

**“STILL STANDING: Youth Advancing the Dream”**

On August 28, 1963 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. delivered one of the most recognizable and influential speeches in our nation's history. Although at the time Dr. King was fighting for the civil rights and equality of African Americans many of the ideas in King's "Dream" still live on today. Many people today still live by Dr. King's standards and among them are the youth of our community. The youth emulate King's philosophy through their actions, and projects they actively participate in. They are also leading their own generation to follow the "Dream" of a man who inspired an earlier one.

Dr. King was a religious man who relied on the power of God to lead him in his life and actions. This is obvious in King's "I Have a Dream" speech. King said "With this faith we will be able to work together, to pray together, to struggle together...." This means that if people come together in faith, they will, with work, be able to make a change. This pertains to the youth of today in that if the youth of a community, whether it is a church or a synagogue, band together, they can be utilized in such ways that allow them to make a difference with the skills that God has given them.

Like wise King also said "I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character." Although we have made progress against racism since Dr. King's time, there is still discrimination of people based on their race, gender or age. People may sometimes think that because the youth are young, that they are inexperienced and can't accomplish anything. On the contrary the church has allowed the youth to use their gifts to their full advantage and prove to the doubters that it is not their age that matters, but it is their character that allows them to make changes that benefit the world around them.