



Noah Hewitt

## **Noah Hewitt Wins County-wide MLK Essay Contest**

Noah Hewitt, a seventh grade student at Northview Middle School, is the winner of the Maiden Rosenwald Community Development Corporation’s Martin Luther King, Jr. Essay Contest.

The contest is open each year to students in grades six through eight, who attend either Hickory Public Schools, Catawba County Schools, or Newton-Conover City Schools. Noah Hewitt is the winner for the entire county.

Noah’s essay entitled, “How Martin Luther King, Jr. Impacts My Life Today,” was written during the Christmas holiday—while he was home on vacation. “At first, I didn’t want to write the essay,” said Noah. “But my mom encouraged me, and my grandmother told me I needed to write the essay. She told me that this type of opportunity would never have been given to me years ago. So I knew that writing the essay was something I had to do. I like to write—but I never thought I would win,” said Noah.

Writing is a big part of Noah’s life. His mother, Yolander Kennedy, actively works with Noah over the summer months—providing writing prompts to help strengthen Noah’s writing skills. Education is valued in their household—as Ms. Kennedy is finishing up her student teaching in preparation for spring graduation from Lenoir-Rhyne University.

“Since I was around six years old, I have always known the importance of Martin Luther King, Jr.,” said Noah. “I have several books about him on my bookshelf—and his speech, *I Have a Dream*, has always been a part of my life. Martin Luther King, Jr. wanted his children and all people to be treated equally—and not to be judged by the color of their skin, but by their character.”

“Today, I can go to school with my own friends. Students from different races all get to play on the same basketball team. It’s not like it says ‘for whites only,’” said Noah.

“When I grow up, I can have a job of my choice and I can go to a college of my choice—thanks to Martin Luther King, Jr.,” said Noah.

Noah enjoys playing basketball at Northview Middle School, where he also sings in the seventh grade choir. When not reading, writing, shooting hoops or singing, Noah also enjoys walking his dog. His favorite subject is science. As for future plans, Noah has no idea at this age what he wants to study one day, but he does like the idea of attending the University of Tennessee in Knoxville.

“Noah is outstanding,” said Pam Helms, principal of Northview Middle School. “Everything about him is outstanding. His demeanor, his manners, his character—and the way he carries himself at school. We congratulate Noah on his achievement and recognition—as he is very deserving.”

Noah Hewitt will be recognized on Sunday, January 15th at Rock Barn Golf & Spa during the annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration Banquet, sponsored by the Maiden Rosenwald Community Development Corporation.

### ***Congratulations to Noah Hewitt!***



**Northview Principal, Pam Helms with Noah Hewitt, winner of the MLK Essay Contest**