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News Release

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Growing the Beloved Community

MEMPHIS, Tenn. -- “I have a dream.” Those four words started a revolution of ideas, and the one man who said it changed our nation forever. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was a man of peace, a pillar of strength, a symbol of hope, and mostly importantly, he was a definition of love. Dr. King once said, “Life's most persistent and urgent question is, 'what are you doing for others?' ” The Memphis community is beginning to answer that question for Dr. King.

Middle school, high school, and college students from across the city of Memphis and Shelby County will join American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Labor Union and Southern Christian Leadership Conference to participate in two days of service to honor the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

On April 2, 2010, young volunteers will have the opportunity to join in a community service project to clean graffiti, restore park areas and landscape community spaces. The community service day is followed by a “Children’s March” on April 3, 2010 to pay tribute to the sanitation workers who fought for fair wages and better working conditions in 1968.

“Today, young people have more social awareness of their community and world,” said Janice Johnson from Memphis City Schools. “They continue to ask for change and how to make the world a better place. This day of service is the perfect opportunity to call on them to take action and make a difference.”

AFSCME commemorates Dr. King’s death by honoring his legacy through service. What a great day of unity in memory of a great man. Join us to celebrate the power of young people to continue to grow this beloved community of Memphis.