl Wilson, Director of School Management

*Original members of the FTMLK Community Breakfast Committee 1998

Sponsorship Levels

Diamond \$5,000 Platinum \$3000 Gold \$2000 Silver \$1000 Bronze \$500 Star Patron \$250 Patron \$100 Supporter \$25

Your donation supports the annual scholarship fund





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JADE GITTENS-HEBBON, DPM, FACFAS



Thank you for your support of our students!

Dr. John A. Ravally, Superintendent of Schools

Mr. Daniel C. Loughran, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction

Mr. Brian Bonanno, Assistant Superintendent for Business/Board Secretary

Mr. Stephen Fried, School Business Administrator/Assistant Board Secretary

Mr. Orvyl Wilson, Director of School Management

Dr. Brenda Sofield, Director of Pupil Personnel Services

Ms. Mary L. Clark, Senior Manager of Policies, Regulations & Communications

<u>Program</u>

Welcome	Captain Sean Hebbon
	KCF/ Franklin Township Police Department
Presentation of Colors	Honor Guard
	Franklin Township Police Department
"Star Spangled Banner"	Gabriella Stewart
1 8	Student, Franklin High School
Dance	Franklin Middle School Dancers
	SGS Adv 7th Grade Dancers
	onJoshua Amponsah astable Elementary School, South Brunswick
Stateni, Con	istuote Elementary School, South Brunswick
	Central Jersey College Prep Dancers
Students, Students,	Amari Allen, Karunya Gujja, Siya Patel, Diya Sanghvi
"Everything I Wanted"	Joharri Saunders
zverytming i vvantea	Student, Central Jersey College Prep
Offertory & Dedication	Rabbi Eli Garfinkel
	Temple Beth El
Danas	Franklin Middle School Dancers
Dance	SGS Adv 8th Grade Dancers
T	
Invocation	Fr. Lancelot McGrath Saint Matthias Church

Breakfast

Musical Interlude by the Franklin Township Community Band

Program Continued

Song	Community Fellowship Mass Choir	
Keynote Speaker	Dr. Francine Conway Chancellor of Rutgers University—New Brunswick	
Song	Community Fellowship Mass Choir	
Benediction		
"Lift Every Voice &	& Sing"Community Fellowship Mass Choir	
"God Bless Americ	a"Community Fellowship Mass Choir	

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unitybank.com

BEST WISHES

TO THE FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP MLK FOUNDATION FOR THE ANNUAL COMMUNITY BREAKFAST

FROM THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF ST. MATTHIAS

Mass Schedule

Monday - Friday 8:00 AM

Saturday 5:00 PM

Sunday 8:00 AM

10:00 AM

12:00 Noon



St. Matthias School Open House Prek-8th Grade

Sunday, January 28, 2024 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM



168 John F. Kennedy Boulevard, Somerset, NJ 08873

www.stmatthias.net

youtube.com/c/StMatthiasSomersetNJ

The videotaping today and videos being presented at this event were recorded and produced by Franklin High School Students

Aspects After Hours

Special thanks to Mr. Michael Pinnix

Somerset Presbyterian Church

100 JFK Boulevard Somerset, NJ 08873 Ph: (732) 249-8674 churchspc@comcast.net www.spcsomerset.org

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~ Scholarship Criteria ~

Scholarships will be awarded to ANY Franklin Township Public High School senior regardless of race or religion who:

- Is accepted as a candidate in an accredited college or professional school
- Has a demonstrated record of community involvement and volunteerism
- Has demonstrated outstanding citizenship within the high school and community

Scholarships will be given out in three separate categories:

- Academic
- Community Service
- Financial Need

Additionally, selections will be based on:

- Character references
- Written essay
- Completed application

Applications are available on our website www.ftmlk.org



January of each year is designated as Muslim Heritage Month in New Jersey to celebrate significant contributions throughout history, including notable achievements by the American Muslims in philosophy, mathematics, chemistry, physics, astronomy, medicine, music, architecture, literature, sports, and the arts, and more...



Inventor of cable modem-R. Yassini

Noble prize winner – chemistry-A.H. Zewail

First private astronaut-A. Ansai

The best boxer Mohammad Ali

Franklin Township Muslim community is proud to support Dr. Martin Luther King Foundation and its mission.

