



BE LOVE WEEK

MOBILIZING GOOD NEIGHBOR CULTURE

JANUARY 15-18, 2024

THE VISION

After over a decade of moving forward her husband's legacy and strategy of nonviolence, in 1984 Mrs. Coretta Scott King watched President Reagan sign a bill into law to create a federal holiday to honor her husband, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. A decade later, the holiday became the first federal service holiday, with President Clinton signing into law that the day be focused on citizen action volunteer service.

Consistent with Martha Berry's motto, "not to be ministered unto, but to minister," Be Love Week is a weeklong campaign where the Berry College community mobilizes our good neighbor culture to serve in the Rome community. The week begins on MLK Day with a community gathering that honors the life and mission of Dr. King, and a week of service and partnership from various groups on campus follows. Being a good neighbor is putting love into action. We hope you'll help us advance our culture of belonging outside of the Berry gates and join us for Be Love Week.

WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

1

Participate in the MLK Day gathering. This optional event has an inspiring keynote speaker to honor Dr. King and start the week.

2

Engage in our community lunch and conversation. After our MLK Day service, we will connect over a meal and community dialogue.

3

Join or lead a service project through a partnership with Berry College Volunteer Services during Be Love Week.

4

Attend a cultural event during Be Love Week focusing on how local organizations bring change to the Rome area and beyond.

MLK DAY GATHERING

We are grateful to partner with campus and community partners in a joint MLK Day gathering open to the Berry and Rome community. The service will be held in the Berry College Chapel at 10 am on Monday, January 15th, 2024. We're excited to have world-renowned speaker, Inky Johnson, as our keynote this year. *CE Credit

INKY JOHNSON

Husband, father, collegiate athlete, entrepreneur and author, Inky Johnson is one of the most highly sought after speakers in the world. For over a decade, executives, professional sports teams, business owners and people all over have benefited from the raw energy of his thought provoking and inspirational presentations.

Inky earned his Master's Degree in Sports Psychology from The University of Tennessee. He was a three year letterman and two year Captain on the Football team, where he started as a cornerback. In his junior year he was projected as a top thirty draft pick. Unfortunately, on September 9th, 2006, he sustained a life threatening, career ending injury that paralyzed his right arm and hand. From that day to present day Inky has had a burning desire to use his situation and experiences to add value to people's lives.

Inky's words have resonated all over the world— "The one thing we all have in common is that we will encounter adversity, but we have to decide how we respond to it. My arm and my hand are paralyzed but my heart isn't, my mind isn't, my dedication isn't, my work ethic isn't, my commitment isn't." Inky is on a mission to serve and is someone that takes tremendous pride in what he does.



COMMUNITY LUNCH

On Monday, January 15th, 2024, immediately after the MLK Day Community Gathering, a community lunch and conversation will follow directly in the Berry College Krannert Center Ballroom at 11:30 am. Lunch is free to all participants, and Meredith Johnson, Assistant Dean of Students at Berry College, will lead and facilitate the community conversation. This is an opportunity to share a meal with other community members and engage in meaningful discussion and reflection. This is open to all Berry and Rome community members. RSVP is required for participation. Sign up here: <https://bit.ly/BeLoveWeek>



SERVICE PROJECTS

Berry College Volunteer Services is partnering across campus and with community organizations across Rome to lead several service projects in our local community starting MLK Day (after community lunch), January 15th through January 17th. Students, staff, and faculty will have many options to get involved with. Some areas our service projects may address are:

- Community Clean-Ups
- Historical Preservation
- Food Insecurity
- Housing Insecurity
- Childhood Literacy
- Health Disparities

Sign-up is required to participate: <https://bit.ly/BeLoveWeek>



CULTURAL EVENTS

In addition to all the good happening during Be Love Week, there will also be a few Cultural Events focused on community engagement and the important work of local organizations in Rome. These events will be open to all Berry College students, staff, faculty, Rome community members, and organizations.

TUESDAY

**Bonner Panel:
The Challenges of a
Minority Business
Owner**
6:00 pm, ICC

WEDNESDAY

**The Value of Academic
Community
Engagement Courses**
6:30 pm, ICC

THURSDAY

**Leading with King:
w/ Dr. Vonneta West**
11:00 am, Virtual
*Must sign up at:
<https://bit.ly/BeLoveWeek>

**Feature Film &
Panel: Black Barbie**
7 pm, ICC





OTHER INFORMATION

The Office of Diversity and Belonging serves the campus in envisioning and implementing how diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging are accomplished sustainably at Berry and mobilizing our good neighbor culture beyond Berry through community engagement. We believe that achieving a Culture of Belonging is possible by imagining if every person at Berry cared about DEIB and worked on the same page toward the same end.

We're grateful to partner with the Athletic Department, the Bonner Center for Community Engagement, Students Affairs, and Academic Affairs in making Be Love Week possible.

To sign up for the community lunch or any service projects, please visit this link:
<https://bit.ly/BeLoveWeek>.

For more information, visit: <https://www.berry.edu/student-life/diversity-inclusion/programs/be-love>



Office of Diversity
& Belonging