

asac action

June 2010

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Heart of Iowa Elevator Project

The capital campaign to add an elevator to the Heart of Iowa facility has reached 65% of goal. The most recent donation was a \$20,000 gift from AEGON. It is hoped that with the grant requests and solicitations that will be made over the next few months that the remaining \$76,000 needed to fully fund the project will be obtained by September with construction beginning next fall.



If you would like to make a donation to the Heart of Iowa Elevator Project, send your check to the Area Substance Abuse Council, 3601 16th Avenue SW, Cedar Rapids, IA 52404. Please note that the donation is for Heart of Iowa Elevator.



The Way Home is ASAC's affordable housing program devoted to the choice of recovery. Nestled back off of busy Kirkwood Blvd. SW, in Cedar Rapids, this twenty-four unit apartment complex includes sixteen 2-bedroom units and eight 3-bedroom units. Each apartment is furnished with all major appliances, including a stove, refrigerator,

microwave, washer, dryer, and dishwasher. Rent for a 3 bedroom apartment is \$661 (plus deposit) and \$557 (plus deposit) for our 2 bedroom units. All utilities are included except for telephone, cable, and internet.

The Way Home also provides a playground area for children and their families, a community room for social gatherings and activities, a computer center, and on-site supportive services such as substance abuse counseling, life skills classes, and support groups. There is also a tenant council that represents the community in providing program feedback. For more information contact:



Brenda Bedell, Housing Manager, COS
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History of Juneteenth

Juneteenth is the oldest known celebration commemorating the ending of slavery in the United States.

Dating back to 1865, it was on June 19th that the Union soldiers, led by Major General Gordon Granger, landed at Galveston, Texas with news that the war had ended and that the enslaved were now free. Note that this was two and a half years after President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation - which had become official January 1, 1863. The Emancipation Proclamation had little impact on the Texans due to the minimal number of Union troops to enforce the new Executive Order. However, with the surrender of General Lee in April of 1865, and the arrival of General Granger's regiment, the forces were finally strong enough to influence and overcome the resistance.

The reactions to this profound news ranged from pure shock to immediate jubilation. While many lingered to learn of this new employer to employee relationship, many left before these offers were completely off the lips of their former 'masters' - attesting to the varying conditions on the plantations and the realization of freedom. Even with nowhere to go, many felt that leaving the plantation would be their first grasp of freedom. North was a logical destination and for many it represented true freedom, while the desire to reach family members in neighboring states drove some into Louisiana, Arkansas and Oklahoma. Settling into these new areas as free men and women brought on new realities and the challenges of establishing a heretofore non-existent status for black people in America. Recounting the memories of that great day in June of 1865 and its festivities would serve as motivation as well as a release from the growing pressures encountered in their new territory. The celebration of June 19th was coined "Juneteenth" and grew with more participation from descendants. The Juneteenth celebration was a time for reassuring each other, for praying and for gathering remaining family members. Juneteenth continued to be highly revered in Texas decades later, with many former slaves and descendants making an annual pilgrimage back to Galveston on this date.

Today, Juneteenth is enjoying a phenomenal growth rate within communities and organizations throughout the country. Institutions such as the Smithsonian, the Henry Ford Museum and others have begun sponsoring Juneteenth-centered activities. In recent years, a number of local and national Juneteenth organizations have arisen to take their place along side older organizations - all with the mission to promote and cultivate knowledge and appreciation of African American history and culture.

Juneteenth today, celebrates African American freedom and achievement, while encouraging continuous self-development and respect for all cultures. As it takes on a more national, symbolic and even global perspective, the events of 1865 in Texas are not forgotten, for all of the roots tie back to this fertile soil from which a national day of pride is growing.

Juneteenth Activities in Cedar Rapids

June 18th - 6 PM

Juneteenth - Taste Of Freedom Festival Dinner & Dance

Enjoy tasty soul food and great music at the African American Museum of Iowa.

Dinner: 6 - 8 PM

Dance: 8 PM - 1 AM

Jun 19th - 1 PM

Juneteenth Celebration Day

Join us at Viola Gibson Park for a day of family fun. Visitors will enjoy great music, soul food, along with tours of the African American Museum. There will be a variety of information and retail vendors, games, educational workshops, 2010 Basketball Shoot Out, classic cars and much more. Music will be provided by Urbancoolradio.com