Thank, you to the following for their generous donations

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The Superintendent of Schools and His Cabinet
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The Baha'is of Franklin Township
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2024 Greetings



Assemblyman Joe Danielsen- Dr. King was an inspirational leader who had the ability to inspire and unify people from all cultural and ethnic backgrounds because he realized that while we may have come from different ports of call, we are all in the same boat now. As the second most diverse community in our state, Franklin Township, home to many mosques, churches, and synagogues, we pride ourselves on intercultural communications between all our residents. In Franklin, we can agree to disagree knowing that everyone's voice is important and knowing that we leave no citizen behind.

Today, Dr. King's message is as relevant as ever. "The time is always right to do what is right". So, if you see injustice, tell me. I will

support you, work with you and always stand with you. And I will always be at your service.



Mayor Phil Kramer- I have a wonderful memory of Jan 20, 2009. It was in the evening in the library meeting room. I believe I was standing next to Roz Sherman and Jerry Fudge. We were watching a recording of the swearing in of Barack Hussein Obama as the 44th President of the United States. I remember feeling so proud of my country because I thought we had reached a point where we lived in a nation where a person was not judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character.

I wasn't foolish enough to think we had eliminated bigotry but that we had at least banished it to cower in the dark shadows of the landscape. I felt it was a time when all we needed to do was expose bigotry and it would wither in the sunlight.

Alas in the last 8 years too many feel hate and vitriol seasoned with myopic rhetoric is acceptable, even encouraged. Some construct outlandish conspiracies which they repeat so loudly and so many times that others believe them. We have been pushed to this by political methods, inappropriate use of social media and the isolation of the pandemic. Of this I despair. That is why I'm so happy to experience this holiday.

Today is Martin Luther King's 95th birthday and we celebrated it because he inspired us to find ways to shrug off these woes. To, in his words, "stick with love. . . . Hate is too great a burden to bear." And that "Courage is an inner resolution to go forward despite obstacles." Dr. King had the ability to look into our collective souls and find a way to bring us together. Today is a day to remember his teaching, gather our courage and return to moving forward. Dr. King, today we celebrate you.



Shannel Robinson- Somerset County Commissioner Director Martin Luther King Jr.'s 'single garment of destiny' is a fitting description of our communities in Franklin Township and Somerset County, where we understand that our diversity is our strength, and where we strive to love our neighbors as we love ourselves. It is my honor to serve you as Somerset County Commissioner Director, and I am proud of the progress we are making in strengthening the fabric of our communities.



Mrs. Ardaman Singh, Board President Franklin Township Public Schools

Schools – children – diversity – are the three words that resonate with me today when I think of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. As the newly elected Board of Education President, I am honored to be the leader of a team of nine elected members who have the responsibility to serve our school community and continue the work started by Dr. King.

Our Board and district as a whole have made it a priority to provide equity in education for the children attending our schools and have pledged to continue striving to ensure that the inclusion and belonging of all our FTPS community members are embedded in the structure of the school district. We stand by our staff and administration in this work and ask that you take a moment to think about how the incredible work you do honors the vision of Dr. King.

Our nation has yet to make Dr. King's dream a reality. So from today forward, let's vow to keep moving on that path steadily; onwards and upwards. I was humbled by Dr. Bernice King's words which I heard at a keynote address she presented in 2022. Her words expressed what Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. would have us do to empower our children today. So let us join hands together and work to create a world where there is love, hope, camaraderie, and most importantly, a desire to uplift each other if anyone staggers behind.

PEACE AND RIGHTEOUSNESS

History of the Franklin Township Dr. Martin Luther King Community Foundation, Inc.

For decades the Franklin Township community has been religiously, racially and ethnically as well as, socio-economically diverse. Students in the public schools speak 54 different languages. The community has become more diverse than ever.

In 1997 three community leaders, the Superintendent of Schools Frank V. Pepe, the Board of Education President Eva M. Nagy and the Chief of Police Daniel J. Livak, had the vision to create a wonderful opportunity to bring all aspects of the Franklin Township's very diverse community together in honoring the life and works of Dr. Martin King and fulfilling Dr. King's dream of unity among the races. They created The Dr. Martin Luther King Community Breakfast Committee which was composed of various community leaders and citizens. A mission statement was developed and it has been followed ever since.

