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Juneteenth Benefits from Canaries' Donation

Sioux Falls, South Dakota: The first recipient of a Canaries Community Fund grant will be the non-profit Establishing Sustainable Connections, which will use the \$2,500 grant for their upcoming Juneteenth Celebration on Saturday, June 19, 2021, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., in Terrace Park West.

Juneteenth celebrates the freeing of the last slaves in Texas on June 19, 1865, two years after the Emancipation Proclamation was issued by President Abraham Lincoln.

The fund, which will benefit charities in Sioux Falls and throughout South Dakota, was announced in May 2021 by new team owners Brian Slipka and Anthony Albanese.

"With our first Canaries Community Fund grant, we are pleased to support the Juneteenth event that Establishing Sustainable Connections is putting on and to show that the Canaries are about much more than baseball," said Slipka on behalf of the Canaries Community Fund, an initiative of the Slipka Foundation. "With its focus on education and community engagement, the Juneteenth event fits with the priorities of the Canaries Community Fund and the Slipka Foundation."

Mark Blackburn, ESC President, points out the value of the grant.

"We're incredibly grateful for the partnership with the Canaries. The grant will support our educational component of Juneteenth so the community can understand the significance of the holiday and why it is essential to bring awareness to systemic issues," he said. "Our hope with the partnership is that many will realize that Juneteenth history is American history, and different populations will identify the barriers and enact permanent change. "

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