

*which impel them to the separation. We hold these truths
sacred, that all men are created
equal, and among the
unalienable rights of man are
liberty and the pursuit of happiness.*

We the Dreamers



MLK DREAM WEEKEND
JANUARY 13-16, 2012

Volunteers honor King with day of service

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By [E. Richard Walton](#)
| Staff Writer

Greenville Free Clinic Medical volunteer coordinator Lindsey Hammond Strand led a crew of about 15 on Saturday who were among the estimated 300 who fanned out across the Upstate for the MLK Dream Weekend community day of service.

Most of the volunteers were helping to clean out the clinic's huge basement.

"This is a very long-term project," a patient but upbeat Hammond Strand said.

She said that the project would take much longer than what was taking place to honor the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., whose birthday was being observed this weekend across the country.

While Hammond Strand worked inside, newlyweds Kevin and Beverly Burke collected debris outside the clinic. Kevin Burke said he was notified of the volunteer opportunity by someone at his place of [employment](#) at Lockheed. "This sounded like a good thing to volunteer for," he said.

The event was organized by Hands-On Greenville. Volunteers were from the Girl Scouts, Americorps-VISTA, the Golden Strip YMCA, New Horizon Family Health Services, Brutontown Community Center, Upstate Circle of Friends, Greer Relief and Resource Agency, the Greenville Zoo, Allen Temple's Affordable Housing and Piedmont Women's Center.

Volunteers who worked outside on a chilly morning dressed warmly for the two hours of raking, bagging leaves, cleaning vacant lots and more.

"This year, we decided to spread out the projects all over the community to have a greater impact," said Rebecca Ellefson, manager of United Way Hands On Greenville.

A group of volunteers from the AKA Sorority rolled up their sleeves at the Brutontown Community Center off Rutherford Road, which is part of the Greenville County Recreation District.

The center's director, Joey Freeman, said he was thankful to be getting the extra hands.

"We've kinda been stockpiling over the year," he said. "This will help us order things."

He said the 4-year-old center serves a growing population of 43 kids in the afternoons, and about 10 seniors who have lunch supplied by Senior Action.

One group said their inspiration came from King when he said, "An individual has not started living until he can rise above the narrow confines of his individualistic concerns to the broader concerns of all humanity."

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/article/20120115/NEWS/301150025/Volunteers-honor-King-day-service>