



Martin Luther King III

Martin Luther King III is a human rights advocate and the eldest son of the late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Mrs. Coretta Scott King. He is a former president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, and founder of Realizing the Dream, a nonprofit dedicated to civil rights and human rights that eventually merged with The King Center. He is a vocal advocate on a wide range of social issues in America and abroad, and is committed to furthering his parents' legacy of using nonviolence to fight injustice.



Bishop Victor Curry

Bishop Victor Tyrone Curry leads New Birth Baptist Church in Miami. The church's portfolio includes the Dr. John A. McKinney Christian Academy and New Birth Broadcasting Corp. He is also the former president of the Miami-Dade branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, and chairman of the Save Our Scholarships Coalition.



Julio Fuentes

Julio Fuentes is president and CEO of the Hispanic Council for Reform and Educational Options (Hispanic CREO), which is dedicated to creating awareness about educational crises impacting the Hispanic community and empowering Hispanic parents to advocate for their children. He also serves as president of the Florida State Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (FSHCC), which includes more than 30 chapters that support more than 80,000 minority-owned businesses.



Valentin Mendez

Valentin Mendez is a junior at La Progresiva Presbyterian School in Miami. He was bullied so much in public school, his grades dropped and he stopped going. A tax credit scholarship gave him the opportunity to attend La Progresiva, where he is now making straight A's.



Jeannette Ruiz

Jeannette Ruiz is the mother of Valentin Mendez. She says a tax credit scholarship saved her son, because she wouldn't have been able to send him to a safe, high-quality school without it.



Faith Manuel

Faith Manuel is the proud mother of three and a former scholarship parent. She said she appreciates how much the scholarship helped her children succeed, and wants to make sure it continues to help other families. Her oldest son, Davion Manuel-McKenney, is a former scholarship student now studying at the University of North Florida to become a teacher.



Rev. R.B. Holmes

Rev. R. B. Holmes is pastor of Bethel Missionary Baptist Church in Tallahassee. He is a former member of the Board of Trustees for Florida A&M University, and currently serves on the boards of trustees of three other Historically Black College and Universities. He is a father of three, a grandfather and the proud husband of Dr. Gloria Price Holmes.



Rev. H.K. Matthews

Rev. Hawthorne Konrad (H.K.) Matthews is a longtime civil rights leader who marched with Dr. King at Selma and is an icon of the civil rights movement in northwest Florida. After serving in the Korean War, he moved to Pensacola, where he was jailed 35 times protesting injustice and inequality. A park in the city is named in his honor.