



**For Immediate Release**

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## **City of Kentwood Will Host Jan. 15 Unity Walk to Honor Martin Luther King Jr.**

*Food Pantry Donations Also Will Be Collected, Continuing Community Service Tradition*

**Kentwood, Michigan, Jan. 10, 2022** – The City of Kentwood will host a unity walk in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. on Saturday, Jan. 15.

Residents of all ages are invited to gather in front of the Kent District Library – Kentwood (Richard L. Root) Branch, 4950 Breton Ave. SE, at 9 a.m. for a 1-mile walk. The walk will end at Fire Station 1, 4775 Walma Ave. SE.

An indoor ceremony will follow, including a proclamation that will be presented by various community members, live music, coffee and cake. The event is free and open to the public.

Canned goods and other non-perishable items will be accepted at the event to stock Kentwood's Little Free Pantry, which began in 2017 as a Martin Luther King Jr. Day community service project to fill an immediate and local need. Since then, the City of Kentwood has continued to host food drives to keep the pantry well-stocked.

"We look forward to coming together as a community to celebrate the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.," Mayor Stephen Kepley said. "We will walk in remembrance of his historic contributions leading the civil rights movement bringing needed changes to our nation and in reflection of what we all can do to honor his values today and every day.

"The event also continues our MLK Day community service tradition of stocking Kentwood's Little Free Pantry to support our neighbors in need. All are invited to join us."

Kentwood's first Little Free Pantry opened in 2017 at the Kentwood Activities Center, 355 48th St. SE, where it remains available year-round during business hours. The second Little Free Pantry was opened last year at the Kent District Library – Kentwood (Richard L. Root) Branch for the community to visit during library hours. Anyone can utilize or donate to the pantry. More information, including a list of suggested donations, is available at [kentwood.us/LittleFreePantry](http://kentwood.us/LittleFreePantry).

For more information about the Jan. 15 event, please visit [kentwood.us/MLKUnityWalk](http://kentwood.us/MLKUnityWalk).

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