

## DMC RNs HONOR THE IDEALS AND LEGACY OF MLK



On Monday, January 21<sup>st</sup>, a packed audience at Central United Methodist Church, located at Woodward and Adams, sang, preached and prayed during a moving ceremony honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. DMC nurses participated in the program that recognized the ongoing struggle for unity, dignity, human rights and workers' rights.

Carolyn Harrington, Harper RN, addressed the crowd, carrying the spirit of Dr. King. She emphasized that the struggles of the nurses and the struggles of the patients, at the Detroit Medical Center, are one. The RNs are members and advocates of the Detroit community. In trying to form their union, they not only improve the quality of their own practice, but also the quality of care for patients. She urged everyone to get involved – the need for change is always relevant. Her moving testimony was met alternately with tears and applause.

Harrington ended saying, "I am your nurse!"

The church rattled with cheers as she received a standing ovation.

Following the program, hundreds joined in the Freedom March through the streets of downtown Detroit, despite the bitter cold. Nurses led the demonstration holding a banner that read, "DMC RNs organizing for a voice and safe patient care." The chants on the street could have been heard on the steps of DMC, "What do we want?" "Justice!" "When do we want it?" "Now!"

King was a champion for worker's rights as well as civil rights and his activism and legacy live on. The event celebrated the birthday of MLK, Jr. with hope, insight and energy and reminded the nurses that though change is never easy, it is always worthwhile. The inspirational Rally and March reaffirmed the DMC Organizing Committee for Change's commitment to making their mission toward unionization a reality.

RNs are implementing the teachings of Dr. King to move toward a brighter future at DMC.



*"The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy."*

**-Martin Luther King, Jr.**