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MLK Dream Weekend Announces 2011 Diversity Banquet Keynote Speaker, Schedule of Events

GREENVILLE, S.C. – MLK Dream Weekend will kick off the scheduled festivities on Friday, January 7 with the MLK Candlelight Vigil and Prayer Walk at 7 p.m. at the Liberty Bridge in downtown Greenville. The following weekend, January 14-17, there are three main events planned in honor of the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

2011 Diversity Banquet

The main weekend of events begins on Friday, January 14, at 7 p.m. with the 2011 Diversity Banquet, featuring dinner, entertainment, scholarship presentations, and guest speaker Coach Herman Boone, whose inspirational story was captured in the Disney film *Remember the Titans* starring Academy Award-winner Denzel Washington.

Boone will share the story of his experience coaching football in 1971 for the newly integrated T.C. Williams High School in Alexandria, V.A. Despite racial tensions, Boone was able to unite the team and lead them to an undefeated season and a state championship. Now retired, Boone continues to motivate and inspire audiences as he travels speaking on respect, teamwork, community involvement and the importance of character.

Tickets to the 2011 Diversity Banquet are \$60 each or \$550 for a table of 10 and are available online at www.mlkdreamweekend.com or at the following locations:

- BJ's Music
- Valley Brook Outreach Baptist Church
- Bethlehem Baptist Church
- Greenville County Human Relations Commission

One focus of the MLK Dream Weekend initiative is to empower our youth to further their education beyond high school. At the 2011 Diversity Banquet, MLK Dream Weekend will award three scholarships totaling \$7,000 dollars.

Champions of Dreams Community Involvement Day

On Saturday, January 15, MLK Dream Weekend will host the 2011 Champions of Dreams Community Involvement Day from 10 a.m. to noon at the Sterling Community Center in Greenville. This free event is open to the public and will feature a showcase of approximately 30 nonprofit agencies, on-site volunteer opportunities, refreshments, and activities for all ages.

Dreams in Action

MLK Dream Weekend's 2011 schedule of events concludes on Monday, January 17 with the Dreams in Action event from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Greenville High School. In celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s legacy, this event will feature workshops, entertainment, and general assemblies all focused on helping individuals take action on their dreams.

About MLK Dream Weekend

MLK Dream Weekend is an organization of civic and business leaders committed to the cause of Dr. King and the citizens of Greenville County. Initiated in 2006 to establish an annual community-wide celebration of the MLK Holiday for the Greenville, South Carolina area, MLK Dream Weekend is based on Dr. King's dreams of diversity with equality and peace. For more information, please visit www.mlkdreamweekend.com.

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