



JOHNSON COUNTY Social Services

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Juneteenth Celebration to Commemorate the End of Slavery in the US

Johnson County, Iowa — The Johnson County Juneteenth Community Committee is hosting a day of family fun from noon-6 pm on Saturday, June 24, at Mercer Park, located at 2701 Bradford Drive in Iowa City. Juneteenth commemorates the end of slavery in the United States. The free event will include free food (while supplies last), live music, and games and activities for the whole family.

This year's theme is "U & I in commUNITY," said event coordinator LaTasha DeLoach. "This is such a great opportunity to bring people together to not only focus on unity, but also remember the past that divided us. This event is for everyone who cares about freedom," she said.

The event will kick off with a panel discussion from 10 am to noon: "Essentials for Success: Passion and Direction," featuring alumni and the head track and field coach from Wartburg College who will share their personal stories and tips on how to be successful in school, work, athletics, and life. The interactive discussion is intended to get youth motivated and thinking about their futures.

The awards presentation for the Iowa City Human Rights Commission's Youth Essay & Art Contest will take place at approximately 12:15 pm. Afternoon activities for children include body painting, double dutch, and hopscotch. Live entertainment will be provided by The Dream Center Performance Art Academy, a spoken word performance by Micah Ariel James, gospel trio Charism, the Funk Daddies and DJ Risquisimo. There will be historical displays and a presentation from the African American Museum of Iowa, as well as an indoor health and information fair and local vendors selling art, clothing, books and more.

Learn more about the Juneteenth event at <http://icjuneteenth.wordpress.com>.

In its second year, the Juneteenth Trailblazer Awards event will take place on Friday, June 23, at the Radisson Hotel and Conference Center in Coralville from 7 to 10 pm. Doors open at 6:30 pm. Trailblazer Awards honor Emerging Activists, Outstanding Leaders and Transformative Icons in the area of civil rights activism. Advance tickets can be purchased at Eventbrite.com (IC Juneteenth Trailblazers Award). <http://bit.ly/2qBnSAi>

The Trailblazer Awards will honor local individuals Kendra Malone with the Outstanding Leader Award, and Monique Green with the Emerging Activist Award. The Transformative Icon Award will honor the Center for Worker Justice.

Marian L. Coleman, who served nearly 40 years as an educator and administrator in the Iowa City Community School District, will be the keynote speaker for the event. Coleman is well known as a leader and a strong advocate for education, civil rights and community service.

Juneteenth event sponsors include the City of Iowa City, the Johnson County Community Partnership for Protecting Children, Johnson County Social Services, Waterfront Hy-Vee, Veridian Credit Union, the Iowa City Parks & Recreation Department, Johnson County Democrats, Hills Bank and Trust Company, Scheels, RAYGUN, Prairie Lights Bookstore, and Forbidden Planet. Trailblazer Awards sponsors include Hills Bank and Trust Company, the University of Iowa Chief Diversity Office, and the Radisson Hotel and Conference Center.

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