

Martin Luther King Jr. Day

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(ABC 6 NEWS) -- Across the nation Monday many stopped to remember Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. That includes folks in Rochester who paid tribute in their own ways.

Area leaders started celebrations early with the chamber of commerce's 17th annual MLK breakfast. The keynote speaker was Hussein Samatar, the founder of the African development center. He emphasized the need to close the education gap.

"There is no way in this country that we are going to be able to compete with China, India, and other western countries, if we are leaving behind a lot of children."

Across town at the government center area youth gathered to make MLK signs.

"This is about being thankful for what Martin Luther King did, he put his life on the line for freedom, faith, and understanding," said student Darshan Persaud.

Rochester's NAACP President W.C Jordan Jr. believes it's important for students to participate in the days events.

"It should not just be a day off for the kids, they should be able to understand what this day is about why it's a holiday."

With their signs made community members from every background set out to march from the government center to the Marriott.

"This is a part of going through the motions of some of the things he did," said Jordan.

The Rochester area habitat for Humanity also took part. They had a day on for MLK. Normally they do not work on Mondays, but they decided to volunteer their time in memory of the civil rights activist.