

**Human progress is neither automatic nor inevitable.... Every step toward the goal of justice requires sacrifice, suffering, and struggle; the tireless exertions and passionate concern of dedicated individuals.** **Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.**

Dr. Andrew James was one of those dedicated individuals. Coming to Mound Bayou, MS, in 1965, where there was sickness, starvation, crumbling housing, joblessness, and illiteracy, providing hope through then Tufts-Delta Health Center not as a medical provider but as a sanitationist who recognized that without clean drinking water and safe housing, people would not get well.

At a time when the infant mortality rate in Mississippi was among the highest in the nation, Dr. James identified that access to clean and safe drinking water greatly reduced the mortality rates of infants and women.

As the first Health Center Director, Dr. James established a department which provided job training to community members to dig water wells and privies so that pregnant women did not have to walk miles to collect clean water.

Delta Health Center continues the legacy of Dr. Andrew James as it continues seeking to improve maternal and infant mortality by identifying and addressing the social and environmental conditions that result in poor birth outcomes through its Maternal Health and Pediatric programs.

We pay homage to the past, the struggles and obstacles that were overcome and the groundwork that Dr. James laid, as we stand on his shoulders in the present, with a renewed commitment to carry forward his work and vision into the future.

John A. Fairman, CEO  
Delta Health Center  
February 5, 2024

Ph. (662) 741-8800  
(662) 741-8882