

# WATERBURY OIC

VOL. 2, NO.6



[WWW.WATERBURYOIC.ORG](http://WWW.WATERBURYOIC.ORG)



JUNE 2026

## JUNETEENTH: FREEDOM, OPPORTUNITY, AND THE WORK STILL AHEAD

### JUNETEENTH

**FREEDOM THEN.  
OPPORTUNITY NOW.**

Honoring our history.  
Building our future.

*"You can't eat civil rights."*  
— Rev. Leon H. Sullivan

The Vision of  
**REV. LEON H. SULLIVAN**  
Freedom through economic opportunity.

Juneteenth reminds us that freedom is more than a moment—it's the ongoing pursuit of equity, access, and the opportunity to thrive.

At Waterbury OIC, we carry forward Reverend Sullivan's legacy by breaking barriers and creating pathways to success.  
**WE EMPOWER. WE TRAIN. WE TRANSFORM LIVES.**

- EDUCATE**  
Providing the skills and knowledge to open doors.
- EMPOWER**  
Building confidence and removing barriers.
- SUPPORT**  
Offering resources and guidance every step of the way.
- EMPLOY**  
Connecting talent to opportunities and brighter futures.
- STRENGTHEN**  
Building stronger individuals, families, and communities.

Honoring the past.  
Investing in the present.  
Building a better tomorrow.  
**That's the OIC Promise.**

**WATERBURY OIC**  
TRAINING PEOPLE FOR LIFE

Training People for Life. | [waterburyoic.org](http://waterburyoic.org)

Each June, we celebrate Juneteenth, the day in 1865 when the last enslaved African Americans in Texas learned they were free—more than two years after the Emancipation Proclamation. Juneteenth is more than a historical milestone; it is a reminder that freedom is not just about liberation, but about access, opportunity, and economic empowerment.

This truth was central to the teachings of Reverend Leon H. Sullivan, founder of Opportunities Industrialization Centers (OIC).

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Reverend Sullivan believed that true freedom required more than civil rights—it required economic independence. His message was simple but powerful: “You can’t eat civil rights.” He understood that jobs, skills, and education were essential to helping people move from survival to self-sufficiency. That vision remains at the heart of Waterbury OIC today.

At Waterbury OIC, we continue Reverend Sullivan’s legacy by creating pathways for individuals to gain the training, confidence, and support they need to build better futures. Whether through workforce training, career counseling, digital literacy, or supportive services, our mission is rooted in the belief that opportunity changes lives.

Juneteenth reminds us that while freedom was declared, the work of equity and empowerment continues. Many in our communities still face barriers to employment, education, and economic stability. That is why organizations like Waterbury OIC remain vital.

Every class completed, every certification earned, every job secured, and every barrier removed is a step toward the kind of freedom Reverend Sullivan envisioned—freedom through opportunity.

As we honor Juneteenth this month, let us remember that the pursuit of justice includes the pursuit of economic empowerment. And let us continue the work of building stronger individuals, stronger families, and stronger communities.

At Waterbury OIC, we remain committed to Training People for Life—because opportunity is one of the greatest forms of freedom.