

Name: Collette Fleur Hammond
Grade: 7
School: Long River Middle School
3rd Congressional District

Accept Everyone's Greatness

Martin Luther King Jr.'s dream. A dream where anyone and everyone is included in everyday life, no matter the race, gender, or religion. When I reflect on Martin Luther King Jr.'s dream, I think about peace and inclusion in everyday society. Whether it be from autism, somebody's racial background, religion, or maybe somebody may have a different mindset than somebody else's, it does not diminish a person's value. My dream as a young adult is that this world will find acceptance for those who may feel left out, different, or lost. I hope that one day, the people who struggle will find peace in society and will be welcomed. I pray that those who have been betrayed or those who have been left because of a certain disability will once again join and find people they can trust. Back in the 1960s, Martin Luther King Jr. was fighting for racial discrimination. Now, the scope is broader and the stakes are higher. Young adults in our current world struggle with many different pressures beyond the color of their skin. I look around me to see kids wanting to be cool or wear what other people have on just to fit in. I see many students and young adults struggle with being themselves because people make fun of them.

I wonder if Martin Luther King Jr. were still alive, with the work he started, where would our world be today? I want to believe that he would have fought for rights for gay people, women, those with disabilities, and our world would be a beautiful place. It should be simple, acceptance for being the person you are and the greatness you can offer those around you, your community, and your world.