

PMC TIMES

PENINSULA MULTIFAITH COALITION

FAITHFUL VOLUNTEERS

To the community

More than 500 volunteers, uniquely inspired by personal morals, values and beliefs, put faith into action on Monday, January 18, 2016, for the fourth annual Multifaith Day of Service in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. hosted by

Peninsula Multifaith Coalition (PMC). This coalition provides opportunities for people

and congregations to create unified living through spiritual openness and religious tolerance.



The MLK Day of service is the first of many events throughout the year which highlights a more harmonious Peninsula community that unites people across age, race, class, and

religion for both education and community service. As organizations quietly figure out ways to celebrate diversity, PMC consistently offers opportunities for faithful community members to proudly give back by opening up their hearts to people in

“We stand together with humility to acknowledge our common values, learn from one another and serve our wider world,”

need with people from varying spiritual views. By taking part in a

Peninsula Multifaith Coalition event you not only have the opportunity to engage in activities that will uplift your spirit, but you also come to understand a sense of calm and peace in knowing that your fellow man/woman cares enough to give their time and energy to show love for one’s neighbor.

Volunteers aged 5 and above, fanned out to 25 sites around the Peninsula the morning of January 18, to



beautify school gardens, sing to seniors at local nursing homes, craft gifts for babies and children in hospitals, prepare meals for veterans and families in shelters and enhance children's reading skills.



As residents of the Peninsula shared, "we must never forget how special our community is and it is our responsibility to maintain what we value." Simple yet profound, the statement that what the world needs now is love, is exactly what PMC strives to have volunteers experience.

A Gallup poll conducted in 1964 revealed that over 75 percent of White Americans viewed King as a nuisance and believed that he was "pushing integration too fast." 2016, some 52 years later, Peninsula Multifaith Coalition acknowledges that we as a community have come a long way, but there is still a long way for us to go to make the

organizations mission a reality which is to bring together diverse faith communities to build bridges of understanding and respect. This year PMC was able to identify faithful followers from 26 different belief groups to act on one accord, Community Service. Several nameless volunteers shared why they got involved with Peninsula Multifaith Coalition, "Here on the Peninsula I feel like we live in a bubble, but when I give back it allows me to feel grounded again."



"It feels like a reawakening of the spirit to have a fresh solution to today's problems." "I have a whole new respect for myself, because today we broke down a wall and built a bridge."

The PMC mission statement says it all: "We stand together

with humility to acknowledge our common values, learn from one another and serve our wider world,"



Founded in 2012, the Peninsula Multifaith Coalition is a group of faith congregations and organizations working together on projects to improve our community. This volunteer led coalition holds or supports several events each year, such as the Peninsula Multifaith Day of Service on MLK Day, Multifaith Family Gathering in August, and the annual Peninsula Freedom Seder, held in the spring.



To learn more about the Peninsula Multifaith Coalition, please contact our (or your) own Member Congregation's Liaison, (name, email and phone), Justin Wooley at justinmwooley@gmail.com, or visit www.peninsulamultifaith.org.

2016 Martin Luther King Day of Service

Justin Wooley
Peninsula Multifaith Coalition

Notes:

<http://www.smdailyjournal.com/articles/news/2016-01-19/celebrating-mlk-by-giving-back-peninsula-multifaith-coalition-hosts-its-fourth-annual-day-of-service-more-than-500-participants-volunteer/1776425156979.html>

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THE DAILY JOURNAL
The Peninsula's homepage

Celebrating MLK by giving back: Peninsula Multifaith Coalition hosts its fourth annual day of service, more than 500 participants volunteer
January 19, 2016, 10:00 AM By [Samantha Wedel](#) Daily Journal

Hundreds of people gathered at locations across San Mateo County for an afternoon of volunteerism, to connect with others and to support local schools as part of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

The Peninsula Multifaith Coalition rallied more than 500 volunteers to visit nearly 25 locations as part of the fourth annual Multifaith Day of Service.

From gathering clothes and books for needy children to serving lunch to shelter residents, hundreds of people opted to spend the holiday striving to promote the ideals King stood for by helping those in need.

People from various faiths, parents, students and more gathered at the North Shoreview Elementary School Monday morning to support several worthy causes such as literacy programs and campus beautification projects. Putting aside differences and coming together for a common goal helps commemorate King's legacy in a tangible way, said Connie Winter-Eulberg, pastor of Saint Andrews Lutheran Church in San Mateo.

