



# THE BRIEN CENTER

Diversity • Equity • Inclusion • Belonging

Your courage, our care.

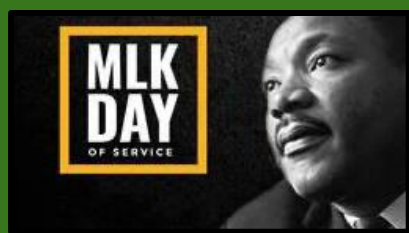
## NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2024

### MLK DAY OF SERVICE

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. believed in a nation of freedom and justice for all, and encouraged all citizens to live up to the purpose and potential of America by applying the principles of nonviolence.

MLK Day is the only federal holiday designated as a National Day of Service to encourage all Americans to volunteer to improve their communities. For nearly 30 years, the MLK Day of Service has grown, and its impact has increased as more individuals embrace the idea that citizenship involves taking an active role in improving our communities.



### INCLUSIVE LANGUAGE HIGHLIGHT OF THE MONTH

Recognize the impact of mental health language. “Bipolar,” “PTSD,” “OCD,” and “ADD” are real mental health diagnoses that people possess. Using these terms to describe everyday behaviors underplays the impact of someone’s experiences with a mental disorder. Avoid other derogatory terms that stem from the context of mental health, like “schizo,” “paranoid,” “psycho,” “crazy” or “insane.” These words give negative value and contribute to marginalizing individuals with mental health conditions.

### INTERNATIONAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE FOR VICTIMS OF THE HOLOCAUST

January 27th is designated by the United Nations General Assembly as International Holocaust Remembrance Day. The U.N. urges every member nation to honor the memory of Holocaust victims, six million Jews, "one third of the Jewish people, along with countless members of other minorities," and encourages the development of educational programs about Holocaust history to help prevent future acts of genocide. It rejects any denial of the Holocaust as an event and condemns all manifestations of religious intolerance, incitement, harassment or violence against persons or communities based on ethnic origin or religious belief. It also calls for actively preserving the Holocaust sites that served as Nazi death camps, concentration camps, forced labor camps and prisons, as well as for establishing a U.N. programme of outreach and mobilization of society for Holocaust remembrance and education.



### NEURODIVERGENT

The term “neurodivergent” refers to people whose brain processes information in a unique way. That means they navigate challenges that are not typical of most individuals. The possible challenges include medical disorders, learning disabilities and other conditions.

Questions/Comments/Suggestions for the DEI Committee?  
Contact Us: DEI@briencenter.org