

# Free health care serves as unique tribute to King

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By Rachel Mauro  
Special to The Sentinel

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It started off as a conversation between colleagues, Marilyn Kawamura, president of health maintenance organization Kaiser Foundation Health Plan of the Mid-Atlantic States, Inc. said. The employees of Kaiser Permanente Largo Medical Center had always taken Martin Luther King Day as a day for philanthropy, for example working for Meals on Wheels one year.

But two and a half years ago, Kawamura and the medical director decided that their fellow employees should do "something together." And on Jan. 15, Kaiser Permanente Largo Medical Center held its second annu-

al day of providing free health care to Prince George's uninsured citizens.

Dozens of smiling volunteers, comprised of employees and their families, Kawamura said, greeted patients at the door and served in a variety of roles including escorting patients to various stations, food service and working the kids' play area.

Kawamura was optimistic about the spirit of the day, which began at 8:15 a.m. and ran until 2 p.m., she said.

"These children of families were not alive when Martin Luther King was alive, and we thought that everyone should understand what this day is all about—serving others."

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