



20th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Breakfast and Celebration

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION are core values at Big Brothers Big Sisters of Eastern Massachusetts. We believe that we maximize our impact and truly thrive as an organization when perspectives are diverse, our culture is inclusive, and our practices model the equity we want to see in the world. Continued support allows the agency to expand their Community Mentoring Programs to at-risk youth.

OUR MISSION

The mission of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Eastern Massachusetts is to partner with under-resourced families to provide their children with transformational, one-to-one professionally-supported relationships with caring adult mentors, so that their children will thrive.

OUR VISION

Our vision is to inspire, engage and transform the communities of Eastern Massachusetts by helping youth achieve their full potential, contributing to healthier families, better schools, brighter futures and stronger communities.



January 15th, 2024

9:00 to 11:00 a.m.



**First Parish Unitarian Universalist
Trueblood Hall
23 North Main Street, Cohasset**

20th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration

Welcome — Rev. Dan Harper

Choir Anthem — “We Are...” - Ysaye Barnwell

Reading — Cohasset Clergy Group

Song — “Sing for Justice” - Trad. Welsh tune, arr. Abbie Betinis;
words by Brennan Blue (*see insert)

Introduction of Honored Guest —
Director of the Cohasset METCO Program, Aleisa Gittens-Carle

Keynote Address — “Igniting the Passion to Cultivate the Dream”
De’Shawn C. Washington

Song — “Lift Every Voice and Sing” (*see insert)

Closing words — Dan Harper

Special Notes –
Breakfast proceeds will be dedicated to Big Brothers Big Sisters of Eastern Massachusetts. De’Shawn, a volunteer for the organization, shares “they have done amazing work mentoring and supporting the development of children for many years.”

**Today’s event is co-sponsored by the
Cohasset Diversity Committee and the Cohasset Clergy.**

Today’s Honored Guest: De’Shawn C. Washington!



De’Shawn C. Washington teaches a fourth grade inclusion classroom at Maria Hastings Elementary School in Lexington, Massachusetts. He holds a Bachelor of Science in accounting and finance, a Master of Education in elementary education and a Master of Education in special education from the University of Massachusetts Boston. He is working on a doctorate in educational leadership and policy from Vanderbilt University.

In addition to teaching, Washington is a member of his district’s diversity, equity and inclusion community input team, elementary schedule review committee and student success team. He is also a member of the school site council. Prior to his work in Lexington, he taught in Boston Public Schools.

Outside of school, Washington runs workshops at the University of Massachusetts Boston to help pre-service teachers pass the Massachusetts Tests for Education Licensure, has presented and published about culturally responsive instruction and volunteers at his church and as a Big Brother. He received Lexington Public Schools’ Core Values Award in April 2021 for building and sustaining a sense of community in his classroom. As part of his practice, he develops his students’ ability to work together and resolve disagreements. Washington believes his role is to cultivate change-makers, and his students have successfully advocated for policies such as a different recess structure.