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Residents round Church Circle Monday in Kingsport during the annual Martin Luther King March.

King march calls for youth to 'step into the dream'

■ **About 50 participants** marched from the Riverview community pool to Broad Street.

By **AMY GATLEY**
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KINGSPORT — As community members stepped through the streets of Kingsport in celebration of Martin Luther King Day, they were also stepping into his dream.

About 50 residents gathered Monday to walk side by side for the third annual Martin Luther King March and Celebration.

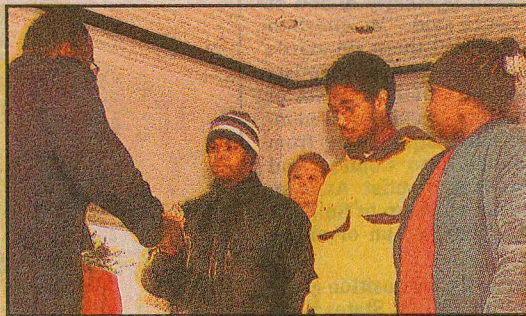
The march was a symbolic showing of King's dream to bring people together through humanitarian efforts, said march organizers.

The event began at the Riverview community pool and finished on Broad Street.

A ceremony was held at Glen Bruce Park following the march.

This year's event focused on the promise of youth, with a symbolic passing of the torch ceremony. The theme this year was "Stepping Into the Dream."

Kingsport Mayor Jeanette Blazier, Sullivan County Judge Stephen Jones and Elder Ronnie Collins encouraged area youth to realize King's dream of



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Elder Ronnie Collins passes the torch to the next generation during a ceremony at Glen Bruce Park.

“Youth is the shining light of our future. We are promised to be the great leaders in our later years. We are promised to be the great inventors ... but now we can also be the movers and shakers of the new day.”

— Joseph Godsey, Dobyns-Bennett senior



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King march focuses on youth

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blindness to color and equality for all by passing the torch to several youth leaders.

Dobyns-Bennett senior Joseph Godsey, one of the torch recipients, said young people have the responsibility to contribute to tomorrow and carry on King's dream of erasing color and judging by character.

"Youth is the shining light of our future. We are promised to be the great leaders in our later years. We are promised to be the great inventors ... but now we can also be the movers and shakers of the new day. Together, we are stepping into the promise of the dream," Godsey said.

King also preached for kindness to all and helping those in need, said Collins. In

that spirit, Collins said people must give to each other, even when it hurts.

"We've got to begin to help those who are less fortunate. I don't think we just need to talk or say I will pray for you. I think it is time for us to take responsibility to be caring, to be loving, to share," he said.

Johnson City resident Gloria McClinton said she participated in this year's event because she believes the march represents unity.

"To keep the dream alive and to let everyone see that it is not over, that we have not arrived yet, we shouldn't stop because of the times. Times have gotten better, but still there is a lot to overcome — in all situations, in job opportunities, in housing and education, we still have a long way to go," McClinton said.

Overview



Area residents join MLK march

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