

NEWS RELEASE

Oct. 12, 2016 – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Ruby Sutton Building Dedication Scheduled for Thursday, Oct. 20

DUBUQUE, Iowa – The public is invited to a dedication of The Ruby Sutton Building, which houses Dubuque’s Multicultural Family Center (MFC), from 5-7 p.m. on Thursday, October 20, at 1157 Central Ave. A program will begin at 5:15 p.m.

The Multicultural Family Center has been located in the City-owned space at 1157 Central Ave. since September 2009. In 2015, the Dubuque chapter of the NAACP initiated a proposal to name the building in honor of Ruby Sutton, an equal-rights advocate who helped pave the way for racial reconciliation within the Dubuque community. The proposal was supported by the MFC Board of Directors and approved by City Council on Dec. 21, 2015. Sutton passed away in September 2015.

The building dedication event will include an unveiling of new signage, a commemorative plaque, and dedication of a permanent display in the Multicultural Family Center. Refreshments will be served.

Ruby Sutton and her family moved to Dubuque in the late 1950s and faced discrimination as some of the few African Americans in the predominately white city. Throughout her life, Sutton worked to bridge cultural divides within the Dubuque community. “All I want for everyone,” she said, “is fair play and equity regardless of race, creed, color, whatever, economic status. Just treat people fair, as you like to be treated.”

Among her many accomplishments, Sutton helped organize the NAACP Dubuque chapter and served as president of the chapter from 1993-1995, served on the City of Dubuque Human Rights Commission for 21 years, and helped design the first diversity training session for the City. Sutton received several honors throughout the years, including the First Citizen Award in 1984, YMCA Women of Achievement Award in 1987, NAACP Peacemaker Award in 1999,

honorary doctorate of letters from Loras College in 2000, Friends of Iowa Civil Rights Award in 2000, declaration of “Ruby Sutton Day” by the City of Dubuque in 2009, and induction into the Iowa Women’s Hall of Fame in 2010.

The MFC seeks to empower all families and community members of Dubuque to reach their potential and build unity out of diversity. For more information on the Multicultural Family Center and The Ruby Sutton Building, visit www.mfcdubq.org.

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