



## Manhattan



### Hundreds Volunteer At MLK Serve-A-Thon

January 20, 2008

*Martin Luther King, Jr.'s mission was kept alive this weekend as hundreds of people volunteered their time in his memory. NY1's Cindi Avila filed the following report.*

People lined up to get donated food and clothes at the Xavier Mission in the West Village, thanks to the volunteers participating in the MLK Day "Serve-a-Thon."

This three-day holiday weekend, hundreds took time out of their busy schedules to lend a hand in the memory of Civil Rights leader Martin Luther King, Jr.

"Instead of taking a weekend off, they want to serve, so they've come to us to do so," said Cassandra Daigle of the Xavier Mission.

Forty years after his assassination, the New York Coalition Against Hunger says it's more important than ever to keep one of Dr. King's statements alive: "Anybody can be great, because anybody can serve."

"The message behind the Serve-a-Thon is just to give back and just to be selfless in these three days and to carry on the message of Dr. King," said Vicky Dumbuya of the New York Coalition Against Hunger.

The Serve-a-Thon took place at 30 soup kitchens throughout the five boroughs with 400 volunteers participating, some of them as young as high school students.

"It feels really good to be able to actually help people, because we don't get a chance to do that a lot because we are young," said ninth grade volunteer Julia Lee.

But some realize Dr. King's message extends past this weekend.

"More than just on a holiday, I think he wanted people to do it all the time. You've got to try and go out and do it as much as you can," said ninth grade volunteer Dominic Lounds.

This is the fifth year for the Serve-a-Thon that runs through late Monday.

But for people like Ann Mary Mullane, the clothing coordinator at Xavier Mission, giving back and carrying on Dr. King's legacy is a year round mission. One that she finds very fulfilling.

"It feels good!" she said.

Volunteers can also deliver meals to home-bound residents. Those interested in helping can call 212-825-0028 or log on to [www.nyccah.org](http://www.nyccah.org).

– Cindi Avila

