

"CONSCIOUS AND INTENTIONAL MINISTRY: DOING WHO I AM WITH UNDERSTANDING"

Of Issachar, those who had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do... 1 Chronicles 12:32

THE PASTOR'S PEN June 18, 2023

WHAT TO EXPECT AT MILWAUKEE'S 2023 JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION By Juan Carlos Garcia Martinez

On Monday, Northcott Neighborhood House will host Milwaukee's 52nd annual Juneteenth celebration, a day of remembrance and community complimented by a lineup full of fun and excitement.

Juneteenth, celebrated every June 19, commemorates the history and abolition of slavery in the United States. The holiday specifically commemorates the day in June 1865 when Union soldiers delivered news of the Emancipation Proclamation to the last slaves in Galveston, Texas. Wisconsin has a rich history of celebrating Juneteenth, notably being one of the first states in the North to commence celebrations with its first Juneteenth Celebration in Milwaukee in 1971 and maintaining the tradition for over half a century.

This year will be no different with the 52nd rendition of the celebration themed "I Am Juneteenth." The upcoming celebrations will once again flood the streets with the excitement of booming music, aromatic foods and countless activities. "I'm most excited to see the people. To see the diversity of participants attending the festival." says Tony Kearey, executive director of Northcott Neighborhood House. Northcott has been a vital leader in organizing the festival since its initial celebrations in the 70s.

There's something for everyone at Juneteenth this year with over 350 vendors to choose from, serving up anything from novelty goods to classic cuisines. An extensive selection of activities, snacks, entertainment and more will be available, some of which will even be curated for specific group zones on the celebration's grounds.

The event's Kid Zone, which will be located at Martin Luther King Elementary Playground, will feature carnival games, free rides, prizes and snacks for kids 12 & under. Additionally, there will be pony rides and more animals from the Beluah Petting Farm, and tunes will be in the hands of DJ L Boogie!

Older kids can expect plenty of activities over at the Teen Zone, located at Clinton Rose Park's south end. Entertainment will include a hula hoop and double dutch contest, dunk contest, three-point shooting contest and three-on-three basketball with and against local officers.

The park's north end will be host to the Veteran's Zone, complete with veteran artifacts and memorabilia, space for resting and access to local community and veteran resources.

Finally, seniors can find a stop by the Senior Zone in the MLK Drive Walgreens parking lot. There will be bingo, entertainment, resources like signups for future senior-specific events and oldies music from DJ Sandra Silk.

As always, the celebrations will have an exciting kick off with the Jubilee Parade, complete with a stunning display of floats, marching bands, dance groups and more. The parade will celebrate the Juneteenth Pageant Court, which was introduced to the community last weekend at Northcott's Freedom Ball. The Freedom Ball is an annual event that kicks off the upcoming celebrations by centering voices in the community, recognizing local contributions and achievements and honoring local youth.

This years Jubilee Parade will commence at 9 a.m. and run until 11 a.m., beginning at 14th & Atkinson and ending on Martin Luther King Drive and Locust. The entirety of the parade with its 100+ participants, as well as some of the opening ceremonies, will be broadcasted live by TMJ4.

"The one thing that's important for us, for everyone, every single person – Milwaukeeans, Americans, period – [is that] Juneteenth is an American holiday. Everyone is welcome at Juneteenth." says Kearey. "The more diversity at Juneteenth, the better. Northcott has been doing it for 52 years and we hope to continue to do it for another 52."



	Educational Enrichment	Technology Literacy	Athletics & Recreation	Performing Arts	Facility Innovation
\$500	• 15 Subject books for elementary (math, literature, history, etc.)	• 1 iPad	10 basketballs	10 art sets for aspiring artists	External security lighting to keep the street well-lit and safe
\$1,000	100 Summer Bridge books to help students retain learning during breaks	100 "learn how to code" kits for elementary students	10 tennis rackets	4 beginner saxophones or 8 beginner violins	Camera security system to keep everyone safe
\$2,500	9 students can be challenged to excel using interactive problem-solving programs	1 computer for graphic design and website creation	12 sets of golf clubs for children	10 Play Scripts with performance/ licensing fee and cast instructions	 Wireless PA system to easily communicate at the school
\$5,000	1 smartboard to help teachers engage students in learning	1 STEM lab cart of materials for a classroom with multiple activities	3-day Speed and Agility workshop for 15 young aspiring track stars	100 pairs of tap shoes for aspiring dancers	Battery operated floor scrubber to keep the building looking its best
\$10,000	1 trip for 15 students to visit 1 HBCU	100 Robotic kits to reinforce studies in STEAM subjects	Open gym for 20 young people 1 X a week throughout the winter in a safe place	200 tickets to see Alvin Ailey Dance Company	LED light fixtures throughout the school to promote learning and natural light

WORK FOR THE WEEK

JUNE MEMORY VERSE

¹⁸ The Spirit of the Lord *is* upon Me, Because He has anointed Me To preach the gospel to *the* poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to *the* captives And recovery of sight to *the* blind, *To* set at liberty those who are oppressed; ¹⁹ To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord."

Luke 4:18-19

JUNE MEDITATION QUOTE

"The Black church has been the dominant force of liberation for historically oppressed and marginalized people...Though markedly varied in terms of polity, theology, and history, the critical factor that characterizes every Black church and cannot be denied is its birth in slavery – emergence from oppressive structures, nurture in the bosom of social protest, and continued existence in the twenty-first century.

Dr. Wayne E. Croft Sr.

TODAY'S STUDY QUESTIONS AND MEDITATION:

Am I being the man God created me to be?

What are my testimonies of what God has previously done?

FOR THE YOUTH

Ask your father, grandfather, uncle and/or significant man in your life what you can do

now to begin growing into a Man of Valor _____

Young women: Ask your mother, grandmother, aunt and/or significant women in your life

what you can do now to begin growing into a supporter of young men in your life _____