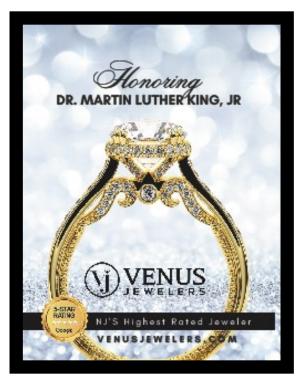
The first Breakfast was held in 1998 in the old Franklin High School cafeteria with 250 in attendance. The Committee members cooked the meal themselves. It immediately gained so much support that it was moved to the DoubleTree Hotel. Each year 400–500 people gather to celebrate and commemorate the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. They represent various members of the Franklin community- civic, religious, government, police and school. The diversity of attendees range across religious, racial and ethnic as well as, socio-economic lines. The ages span from elementary school children to senior citizens.

With this event being aired on cable TV, thousands of community members view the program for several weeks. The Breakfast has become a true community celebration – reflecting the richness and diversity of the Township, while providing scholarships for its Franklin youth. It has brought groups and individuals together who would normally not cross paths. Bonds and relationships have been formed that extended well beyond the Breakfast experience itself.

Since 1998, 230 Franklin High graduating seniors have been awarded scholarships totaling \$268,400. Scholarships are awarded to Franklin High seniors, regardless of race or religion, who are candidates at an accredited college or professional school, have demonstrated a record of community involvement and volunteerism, and have shown outstanding citizenship within the high school and community. In receiving this scholarship, students feel that their community supports them, their education and future plans. There are situations where some students because of family difficulties and challenges would not have had the opportunity for furthering their education without this scholarship.

In order for the Dr. Martin Luther King Community Breakfast Committee to preserve its mission and vision, the Committee members decided in February 2015 to incorporate into the Franklin Township Dr. Martin Luther King Community Foundation, Inc. and has been granted a 501 (c) (3) Public Charity status by the IRS. While it always was an independent Committee, its monies were held in Trust by the Board of Education. Now the Foundation is fully independent and is committed to further and expand its mission.

January 15, 2024 marks our 26th Annual MLK Community Breakfast. Past keynote speakers have come from various walks of life such as NJ Attorney Generals, clergy, lawyers, state leaders, graduates of FHS, TV personalities and others- all who had personal experiences in civil rights, diversity and keeping Dr. King's dream alive. Their messages were always thought provoking and helped challenge and reinforce the unity needed in our diverse community and in our lives.

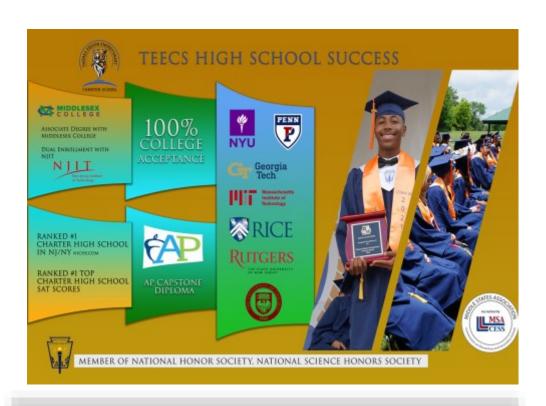


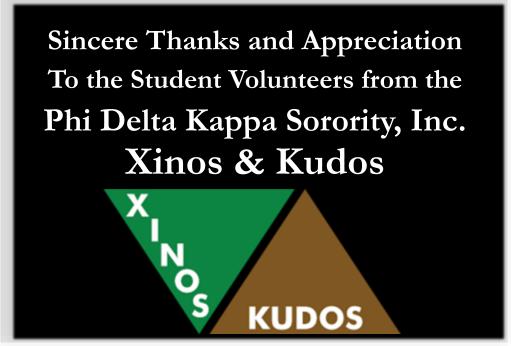


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I HAVE A DREAM





PARKWOOD AUTOMALL

The Foundation extends their gratitude for your generous donation to our

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for supporting the youth of the community and the 2024 scholarship recipients





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MASJID-E-ALI (AS) / MFI

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The community of Masjid-e-Ali is proud to support Franklin Township Dr. Martin Luther King Foundation and its mission.