

First Place – UrbanPromise Martin Luther King, Jr. Speech Contest

Josh Williams

Age 12

### **Martin & Me**

To me Martin Luther King, Jr. was a leader. I aspire to live my life in a similar way to Martin's. We both have a dream that one-day whites and blacks will come together and be friends. I don't think that it should just be blacks and whites, I believe it should be every culture even the Iraqi people.

UrbanPromise is helping to make Martin's dream a reality.

At UrbanPromise we have interns and directors from all over the world including Africa, Canada and the US. This has given me a better understanding of other cultures. We get to go places with them. They share their lives and what they've been through.

It's opened up a whole new world for me.

For example, Suzaane, one of the interns at my camp, took us to British Columbia, Canada last April. On the trip we meet people from different backgrounds and heard new accents. We also discovered new activities. Martin would have been proud of UrbanPromise for what they are doing to keep his dream alive. He wanted us to all be friends and family and get along and at UrbanPromise we are doing that.

I am also like Martin because we both fight for our city. Martin fought for his city Montgomery, Alabama. Recently, I had the opportunity to stand up for Camden on 20/20. I wanted to tell the country that Camden is not a bad place to be. Camden just wants to be like any other place in America, even though we have many obstacles to overcome. He fought for equal rights and I'm still fighting for Camden to be a better place.

Martin fought with his mouth and not with his hands. His non-violence approach was an example for us. If he had fought with his hands he would have never accomplished anything. I wish president Bush and other leaders would do what Martin did because the USA would be a more peaceful country.

I hope you will join me and help keep Martin's dream alive.