

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Thursday, April 6, 2023**

**RE: MLK Mobile Food Pantry**

*Contact:*

Sarah Wright, Director of Development & Communications

The Arc of the Quad Cities

(309) 786-6474

wrights@arcqca.org

**The Arc Kicks Off MLK Food Drive in Partnership with the Quad City Disability Awareness Coalition**

Rock Island, IL – The Arc is thrilled to announce it has once again received funding for the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) which works to make service to others an indispensable part of the American experience. With this grant, The Arc of the Quad Cities Area will continue to build its inclusive volunteering efforts by partnering with the Quad City Disabilities Awareness Coalition to hold an MLK Food Drive in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr.

The Arc Food Drive strives to alleviate hunger and execute inclusive volunteer opportunities featuring volunteers with and without disabilities working side-by-side to address food insecurity and unite Americans in service. The Arc of the Quad Cities Area is one of the twelve grantees nationwide selected to carry out the objectives of the grant to reduce hunger among our neighbors. The partnership with the Quad City Disabilities Awareness Coalition means that people with disabilities will be picking up food items and delivering those items to pantries across the community to make sure our neighbors get the nourishment they need.

**WHEN**: The Food Drive will kick off **Wednesday, April 12 and ends Wednesday, April 26**

**WHAT**: Canned meat and high-protein items

 Canned fruits and vegetables

 Carbohydrates

 Allergy-friendly products

**WHY**: To address food insecurity and create inclusive volunteer opportunities for people with and without disabilities.

**WHERE**: Visit: <https://arcqca.org/mlk-day-of-service/> to see a full listing of locations throughout the QCA.

**Coal Valley:**

 Robert R. Jones Library

**East Moline:**

 IAG

 East Moline Public Library

**Milan**:

 Milan Hy-Vee

**Moline**:

 Moline Public Library

 Hy-Vee on the Avenue

 Gigi’s Playhouse

 Every Child

 Fairway

**Rock Island:**

Rock Island Parks & Recreation

 The Arc Building

 Arc Industries

 Rock Island Hy-Vee

 Rock Island Public Library – Downtown

 Rock Island Public Library – Southwest Branch

 IICIL

**Silvis**:

 Silvis Hy-Vee

 Silvis Public Library

**Bettendorf**:

 Bettendorf Hy-Vee

 Hand in Hand

 Bettendorf Public Library

 Fairway

**Davenport**:

 Rockingham Rd. Hy-Vee

 West Kimberly Rd. Hy-Vee

 Northgate Hy-Vee

 Utica Ridge Hy-Vee

 West Locust St. Hy-Vee

 HDC

 Fairway

 Roosevelt Community Center

 Davenport Public Library Main

 Davenport Public Library Eastern

Says The Arc’s Outreach and Volunteer Coordinator, Sue Gadient, “We are ready to hit the ground running and improve the lives of our neighbors through nourishing food and inclusive volunteering.”

To participate in the MLK Food Drive, look for food donation boxes at the entrances and exits at any of the thirty-two listed locations and donate your non-perishable food items by dropping them in the box. Members from the QC Disabilities Coalition will be distributing them to participating food pantries. Continues Sue, “We are especially proud that this is a bi-state initiative that involves so many great partners. We’d especially like to recognize the local libraries and Hy-Vee. With their involvement, we were able to have sites in every city in our region. We wouldn’t have the reach to carry out this project without the partnership of the Quad City Disabilities Coalition. We are very grateful for their contributions.”

MLK Food Drive is provided by the Corporation for National & Community Service, The Arc of the Quad Cities Area, and the Quad City Disabilities Awareness Coalition, which includes; Kiwanis Aktion Club, The Arc of the Quad Cities Iowa, Camp Courageous, Davenport Parks & Recreation, EveryChild, Gigi’s Playhouse, Hand in Hand, HDC, Individual Advocacy Group, Illinois Iowa Center for Independent Living, New Kingdom Trail riders, Project Search, Special Olympics Illinois, Special Olympics Iowa Scott County, The Quad City Sled Hockey Association, The Arc of Illinois, Michelle’s Vocational Placement.

XXX