

BLOOMINGTON AND NORMAL HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

October 10, 2014

Dear Friends:

The 39th Annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Awards Program will be held Saturday, January 17, 2015, from 1:00pm – 3:00pm, at the Illinois State University Bone Student Center in Normal, Illinois. This event, represents a commitment to the legacy of Dr. King, and recognizes those individuals in our community who have helped to keep his dream alive. Our Dr. King celebration is one of the longest, continuous running programs in the country.

The speaker will be **Vashti Murphy McKenzie**. In 2000, Mrs. McKenzie became the first female elected as bishop in the over 200-year history of the African Methodist Episcopal Church denomination. Mrs. McKenzie serves as the chairwoman of the Board of Trustees of Paul Quinn College located in Dallas, TX. She was appointed by President Barack Obama to serve on the inaugural President's Advisory Council of the White House Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships. She previously served as the national chaplain of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated. And she is a life member of the NAACP.

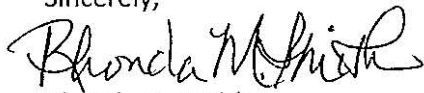
Mrs. McKenzie has been honored for her community service, outstanding achievement and being a religious role model by a number of diverse leaders. She was named by the Huffington Post as one of the 50 most powerful women religious leaders in the world. Mrs. McKenzie is the author of five books. The first two, *Not Without A Struggle* and *Strength in the Struggle* concern leadership and professional growth for women. In 2013, she released *Those Sisters Can Preach!* This book contains "22" pearls of wisdom from nationally known preachers who happen to be women.

We ask your help in supporting this outstanding event by doing any, or all of the following:

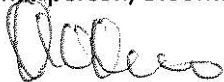
- Attend the program. Tickets are \$20.00 per person and \$200.00 for a reserve table (maximum of 10 people per table). Price includes a full meal. Tickets may be purchased beginning November 26, 2012. They will be available at the Bloomington City Hall, The Town of Normal or from any Human Relations Commissioner of Bloomington/Normal.
- Purchase an ad in our souvenir program booklet. (See the enclosed form for details).
- Help a youth attend the Luncheon by purchasing a table for them. To purchase a Youth Table, see the enclosed form for details.

With your support, we hope to make this event worthy of the great man that it honors

Sincerely,



Rhonda M. Smith
Chairperson, Bloomington Human Relations Commission



Mandava Rao
Chairperson, Town of Normal Human Relations Commission