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NEWS – For Immediate Release



United Way of
Chittenden County

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NOTED BROADCASTER TAVIS SMILEY TO KEYNOTE BURLINGTON'S DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. REMEMBRANCE CELEBRATION

Event takes place Sunday, January 20 on the eve of MLK Day and Presidential Inauguration

BURLINGTON, VT (January 14, 2013): Organizers for the annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. celebration announced today that noted broadcaster and *New York Times* bestselling author Tavis Smiley will be their keynote speaker for this year's event beginning 3 p.m., Sunday, January 20, 2013, at the Universalist Church at the top of Church Street.

From his celebrated conversations with world figures to his work to inspire the next generation of leaders, Smiley has emerged as an outstanding voice for change in his roles as not just broadcaster and author but as a publisher, advocate, and philanthropist. In addition to hosting the late-night television talk show, *Tavis Smiley*, now celebrating ten seasons on PBS and *The Tavis Smiley Show* and *Smiley & West* from Public Radio International (PRI), Smiley has authored 16 books. His latest book, *The Rich and the Rest of Us: A Poverty Manifesto*, co-authored with radio co-host Dr. Cornel West, became a *New York Times* best-seller, and the book he edited, *Covenant with Black America*, became the first nonfiction book by a Black-owned publisher to reach #1 on *The New York Times*' best-sellers list.

The event is free and open to the public, but tickets are required to attend and can be obtained from Fletcher Free Library or City Market in downtown Burlington. Sponsors for the celebration include: City of Burlington; Church Street Marketplace; United Way of Chittenden County; KeyBank; NBT Bank; Vermont Department of Labor; People's United Bank and Spruce Mortgage.

On Monday, January 21, the public is also invited to gather from noon until 2 p.m. at City Hall for a panel discussion on “The Disproportionate Number of Minorities Incarcerated in Vermont.” This event is free and no tickets are required.

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