"This is our big service day and we're gathering Muslims, Hindus, Buddhists, Jews and Christians and we're all gathering together," Winter-Eulberg said. "When you think about all the violence that's happening in the world, when we're gathering together today, there's no fighting, there's no arguing. There is a lot of thank you very much," so glad to meet you, "you're now one of my friends," so this is how we bring peace to the world, doing stuff like this."

From purchasing wood to build new benches for students to sit on, to revamping gardens with new plants, volunteers gave the local school some much needed tender love and care.

Race, religion and age seemed irrelevant as a broad spectrum of people worked side by side.

Christopher Vandrey, a Saint Andrews congregation member and the father of two sons who attend North Shoreview Elementary School, said he was happy to pass on a positive message to his boys.

"The day of service also provided a critical opportunity for some year-round support and literacy educators taught parents how to best support their children—a worthy cause in the primarily Hispanic neighborhood," said Winter-Eulberg and school Principal Phyllis Harrison.

"There needs to be a little extra care and attention here. That's why we're doing the reading buddy program. So there are literacy educators from all along the Peninsula who are volunteering their time today in order to train our volunteers, for them to then teach parents how to teach their kids," Winter-Eulberg said.

Harrison said she hopes some of those who joined to commemorate King will keep the spirit of volunteerism alive and help support the local elementary school and children who need extra support learning how to read.

"It's been wonderful. We have so many different projects going on, we're really helping the students and their families because they're learning to read, to teach their children and different skills. The school's also getting beautiful and the benches are being made," Harrison said. "It's just a wonderful community project and it really helps our school."

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Carolyn Livengood: More than 500 volunteers participate in Multifaith Day of Service
By Carolyn Livengood
San Mateo County Times columnist
Posted: 02/29/16 11:05:05 AM PST

In honor of Martin Luther King Jr.'s legacy of service and love, more than 500 volunteers from 19 different faith groups on the Peninsula came together on Jan. 19 for the fourth annual Multifaith Day of Service, sponsored by the Peninsula Multifaith Coalition.

The coalition, which seeks to be the bridge between community need and volunteers who want to be of service, dispatched the volunteers, aged 5 years and above, to 25 sites around the Peninsula to beautify school gardens, sing to seniors at local nursing homes, craft gifts for babies and children in hospitals, prepare meals for veterans and families in shelters, and enhance children's reading skills.

In 1992, King encouraged his congregation to seek greatness, but to do so through service and love. He ended the sermon by inspiring his own funeral, downplaying his famous achievements and emphasizing his heart to do right. Peninsula Multifaith Coalition strives to live up to the words of King. "Everybody can be great because everybody can serve."

"The Martin Luther King Day of Service is a shining evidence of the shared values and support that has developed on the Peninsula among our many faith communities," said Rev. Kristi Denham, pastor of the Congregational Church of Belmont and co-president of the coalition, in a news release. "We come together as Christians and, yes, Muslims, Hindus and Buddhists to do service for those in need and have so much fun doing it."

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The annual Day of Service started with breakfast at First Presbyterian Church of Burlingame, which also served as the lead assembly site for more than eight outreach projects. Other projects took place at San Bruno Skilled Nursing Facility in San Bruno; Alta Hills and North Shoreview School, both in San Mateo; Fair Oaks and John O'Connell schools in Redwood City; Sate Harbor Shelter in South San Francisco; and the Veterans Administration Facility in Palo Alto.

Other participating faith groups include:

- Congregational Church in Belmont;
- Pacific Institute, Peninsula Temple Shalom, and St. Paul's Episcopal, Burlingame;
- Peninsula Seal Congregation, Foster City;
- Jewish Community Relations Council, Palo Alto;
- Congregation Beth Jacob, Sherrysen USA, St. Matthew Catholic Church, and Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, Redwood City;
- Congregational Church, Episcopal Church of St. Matthew, Peninsula Temple Beth El, St. Andrew's Lutheran Church, St. Bartholomew's Catholic Church, and Trinity Baptist Church, San Mateo;

MLK Day of Service and other community events are made possible due to the generosity of member organizations and donors, who donate to cover the cost of supplies and services.

For more information, go to www.penninsulamultifaith.org

Participants sought for Color Our Streets EXTRAORDINARY
South San Francisco Cultural Arts Commission is inviting artists and creative community members to participate in Color Our Streets EXTRAORDINARY by transforming drab, unsightly utility boxes into works of art.

If the artist is under 18 years of age, a parent or legal guardian must authorize the youth's participation, and a responsible adult must always be present when minors are working on the box. All artists and their assistants must sign a signed release of liability.

The commission is seeking distinctive images that celebrate beauty, offer a positive outlook, and create a sense of place. Designs that reflect the history, character or culture of South San Francisco are also encouraged.