



*"I believe unarmed truth and unconditional love will have the final say in reality."*

*Dr. Martin Luther King*

January 29, 2026

Dear Wonderful Friends and Advocates:

There are no words created which could fully describe the musings of this most grateful heart. For over 30 years, we have come together as dedicated servants distributing food, clothes, shoes, helping with so many things which have moved us on and up. We have experienced many things as we work to make the future brighter for future generations. Our soul has been tested, but we have not forgotten that "God didn't bring us this far to leave us".

Please be advised that our first breakfast meeting will be —

**Monday, February 23, 2026**

at St. Margaret's Catholic Church  
410 Addison Road South  
Capitol Heights, Maryland

We hope to have a presentation from Fire Safety, "Understanding Your Heart" and the services of the Department of Aging. We will also have presentations from our Law Enforcement and EMS agencies. I will provide legislative data which you requested.

This is a month of reflection as we spend time with our family about the rich contributions of African Americans. It is also time to kiss and hug the people you love and remind them how special they are. ***Please be advised that if it is snowing or weather presents a travel problem, we will not be meeting.***

This is your coalition; we could not be successful without you. Thank you for everything you do and all that you say which has kept us together for the good.

Gripped With Thanksgiving,

*Joanne C. Benson*

Joanne C. Benson

State Senator

24<sup>th</sup> Legislative District

Prince George's County, Maryland