



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **Hands On Central Texas Answers President Elect Obama's Call to Serve through MLK Day of Service**

AUSTIN, Texas (January 15, 2009) – About 500 volunteers from the Austin area are expected to roll up their sleeves Saturday, January 17, 2009, for the annual MLK Day of Service and culmination of the MLK Peace Bench project.

Coordinated by United Way Capital Area's Hands On Central Texas program, the MLK Day of Service will bring together Central Texas volunteers from all walks of life to contribute their time and talent toward making the Austin area a better place to live.

- The MLK Day of Service will kick off at 9 a.m. January 17 at Huston-Tillotson University, 900 Chicon St., Davage-Durden Building, Austin. Speakers will include State Rep. Dawna Dukes (D-Austin), Dr. Larry Earvin, President Huston-Tillotson University, Dr. Leonard Moore, Vice-President UT Diversity & Community Engagement, David Balch, President of United Way Capital Area, and Armando Rayo, Director of Hands On Central Texas. The kick-off will feature speakers reflecting on Dr. King's dream, and also the Mt. Sinai Baptist Missionary Church Children's Choir.

“There is no better way to commemorate the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and his commitment to serving his community than by joining together and volunteering our time to better our community Rep. Dukes said. “Volunteers will have the opportunity to reflect on Dr. King's message in the morning, prior to embarking on service projects throughout the city.” Her office has organized the MLK, Jr. Clean up for the past ten years which will be one of the service projects at this year's "MLK Day of Service". The day will also mark completion of the MLK Peace Bench Project. To honor the legacy of Dr. King, volunteers built the benches over the past year, and are placing them in neighborhood & community centers, schools, nonprofits & churches all over Austin.

Volunteers must register at the kick-off, or pre-register at the Hands On Central Texas web site, [www.handsoncentraltexas.org](http://www.handsoncentraltexas.org). For more information, call 512-472-6267.

**About Hands On Central Texas:** Hands On Central Texas, a program of the United Way Capital Area, is part of a national civic organization seeks to encourage volunteerism in the United States. The program engages more than 10,000 Central Texans annually, and empowers people to make volunteering a regular part of their lives.

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