

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### 6th Annual Celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

#### Contact:

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#### 2018 Raising Kings Week!

*Series of MLK week events to foster positive images and expectations of men and boys of color in a society that says Black males will end up one of two places by the age of 25...*

WILMINGTON, DE – There are 121 (mostly Black males) incarcerated just on the Ferris Campus right now; 5 institutions just in Wilmington where youth are incarcerated; 49,629 school suspensions just last school year; increased gun violence among young black males (145 shooting victims last year!); A homicide rate that is on the rise; and an American narrative that says that Black males will end up one of two places by the age of 25; it's beyond time to do something...

Honoring the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., One Village Alliance, Brandywine School District and the Delaware Historical Society present the 5th Annual Raising Kings Conference honoring the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. As we look at where we are today as a nation, it's clear that mere social gatherings are not enough. [Raising Kings](#) is a year-round, high impact opportunity to connect our highest needs youth with positive male mentors, role models and fathers.

Our impact continues year-round beginning in January with Raising Kings Week. **More than 700 men, boys and their families** gather annually for a full schedule of inspiring narratives, thought provoking presentations, and courageous conversations. Our goal is to secure 130 new mentor commitments and build our capacity to support evidence-based programming hosted weekly in schools and community sites including Ferris School for Boys.

Recently, the C.D.C. division that investigates the aftermath of disaster, came to Wilmington to explore a [public health issue](#) claiming the lives of young black males: gun violence. "Our investigation was not focused on the mechanism of injury, but rather the opportunities to intervene on more root causes of violence such as prior exposure to violence, family disruption and limited educational attainment." Courtney Lenard, CDC Epidemic Intelligence [The New York Times](#). Disproportionately high recurrent violence, trauma, substance use and mental health issues among our children devastate entire families throughout the nation. We must change these outcomes in Delaware... We have no choice!

- ▲ Wilmington consistently ranks in the top five [most violent cities](#) in the country.
- ▲ To date, 2017 has been a record breaking violent year with [176 shooting victims](#).
- ▲ Delaware has the highest prison population per capita [in the entire world](#). 87% nonviolent detainees are [black males](#).
- ▲ [87% of incarcerated black males](#) report being raised in a fatherless home.
- ▲ In 2014, [4,303 juveniles were arrested](#) in DE. [71.8% were African-American](#).
- ▲ In just one 8 month school year (2015-16) the DOE reports [49,629 school suspensions](#) (17,258 different students). [123 were expelled](#).
- ▲ Black males are the highest represented population in health disparities, and academic underachievement.

RK presenters and honorees have included: Poets laureate [Nnamdi Chukwuocha and Albert Mills](#); 14 yr. old National Figure Skater, [Emmanuel Savary](#); 16 yr. old Chess Champion, [Johnny Means](#); [Professor David C. Wilson, PhD](#); [Judge William L. Chapman, Jr.](#); [Police Chief Bobby Cummings](#); National Education Leader, [Principal Salome Thomas-El](#); [Dr. Kim Allen and Billy Allen](#), U.S Senator Chris Coons, and Attorney General Matt Denn. The conference is free. Participants must register. Full schedule and info at [www.iamthevillage.org](http://www.iamthevillage.org) or call 855-YOUTH-ED

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**One Village Alliance (OVA)** is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization founded with the assertion that it truly does take a whole village to raise a child, raise a family and raise a community. Our mission is to uplift children and their families on a holistic journey toward excellence through education, entrepreneurship and the arts.

# Raising KINGS

## Week of Action

January 9-15, 2018 | Wilmington, DE

Changing the Image & Expectations of Men & Boys of Color

### Raising Kings WEEK of ACTION!

- 1|9** "King Me!" Chess & Mentoring Challenge  
*Ferris School for Boys | 5:30 - 8:30 p.m.*
  - 1|10** \$1,000 "I Have A Dream" Pitch Competition  
*1313 Innovation | 6:00 - 8:30 p.m.*
  - 1|11** Street Law Session  
*Young Conaway Stargatt & Taylor | 6:30 p.m.*
  - 1|12** Film Screening & Talk Back  
*Delaware Art Museum | 5:30 - 8:30 p.m.*
  - 1|13** The Raising Kings Conference  
*PS DuPont Middle School | 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.*
  - 1|14** Raising Kings Faith Observance  
*The Resurrection Center | 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.*
  - 1|15** Dr. Martin Luther King Day of Service  
*Delaware Art Museum | 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.*
- Raising Kings Gala #BHIM**  
*African American Heritage Center | 5:30 - 8:30 p.m.*



Fathers & Sons | Boys | Men | Mothers Raising Sons | Educators | Practitioners

REGISTER NOW! [WWW.IAMTHEVILLAGE.ORG](http://WWW.IAMTHEVILLAGE.ORG)

INFO @FAMILY@IAMTHEVILLAGE.ORG OR 855-YOUTH-ED

Facebook One Village Alliance Instagram 1VillageAlliance Twitter OneAlliance #RK2018 #BHIM



### PSA

Young Black Men, Fathers, Sons, Mentors and boys of all ages!  
Did you know...  
You are loved...  
You are valuable...  
You are KINGS!  
**Join us for an MLK celebration that celebrates YOU!**

Don't miss **2018 Raising Kings Week** featuring DJ Blare, Meet young Black Authors, Business Moguls, Athletes and Leaders who will share their secrets to success! Pair up for a \$1000 CASH prize Business Pitch Competition! Raising Kings Week - January 10th through the 16th...

REGISTER TODAY at [WWW-DOT-I-AM-THE-VILLAGE-DOT-O-R-R-G](http://WWW-DOT-I-AM-THE-VILLAGE-DOT-O-R-R-G) or TEXT THE WORD KINGS TO 58885.

It's time to show them who we REALLY are!