

The Alliance

The Alliance for Cultural and Ethnic Harmony is dedicated to promoting unity, justice, equal opportunity, ethnic awareness, cross-cultural understanding and appreciation for diversity.

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Diversity, Unity, Justice are at the Heart of ACEH.

A 501c3 organization

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Hope College, Holland Organizations Celebrate Life, Work of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Jan. 20

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr Civil Rights Lecture at Hope College will feature a speaker who personally knew Dr. King and his wife, Coretta Scott King.

Xernona Clayton is a nationally renowned activist, TV personality, CEO, and philanthropist. Her address "MLK: A Legacy of Love, Faith, Commitment and Sacrifice" will take place Monday, Jan 20, at 2 pm at Dimnent Memorial Chapel, 227 College Ave, Holland. The public is invited; admission is free.

In 1965, she accepted a position with the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, working closely with Dr. King and traveling extensively with Mrs. King on nationwide tours.

Ms. Clayton is founder of the Trumpet Awards Foundation and creator of its Trumpet Awards that highlight African American accomplishments and contributions. She was employed at Turner Broadcasting for nearly 30 years, including serving as corporate vice president for urban affairs.

She is co-author of revised editions of a biography of Dr. King, "The Peaceful Warrior," first written by her late husband, Ed. Her own autobiography "I've Been Marching All the Time," was published in 1991. She was the first African American in the South to have her own TV show, a regular feature on the CBS affiliate in Atlanta.

Other community events celebrating the life and work of Dr. King :

Holland Museum, 11 am – 4 pm: Free admission. Family activities; "How Would You Change the World?" 31 West 10th St.

Herrick District Library, North Branch, 10 am – 7 pm: Take part in volunteer activities to benefit the community. 155 Riley St.

Herrick District Library, Main, noon – 7 pm: Animated video celebrating spirit of Dr. King's work shown every half hour. 300 South River Ave.

Please save the dates--Everyone's Invited!

- **Friday, February 7, 7 pm:** Dr. Sonja Trent-Brown of Hope College will speak about the intersection of race and gender, in connection with the Us vs THEM exhibit from the Jim Crow Museum. Hosted by ACEH at the Holland Museum, 31 West 10th St, Holland.



- **Saturday, March 28, 5 pm:** Annual Community Potluck and Cultural Sharing Party "All That Jazz"! Come enjoy delicious foods, entertainment, family activities, silent auction of new goods and services, fun and fellowship. At First United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall, 57 West 10th St, Holland.
- **NOTE:** To donate an item to the auction, please contact Al Minert at (616) 396-3751 or apminerthm@att.net.

Come Join ACEH in 2020! Support Its Work in the Community

A warm ACEH welcome to these new members: **Karen Howells, Ricki Levine and Mark Epstein, Kathleen Sullivan**, and the organization **Lakeshore Nonprofit Alliance**. Many thanks to renewing members **Bin and Lisa Lim**.

This month we are very grateful for financial contributions from **David Blatt and David Moore, Karen Howells, and Mary Johnson**.

Memberships and donations help support our work in the community, including programs, advocacy, partnerships, publications (monthly Newsletter and weekly "In the Community"), two social events during the year, and scholarships for high school students. You can donate on our website www.harmonyalliance.org or mail a check to the address below.



Becoming a member: The ACEH membership dues are: **Individual: \$20 one year; \$35 two years;** **Couple/Family: \$30 one year; \$50 two years;** **Nonprofit: \$40 one year; Business: \$75 one year.**

In lieu of, or in addition to, paying dues, you may make a pledge of service to ACEH. Checks should be made out to ACEH and sent to Treasurer Al Minert, c/o ACEH, Box 3007, Holland, MI 49422-3007. To pay online, go to www.harmonyalliance.org and follow the prompts. To find out if your membership is current, please contact Herb Weller at hpweller@comcast.net

Our_Take: Seeing results in affordable_housing efforts*

— Mike Goorhouse and Hadley Streng are co-chairs of Housing Next.

Ryan Kilpatrick is executive director.

Two years ago, eight organizations came together to begin to implement solutions to our local housing affordability challenges that were surfacing through Greater Ottawa County stakeholder discussions. We each made a conscious choice to work together because of the magnitude of the challenge and the reality that all sectors have a role to play if we are going to meaningfully address housing affordability.



As we reflect on the progress we've achieved through our second year, we celebrate those making decisions to advance community efforts to make housing more affordable for all.

Since **Housing Next** was formally established, four of Ottawa County's most populated communities (**City of Holland, City of Grand Haven, Grand Haven Township,** and the **City of Hudsonville**) have each undertaken major overhauls of their local zoning codes. Several other communities are in the process of evaluating specific standards which limit housing supply. This is critical work necessary before any new building at cost-effective scale can be done.

Good Samaritan Ministries has started a nonprofit property management arm for affordable rental units, filling a significant "housing ecosystem" gap. <https://www.goodsamministries.com/what-we-do/gsm-properties/>

In early 2019, we released a county-wide **Housing Needs Assessment** which identified the overall need for housing at all price points across Ottawa County. The availability of market data has been immeasurably helpful when working to attract new developers to the County and seek out opportunity development sites with local communities.

In 2019, the **Ottawa County Board of Commissioners** chose to re-establish the County Housing Commission and appointed a new five-member board.

Since 2018, **Housing Next** has worked to support nearly a dozen individual development projects which will create up to 2,000 new housing units at a range of price points across the County when completed. These projects are in various stages of planning and/or construction and include town homes, condominiums and apartment buildings.

Lakeshore Habitat for Humanity and **Jubilee Ministries** have combined their efforts on several projects across the Holland/Zeeland area in a way that demonstrates extraordinary creativity and innovation. Both are trying new models and scaling up the number of units they produce each year.

The leadership at Habitat and Jubilee should be commended for their steadfast commitment to the mission and their adaptability to a changing marketplace.

This is amazing progress in just a couple of short years. It is important to pause to celebrate these significant steps forward...but we won't stop here. Many of our friends, coworkers and neighbors struggle to make ends meet and we must continue to work to make more progress for our community. We are energized and grateful for the many voices championing this cause and for those taking actions, big and small, to help make housing more affordable for all. Together, let's stay committed to making the list of accomplishments twice as long in the years to come.

We encourage you to visit the Housing Next website for more information and conversation on those topics, and to read our full 2019 Summary Report: www.housingnext.org/about

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*Bringing People
Together from Worlds Apart*

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"Just Mercy" Showing at AMC Star 8 Holland

"Slavery didn't end. It just evolved. The accumulated insults and indignations caused by racial presumptions are destructive. Constantly being suspected, accused, watched, doubted, distrusted, presumed guilty, and feared is a burden borne by people of color that can't be understood or confronted without a conversation about our history of racial injustice."

The quote is by attorney Bryan Stevenson, author of the acclaimed memoir "Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption" and founder of the Equal Justice Initiative. A film ("Just Mercy"), based on the book and his work and using the cases of two men, aims for justice on death row. Rated PG-13 "for thematic content including some racial epithets"; 2 hours, 16 minutes. **Showing through Wednesday, January 15, at AMC Star Holland 8, 12270 James St., Holland.**

<https://www.showtimes.com/movie-theaters/amc-star-holland-8-10201/> or call 394-5774.

Don't miss this extraordinary film!