

Nashville Resident Joseph Cole Named Allstate Give Back Day Hero

Written by Admin

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Allstate Insurance Company today announced that Joseph Cole of Nashville has been named a 2013 Allstate Give Back Day Hero. For the fifth consecutive year, Allstate Insurance Company is honoring the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., through Allstate Give Back Day, a national program that encourages individuals across the country to volunteer.

This year, actress and volunteer enthusiast Keshia Knight Pulliam has partnered with Allstate to help launch the program and recognize Cole and the three other selfless African-American heroes who dedicate their time and efforts to making a positive impact in their communities.

As a young student at Overton High School, Cole dreamed of working in the construction industry. His involvement in Nashville's ACE (Architecture, Construction and Engineering) Mentor program throughout high school inspired Cole to earn his degree in architecture from the University of Tennessee. During his time there, he also earned the Chancellor's Gene Mitchell Gray Pioneer Award for improving diversity throughout the campus, and was instrumental in reactivating a National Organization of Minority Architecture Students chapter. Cole was also active in INROADS, an organization established to develop and place talented underserved youth in business and industry. Upon graduation, Cole landed a position with Thomas, Miller and Partners in Brentwood, Tenn. He now serves as a mentor at ACE and continues to work towards increasing diversity in his industry while serving as a role model for students of all backgrounds who are interested in architecture.

"Joseph Cole is an outstanding individual who keeps Dr. King's legacy alive through his unwavering devotion to bettering the greater Nashville community," said Vicky Dinges, vice president of public social responsibility for Allstate. "Each of our heroes has truly made a commitment to community service, and we hope that their dedication will serve as motivation for others to give back on MLK Day and every day." Cole joins Freedom Wright from Atlanta, Jackie Lomax from Chicago and Margaret Dixon from Oakland, Calif., as this year's class of 2013 Allstate Give Back Day Heroes. These remarkable heroes help create positive, sustainable change in their communities with a focus on addressing important causes such as education, diversity advocacy, disadvantaged youth and teens in foster care. As part of their recognition, the heroes will attend The King Center's "Salute to Greatness" Awards in Atlanta on

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Jan. 19, 2013, for a celebration of individuals and organizations that exemplify excellence in leadership. Each hero will also participate in a volunteer activity in their hometown over MLK weekend 2013. In addition, Allstate will be making a \$2,500 donation on behalf of Cole to the charity organization of his choice.

Pulliam will also be attending a special Allstate Give Back Day volunteer event in Atlanta on MLK Day, Jan. 21, 2013. "It is an honor for me to be associated with such a remarkable group of heroes. I have always placed a high value on volunteerism in my own life and it is incredible to see such selfless individuals carrying out the legacy of the great Dr. King in their communities," said Pulliam, who founded Kamp Kizzy in Atlanta to help empower the spirits of young girls.

Individuals interested in participating in Allstate Give Back Day 2013 in Tennessee and across the country can visit allstate.com/GiveBackDay to find local volunteer opportunities via VolunteerMatch, an online search engine promoting volunteerism and civic engagement by matching volunteers with charitable organizations and non-profits. Visitors to the website can also view the profiles of each of the Give Back Day Heroes, which include exclusive video interviews with each hero on the details of their community involvement.

About Allstate - The Allstate Corporation (NYSE: ALL) is the nation's largest publicly held personal lines insurer, serving approximately 16 million households through its Allstate, Encompass, Esurance and Answer Financial brand names. Widely known by its slogan "You're In Good Hands With Allstate®," Allstate offers insurance products (auto, home, life and retirement) and services through Allstate agencies, independent agencies, and Allstate exclusive financial representatives, as well as via www.allstate.com and 1-800 Allstate®. As part of Allstate's commitment to strengthen local communities, The Allstate Foundation, Allstate employees, agency owners and the corporation provided \$28 million in 2011 to thousands of nonprofit organizations and important causes across the United States. *{jcomments on}*