



INVESTING IN THE MLK CENTER

To create a meaningful impact on the lives of those in the neighborhoods we serve, through quality, multi-generational programs that build community, invest in youth, empower families, advocate for our neighbors and provide a peaceful space to connect.

At the MLK Center, everyone has the opportunity to learn, play, grow and find peace.

By embracing the teachings and philosophies of civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., the MLK Center provides vital individual skills and family resources that allow residents in the Mid-North neighborhoods of Indianapolis to grow and enhance their lives. Our approach helps people of all ages find – and remain on – their own paths to success and stability. Dr. King believed that conflicts can be resolved peacefully. In a committed Beloved Community, conflict ends with reconciliation of adversaries cooperating in a spirit of mutual respect and goodwill. We work to make this possible in our culture.

Our Activities

- Pre-School children have access to high quality early education through our neighborhood partners.
- Students at James Whitcomb Riley IPS School #43 receive intentional literacy instruction after school and during breaks.
- Teens utilize state of the art technology and build skills in the Best Buy Teen Tech Center and maker space.
- Young adults enroll in our apprenticeship program and find new career opportunities in music production, graphic design, coding and much more!
- Parents access employment coaching, financial literacy, parent support groups, counseling.
- We build community! Join Books and Breakfast or Beloved Community Fellowships Nights.

Our Place - An Active Community Building Center

The physical building is a hub for the broader community to gather, dialogue, create, problem solve, socialize and interact with each other to promote unity and cohesion. When one part of our community is not thriving, we all lose. A neighborhood is stronger when its residents feel connected to each other. We are that place.



Our Priorities

YOUTH

We are youth in the neighborhood from birth to age 24. We will be school-ready and educated to our fullest potential. We will thrive, with a love for learning and know adults who love and support us. We will remain resilient in the face of tragedy and disappointment and develop healthy relationships among our peers. Our support system and social capital will include friends from all over the neighborhood regardless of race, culture or income. Leadership opportunities will challenge us and be rewarding. Adults will help us become curious problem solvers, civically engaged and career bound.

In 2018, more than 200 youth participated in reading, leadership and employment programming.

9 teens and young adults are enrolled our apprenticeship program to gain technology skills for developing a career path.

56% of after school students are reading at grade level, or just one level behind - that's an increase of 22% from the previous year.

Over 65 teens have participated in the summer Tarkington Teen Work Crew to care for Tarkington Park and become leaders in their neighborhood.

FAMILIES

We are adults of all ages, doing our best to parent and support our youth. We are parents, grand-parents, family members, foster parents, youth workers and care-givers, responsible for engaging, nurturing and directing the youth in our neighborhood from birth to age 24. We will work together to solve problems that impact our children to keep them safe, healthy, educated and loved. Together we strive for equity in housing, employment, wellness and opportunity.

Our Future

The MLK Center has deep roots in the Indianapolis community, and for nearly 45 years, we've built a solid foundation through education, income and neighborhood development.

Now, we're looking ahead to the next 45 years. With your help, the MLK Center will continue to gather, teach and develop individuals and families to serve and advance the lives of the people in our city.

\$2500 - provides 6 months of apprenticeship programming for 1 young adult

\$2000 - teaches kids how to read at grade level in our Read to Lead Program

\$1000 - provides 7 weeks of summer camp for 1 student

\$500 - covers the cost of 1 workshop for 10 middle school students in the Teen Tech Center

\$250 - purchases 1 week of high quality early education for a preschool student

\$100 - provides art supplies for the after school program

\$50 - covers 1 hour of employment coaching for one parent

