



SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA  
COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO

**NEWS RELEASE**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Capitol Region JusticeCorps to Serve the Community on MLK Day of Service

During a speech in Montgomery, Alabama, titled "Conquering Self-Centeredness" (1957), Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. said, "Life's most persistent and urgent question is: What are you doing for others?"

On January 17, 2011, in commemoration of the late civil rights leader's life and legacy the 29-member Capitol Region JusticeCorps will observe the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday by volunteering from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at St. John's Shelter Program for Women and Children. St John's is a non-profit agency that serves hundreds of women and children each day by providing a roof over their heads, counseling and other basic needs. Founded in 1985, St John's is the only shelter program in Sacramento County focused exclusively on women with children--the most vulnerable of the homeless population.

In 1994, Congress passed legislation encouraging Americans to observe the King Holiday as a national day of service that brings people together from different backgrounds to meet the needs in their community. The Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) was designated as the lead federal agency to execute the King Day of Service. AmeriCorps is a program of the CNCS, the federal agency whose mission is to improve lives, strengthen communities, and foster civic engagement through service and volunteering.

JusticeCorps is a unique AmeriCorps program that recruits and trains local university students to provide legal information and assistance to self-represented litigants. The California Courts first launched JusticeCorps as a pilot program in Los Angeles County in 2004 and since then the program has expanded to the San Francisco Bay area in Fall 2006 and to San Diego in Fall 2007. This year marks the first year of JusticeCorps in our region.

Known locally as the Capitol Region Program, 29 students from University of California, Davis and Sacramento State University have been serving at the Self-Help Centers of the Placer, Sacramento and Yolo County Superior Courts and the University of California, Davis Family Protection and Legal Assistance Clinic in Woodland since late September.

Justice Corps members have made a commitment to serve a minimum of 300 hours at one of the four service sites and upon completion of the 2010-2011 program year, they will earn a \$1000 education award from AmeriCorps.

More than forty years after his death, America still confronts many of the same problems Dr. King faced in his time--poverty, hunger, illiteracy, youth violence, and a dropout crisis. Organizations across the country are using the King Day of Service to engage volunteers in addressing these challenges, both on the holiday and as part of an ongoing commitment throughout the year.

The Capitol Region members are among hundreds of thousands of Americans who will spend part of this Martin Luther King Jr. Day volunteering their time as the move to turn the holiday into a day of national service continues.