



City of
OAKLAND
California

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News from: Department of Human Services

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**Mayor Jean Quan to Present the City of Oakland Citizen Humanitarian Award
to Carol Johnson
at "In the Name of Love"
on Sunday, January 19, 2014 - 7:00 pm**

The 12th Annual Musical Tribute Honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
Oakland Scottish Rite Center, 1547 Lakeside Drive, Oakland, CA 94612

Oakland, CA—On Sunday, January 19th, **Oakland Mayor Jean Quan** will present the **City of Oakland Citizen Humanitarian Award** to **Carol Johnson** for her outstanding work on behalf of the Oakland community at "**In the Name of Love,**" **the 12th Annual Musical Tribute honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.**, an extensive civic and cultural event that pays homage through music, to one of the greatest humanitarians of our time. The 2014 musical entertainment includes singer/songwriter/actor **Martin Luther McCoy**, the **Marcus Shelby Jazz Orchestra featuring the Dynamic Ms. Faye Carol**; the powerful 65-voice **Oakland Interfaith Gospel Choir**; and the 275-voice **Oakland Children's Community Choir** backed up by the **Oaktown Jazz Workshops**. **Nikki Thomas, KBLX** will serve as emcee.

Living Jazz, an Oakland based non-profit and producers of the MLK Tribute originally created this award to acknowledge those who give of themselves beyond the call of duty and to inspire others to work for the betterment of the community. The recipient is chosen with the help of Oakland's Department of Human Services, and in the spirit of Dr. King's tireless efforts, is presented annually at "In the Name of Love", the Annual Musical Tribute honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Carol Johnson is the Director of St. Mary's Center in Oakland. She has helped create a vibrant community there for people previously living on the edges and in the doorways of Oakland. While crisis services for isolated and homeless elders and children are critical, Carol knows they can be a revolving door without immediate help, community engagement and social change.

Taken in total, Carol exhibits the skills of a maestro - aware accessible services address basic needs of the body and when combined with ways to reach the mind and spirit change is enhanced. Tackling some of the most pressing issues of our times with people many consider "treatment resistant" requires a holistic program with competent staff, innovative and accessible services and an invitation to those helped to engage as mentor, artist, volunteer and activist. Just as a conductor knows disparate sounds will help create a symphony, Carol knows when people are invited to give of themselves there is a personal investment in determining what is possible.

Carol stands out in the sea of social service directors as she inspires a capable staff, looks for opportunities in crisis, and bridges understanding on how we create social change in Oakland, Alameda County, California and across the nation. While SMC is a place of last resort, one senior calls it "a piece of heaven."

This place is where homeless elders get a key to their own apartment, five year olds anticipate kindergarten, and isolated elders realize life is worth living. Adding creative arts and hope and justice events promotes healing and gives a format to educate and activate the larger community. The players in this utopia are people in recovery or with mental illness, frail elders, immigrant children, and supporters who realize SMC's work is the world we want.

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"In the Name of Love", Oakland's only non-denominational musical tribute to Dr. King, is the perfect platform in which to honor this year's recipient of the Oakland Citizen Humanitarian Award and a wonderful opportunity to acknowledge a member from our own community helping to inspire change and positive contribution.

Tickets: General Admission – in advance - \$23, at the door - \$25, children 12 and under- \$8

For tickets and more info: <http://www.mlktribute.com> or call 510-287-8880

Scottish Rite Center is wheelchair accessible.

"In the Name of Love" has been made possible through the generosity of the National Endowment for the Arts; California Arts Council; City of Oakland Cultural Funding Program; Walter and Elise Haas Fund; East Bay Community Foundation; Thomas J. Long Foundation; William and Flora Hewlett Foundation; Oakland Fund for the Arts; Alameda County Arts Commission; Clorox Company Foundation; Zellerbach Family Foundation; See's Candies; Oakland Tribune; BART, AC Transit; KRON 4; and KBLX.

Living Jazz, a non-profit Oakland based organization created in 1984, is committed to building community, cultivating community, and enriching lives through the love of jazz. RCI created Jazz Camp West in 1984, the Oakland Interfaith Gospel Choir in 1986, Jazz Camp Weekend and the Oakland Jazz Choir in 1992, "In the Name of Love" in 2002, the Oakland Children's Community Choir in 2005; Jam Camp West, a hip music camp for youth ages 10-15, in 2008; and it's newest program Jazz Search West, the Bay Area's Jazz Talent Search in 2010.

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