



FROM THE CEO, DREW DYSON

## Living a Legacy

Dear Friends,

I believe that each of us carries the important task of living a legacy. For some of us, that task may be carrying forward the legacy left for us by our parents — or other beloved family or friends — who are no longer with us. For others, that may be the task of creating a new legacy for future generations that inspire creativity, integrity, compassion, or generosity. I know that, as I approach the 1st and 3rd anniversaries of my parents' deaths this fall, I am conscious of the gifts I have received from each of them (and aware of the complexities), and I am committed to living into their legacy of compassion and generosity. What is the legacy that you are living?

Rev. Dr. Bernice A. King carries an extraordinary legacy. As the youngest daughter of Martin Luther King Jr. and Coretta Scott King, and now CEO of the King Center in Atlanta, she proudly carries the mantle of her mother and father's work for justice and equality in the United States and around the world. On October 16, we invite you to join us for a transformational evening with Dr. King as she reflects on this legacy and shares her hopes for our nation.

Many people have asked Dr. King to unpack her father's legacy in light of our contemporary societal milieu. How would your father respond, she is asked, if he were alive today? In an article in *The Atlantic* last January, she wrote: "Now more than ever, I believe that my father would encourage humanity to join together in love, commit to assisting people around the globe, and travel the path of nonviolence toward the 'beloved community' — a society, as he envisioned it, of justice and equal opportunity."

Dr. King is also quick to share about her mother Coretta's legacy. In many ways, she argues, Coretta was the true "architect" of the King legacy. She notes in her article, "A Woman Purposed to be a King, that before she was a King," her mother was a civil rights activist, member of the NAACP and the



Race Relations and Civil Liberties committees at Antioch College, a gifted vocalist and musician at the prestigious New England Conservatory for Music in Boston, a peace advocate and delegate at numerous international peace conferences, and an accomplished artist.

Dr. King believes that her mother's tireless work and advocacy was as instrumental in changing the face of the country, albeit more behind the scenes, than her father. Coretta founded The King Center for Nonviolent Social Change in 1968, the same year as MLK's assassination. Bernice writes of her mother, "Consider that at the time of my father's death, a poll found him to be 'the most hated man in America.' My mother's efforts as the Architect of the King Legacy changed the way that, not only America, but the entire world views my father."

What an extraordinary legacy she carries! And what a fantastic opportunity we have to hear her reflections on that legacy. I truly hope you will join us on October 16 for our annual fall fundraiser – and a transformational evening with this powerful leader — as we reflect together on how we can all live into her parent's legacy of justice and equality for all. I also hope you will take time to reflect on your own legacy that you are living and the hopes and dreams you are passing on to future generations.

All the Best,  
*Drew A. Dyson, PhD*  
*Chief Executive Officer*