



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 15, 2013

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MEDIA ADVISORY

Community Forum in Fillmore to Honor MLK

Volunteers are planning to create a social justice forum on January 21, 2013 as part of National Day of Service

Fillmore, CA— Residents of Fillmore and Ventura County are expected to turn out on the Martin Luther King, Jr. (MLK) holiday to participate in a national Day of Service. The Cabrillo Economic Development Corporation (CEDC), and One Step a la Vez, have planned a day of service that will leverage the strength of local community organizations and individuals to honor Dr. King’s legacy through a community forum on social justice.

Volunteers in Fillmore will join hundreds of thousands of Americans who are participating in MLK Day of Service projects in all 50 states. This national day of service honors Dr. King’s legacy and commitment to transforming our nation through service to others.

Victor Espinosa, an AmeriCorps VISTA working with CEDC and one of the organizers of the event, is looking forward to the diversity of voices that will participate in the community dialog. “We reached out to local schools, community organizations, service providers, community members, and businesses. What better time for us to reflect on Dr. King’s vision and to work toward peace and social justice?”

The community forum is being called an “encuentro” to reflect efforts at culturally appropriate ways of community building. The “encuentro” is a method of community forum often found in indigenous and Spanish-speaking communities, and implies democratic participation and sharing of culture, ideas, and experiences. Participants will remember Dr. King through audio archives that represent the scope of his civil rights work. Dialog circles centered on the themes of peace, community, and social justice will generate ideas on how to put Dr. King’s dream into practice.

The Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) is the federal agency that leads the annual MLK Day of Service, working with the King Center in Atlanta and thousands of nonprofit groups, faith-based organizations, and schools and businesses nationwide.

For more information on the national event, please visit www.mlkday.gov. Or, for more information on this local event, visit: <http://www.facebook.com/CEDCVC>.

- WHO:** Volunteers from Cabrillo Economic Development Corporation and its Fillmore Central Station property, One Step a la Vez, local Fillmore schools, community organizations and residents of Fillmore and surrounding Ventura County.
- WHAT:** Martin Luther King Day of Service: Community Encuentro on Social Justice
- WHERE:** 508 Central Street, Fillmore, CA, 93015
- WHEN:** January 21st, 2013, from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

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CEDC is a private non-profit affordable home and community development corporation that provides comprehensive housing services, through a community building approach, in Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties. Since its incorporation in 1981, CEDC has built more than 1,465 units of affordable for-sale and multi-family rental homes, manages 804 affordable rental units, and has assisted more than 8,000 individuals and families with homeownership education, counseling and lending services. CEDC is a chartered member of NeighborWorks®, a national network of more than 230 community development and affordable home developers. See what else CEDC is doing by visiting <http://www.cabrilloedc.org/>.

The name One Step a la Vez was chosen by Fillmore-Piru youth to show that you can always take “one step at a time” toward a positive future. The name includes both English and Spanish to reflect and value the dual heritage of the community. For more information, visit <http://www.myonestep.org/>.

The Corporation for National and Community Service leads the annual MLK Day of Service, working with the King Center in Atlanta and thousands of nonprofit groups, faith-based organizations, and schools and businesses nationwide. For further information about MLK Day of Service and what’s taking place across the country, visit MLKDay.gov.

The Corporation for National and Community Service is a federal agency that engages more than five million Americans in service each year through its core programs, Senior Corps, AmeriCorps, and Learn and Serve America, and leads President Obama's national call to service initiative, *United We Serve*. Visit NationalService.gov for more information.