



City of  
**OAKLAND**  
California

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## News from: Human Services Department

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 3, 2017

### Presentation of The Oakland Citizen Humanitarian Award to Mr. Glen Upshaw at “In the Name of Love” Sunday, January 15, 2017 - 7:00 pm

*The 15th Annual Musical Tribute Honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.*  
Oakland Scottish Rite Center, 1547 Lakeside Drive, Oakland, CA 94612

Oakland, CA—On Sunday, January 15th, **Mr. Glen Upshaw** will be presented with the **Oakland Citizen Humanitarian Award** for his outstanding work on behalf of the Oakland community at “**In the Name of Love**”, the **15th 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 theme of this year’s tribute is “**Marvin Gaye, What’s Going On?**” highlighting 5 outstanding vocalists **Kenny Washington, Terrie Odabi, Destani Wolf, Will Russ Jr., and Luq Frank** along with an exciting backup band including **Tammy Hall** on piano, **Marcus Shelby** on bass and **Sly Randolph** on drums, **John Santos** on percussion and **Teo Avery** on sax. These outstanding musicians have each individually made a tremendous impact on the Bay Area cultural scene, and the 2017 program will bring them together onto the stage for the first time to rekindle Dr. King’s message of love and nonviolence as captured in Marvin Gaye’s outstanding music. The tribute will also serve as a platform for a one-time exciting collective, creative experience meant to inspire hope, celebrate Oakland’s cultural history and highlight the power of music to spur positive change. The tribute will also include the 55-voice **Oakland Interfaith Gospel Choir**; and the 200-voice **Living Jazz Children’s Project** backed up by the **Oakland School for the Arts Ensemble**. **Dana King**, formerly with CBS, will serve as Mistress of Ceremonies.

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.

**Glen Upshaw** has worked in the field of street outreach and violence interruption for close to five years. Glen was born and raised in East Oakland and graduated from Concord High School. From 2012 – 2016, he worked as a street outreach worker, violence interrupter and Area Team Lead for California Youth Outreach as part of the Oakland Unite Street Outreach team. He began working at CYO after he helped mediate a disagreement between young people in East Oakland, some of them CYO participants. His street credibility and commitment to resolving issues without resorting to violence made him a natural fit for this work. In 2016, Glen joined Youth ALIVE as a Violence Interrupter. Formerly incarcerated, Glen is committed to sharing with at-risk youth the lessons he learned as a young man. After he witnessed his own son’s involvement with violence and the criminal justice system, Glen was compelled to make a difference in his community. He sends the message to the young people he works with that being entangled in the street life even on a small scale puts you at risk for incarceration and violence.

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In addition to his work at Youth ALIVE!, Glen is founder of Men of Influence. This group of men meets at the Rainbow Recreation Center on the weekend in East Oakland. Their mission is to help provide positive role models to the young men in their community. Glen knows teaching young men how to make positive choices can turn their lives around. For the last two years, he has also served as a mentor through the OreMi Mentoring Program. Glen has won various awards and accolades over the past five years, including the "Neighborhood Champion" award in 2014 from the Oakland Police Foundation. His work with the Men of Influence was chronicled by KQED radio in 2013. Glen is married and the father of four children. He lives in the East Bay.

"In the Name of Love", Oakland's only non-denominational musical tribute to Dr. King, is the perfect platform in which to honor **Glen Upshaw**, 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: \$25-\$40, children 12 and under- \$8-\$12

**For tickets and more info:** <http://www.mlktribute.com> or call 510-858-5313.

*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; San Francisco Foundation; William and Flora Hewlett Foundation; Alameda County Arts Commission; Zellerbach Family Foundation; See's Candies; and BART.

Living Jazz, a non-profit Oakland based organization was created in 1984. Our mission is to empower children and adults, inspire creative growth, and unite diverse communities. Living Jazz 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 Living Jazz Children's Project in 2005; Jam Camp West for youth ages 10-15 in 2008; and Jazz Search West, the Bay Area's Jazz Talent Search in 2010.

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