

**FOR RELEASE MAY 1st**

**April 22, 2024**

**RE: MLK Food Drive**

*Contact:*

Sarah Wright, Director of Development & Communications

The Arc of the Quad Cities

(309) 786-6474

wrights@arcqca.org

**The Arc Celebrates Martin Luther King’s Legacy with a Two-week Food Drive
in partnership with the Quad Cities Disability Coalition.**

Rock Island, IL – The Arc of the Quad Cities in conjunction with the Quad Cities Disability Awareness Coalition will be conducting a two-week community-wide food drive to address food insecurity in honor of Martin Luther King Jr.’s legacy of service to others. The Coalition is made up of disability service providers who will be administering the food drive by picking up food items and dropping them off at Quad City food pantries. ***This project affirms the capacity of people with disabilities to enrich the Quad Cities and give back in meaningful ways***.

**When: Tuesday May 7, 2024-Tuesday May 21, 2024**

**Where:**

|  |  |
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| ILLINOIS LOCATIONS | IOWA LOCATIONS |
| Coal Valley | **Bettendorf** |
| Robert R. Jones Public Library | Bettendorf Hy-Vee |
| Colona | Hand in Hand |
| Colona Public Library | Bettendorf Public Library |
| East Moline  | **Davenport** |
| East Moline Public Library | Rockingham Rd. Hy-Vee |
| Individual Advocacy Group | West Kimberly Rd. Hy-Vee |
| Milan | Northgate Hy-Vee |
| Milan Hy-Vee | Utica Ridge Hy-Vee |
| Moline | West Locust St. Hy-Vee |
| Moline Public Library | River’s Edge (Davenport) |
| Hy-Vee on the Avenue | Empowering Abilities |
| Gigi’s Playhouse | Roosevelt Community Center |
| Rock Island  | Davenport Community Center |
| Rock Island Parks & Recreation | Davenport Public Library Fairmount |
| The Arc Building | Davenport Public Library Eastern |
| QC Flex | Vander Veer Conservatory |
| Rock Island Hy-Vee | Emeis Golf Course |
| Rock Island Library SW Branch  | Duck Creek Golf Course |
| Rock Island Library Downtown  | Red Hawk Golf Course  |
| Watts-Midtown Library |  |
| Silvis |  |
| Robert R. Jones Public Library  |  |

**What: Look for Food Boxes at participating locations
Why: In honor of Martin Luther King Jr.’s legacy and to address food insecurity.**

Martin Luther King Jr. said, “Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that.” The Arc and the Disability Coalition have answered that call and hope you will help be the light. Please drop off non-perishable food items at one of the participating locations. We can eliminate hunger now.

“This is a true community-wide food drive,” says Sarah Wright, Chief Development Officer for The Arc. “This project is unique in that it enjoys a wide capacity because of the wide-ranging partnerships we’ve been able to establish. We’d like to give special thanks to Hy-Vee, all the local libraries, and parks & recreation departments for addressing food insecurity and for embracing inclusive volunteering.”

MLK Day of Food Drive is provided by the Corporation for National & Community Service, The Arc of the Quad Cities Area in partnership with the Disabilities Awareness Coalition.

The Disabilities Awareness Coalition consists of 20 committed disability service providers dedicated to upholding the rights and contributions of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families by championing inclusivity and empowerment. Members include; The Arc of the Quad Cities Area, The Arc of the Quad Cities Iowa, Special Olympics IL Area F, Special Olympics Iowa Scott County, Davenport Parks & Recreation, The Quad Cities Sled Hockey Association, Individual Advocacy Group, Aktion Club, Project Search, Gigi’s Playhouse, Empowering Abilities, Camp Courageous, Hand in Hand, IICIL, New Kingdom Trailriders, The Arc of Illinois, Michelle’s Vocational Placement, Epilepsy Advocacy Network, Quad Cities Music, Lutheran Social Services.

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