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Make MLK Day a day of service

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Each year, CSU, the city of Fort Collins and the city of Loveland team up to celebrate the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. As part of the continued effort to remember his contributions to our society and to live the dream of Dr. King, Colorado State University is providing multiple opportunities to put the dream into action by serving the community.

Service and working toward equality for all can be a daunting task. Some people know exactly how they would like to contribute, while others need help getting started.

This is why the MLK Day of Service will include three components, giving everyone the opportunity to help others. You can work on a preselected project, sign up for a project at a United Way sponsored agency during the MLK day festivities or come up with your own project.

Together we can all make a difference.

King fought for civil rights and made many strides. Now, in Larimer County, we have a new civil rights issue. Poverty is on the rise in Larimer County, and this is our focus for service this MLK Day.

The United Way of Larimer County has set forth 12 goals in the effort to end poverty. You can view the goals to end poverty at www.uwaylc.org/PathwaysPastPoverty/documents/PPPPrioritizedGoalsOnly.pdf.

For a full description of volunteer opportunities, please visit the event Web site at www.mlkfortcollins.org.

Be a part of celebrating the life and work of King. There are many opportunities for helping make this event the best it can be for the entire community. These opportunities only require your time from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday. Go to the event Web site at www.mlkfortcollins.org and follow the "Volunteer" link on the main page to sign up. Volunteers will be accepted until Friday.

Not sure how you would like to serve others in tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.? After the march and celebration Monday, the United Way of Larimer County will hold an agency fair, featuring local not-for-profits who work in the area of civil rights and social justice.

These agencies have been asked to provide specific volunteer opportunities for community members. Attendees of the MLK Day festivities can visit each of these agencies and sign up to volunteer.

The agency fair will be held in the Lory Student Center dining area at 1 p.m., directly following the keynote speaker in the LSC Main Ballroom.

"Make it a Day On" is an opportunity to exhibit creativity in service.

This year, the city of Fort Collins and CSU challenge community members to do something to exhibit the very essence of community by engaging in anything from a simple act of kindness to a service project.

Service could include having a neighbor over for dinner, providing a ride for an elderly neighbor, writing a letter to our state or federal government, holding a fundraiser or awareness event, or simply contacting and helping a local agency.

Please go to the Web site: www.mlk.colostate.edu/blog.aspx for more information and ideas on ways to serve.