

ARCHDIOCESE OF NEW ORLEANS' IMANI TEAM HONORED BY GOVERNMENT



As the Martin Luther King Day approaches, the White House and the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) are joining forces to recognize outstanding volunteers nationwide with the MLK Drum Majors for Service program.

Building off of Dr. King's quote, "If you want to say that I was a drum major, say that I was a drum major for justice," this award honors those that are mission driven, serving throughout the year. New Orleans residents John Smestad, Jr., Ansel Augustine, Bennetta Horne, Kevin Coleman, Jr., Ayana Boudreaux, Helen Bloodworth, Brian Cooper, Daniel Green, Remy Jones, Mary Boutte, Tiffany Martin, Gabrielle Freels, Felicia Boucree, and Chris Keys embody this vision of Dr. King.

Started after Katrina, the Imani team, consisting of adults, young adults, and high school students, sought to rebuild the New Orleans's faith community. They have gone into Black Catholic churches and helped to rebuild those ministries, youth ministries in particular, bringing life back to churches and neighborhoods.

Volunteers have developed a five-year strategic plan for youth and young adult ministry for the black parishes in the Archdiocese and organized retreats and workshops on youth ministry.

The Drum Majors program gives organizations and groups an opportunity to acknowledge and celebrate those volunteers who perform extraordinary everyday acts of service with reliability and commitment, but who seldom receive recognition. Drum Major awardees receive an award from CNCS designating that person as a "Drum Major for Service" with the Presidential Volunteer Service Award.

I'd be happy to connect you with those being honored.

Thank you,

Kate Enos
Deputy Press Secretary
Corporation for National and Community Service