



# JUNETEENTH: FREEDOM DAY



Emancipation Proclamation, 1864  
Collection of the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture

**“The people of Texas are informed that, in accordance with a proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free...”**

— Major General, Gordon Granger. General Orders, No. 3.  
Headquarters District of Texas, Galveston, June 19, 1865.

## What is the historical background of Juneteenth?

According to Kelly Navies, museum specialist and oral historian at the National Museum of African American History & Culture:

“Throughout the war, Texas remained largely free of the presence of Union troops. A year after General Granger’s announcement, Texans celebrated the first Juneteenth. However, African Americans had to overcome many challenges in the years after learning of their ‘freedom.’ Many states, including Texas, passed stringent laws curtailing the movement and actions of the newly freed men and women. Those in

power also attempted to thwart the observance of Juneteenth by denying large groups of African Americans access to land on which to celebrate. In response to this strategy, in 1872, Black Houstonians, under the leadership of Rev. Jack Yates, a formerly enslaved man, formed the Colored People and Emancipation Park Association to purchase a plot of land that could be used for Juneteenth celebrations. This plot of land became known as **Emancipation Park** and throughout the era of segregation it was the only public park open to African Americans in Houston, Texas."

**Juneteenth** is not just a day of celebration, but also underscores the ongoing fight for economic justice. The initial failure to provide formerly enslaved people with any resources established a deep economic disparity that persists today. For 43 years the **Emergency Aid Coalition** has provided food, clothing and other essentials to Houstonians in need. And just like Emancipation Park, the EAC stands today as a monument of hope in the City of Houston.

In observance of Juneteenth, the Emergency Aid Coalition will be closed on Friday, June 19th

## Palmer Memorial Episcopal Church

Deacon Mary of Palmer Memorial Episcopal Church delivered a bounty of food donated by generous Palmer parishioners at their monthly 2nd Sunday Food Drive.





## Food Pantry needs:

- Canned tuna
- Canned chicken
- Macaroni & cheese

[Amazon Wishlist](#)

## Clothing Center needs:

- Diapers sizes 3 to 7
- Baby wipes
- Children's clothing, size 5T and up
- Kids' socks
- Men's shirts sized XL and up
- Men's jeans sizes 30 to 38
- Walking canes

[Amazon Wishlist](#)



## Bingo at Betsy's ...





**benefiting the EAC !**



[www.eachouston.org](http://www.eachouston.org)



Emergency Aid Coalition | 5401 Fannin St | Houston, TX 77004 US

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