

The Campaign to Create the
**Julius Rosenwald & Rosenwald Schools
National Historical Park**



SPECIAL EDITION

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, JULIUS ROSENWALD

Please consider commemorating the 161st anniversary of Julius Rosenwald's birth with a donation to help create the Julius Rosenwald & Rosenwald Schools National Historical Park more quickly!

Here's Why

Julius Rosenwald was born on August 12, 1862, in Springfield, Illinois, the son of German Jewish immigrants who ran a men's clothing store.

Rosenwald helped make Sears, Roebuck & Company the retailing powerhouse of the early twentieth century and used the fortune this earned him to become one of the most imaginative and effective American philanthropists ever. In 1917 he created the Julius Rosenwald Fund "for the well-being of mankind." Over its lifetime the Fund distributed some \$63 million (worth over a billion in today's dollars) primarily to programs in support of African American education, health care and race relations.

Rosenwald believed in the "give while you live" principle -- that each generation should identify the most pressing issues and provide funds for constructive solutions. He did not believe in perpetual endowments and specified that the Julius Rosenwald Fund be terminated within 25 years of his death. The Fund closed its doors in 1948. Since then Rosenwald has been largely forgotten.

But his legacy is astounding. His Fund helped nearly 5,000 communities across the South construct schools, teachers' homes and shop buildings for their drastically under-served African American children. The Rosenwald Fund also awarded fellowships to nearly 900 talented individuals, two-thirds of them African American, to support their education and careers in politics, the arts, medicine, scholarship and more. Historically Black Colleges and Universities, school libraries, medical services at hospitals, clinics and health centers also benefitted, as did many Jewish organizations. And Rosenwald gave the founding gift to create Chicago's Museum of Science and Industry, insisting that it not be named for him.



Fisk University Rosenwald Fund Archives

The emphasis of all Rosenwald's philanthropy was on strengthening the United States by fully embracing the country's founding principles – equality and opportunity for all. As he stated so meaningfully:

***I do not see how America can go forward
if part of its people are left behind.***

That message is as important today as it was a century ago.

The Rosenwald Park Campaign is working to create the Julius Rosenwald & Rosenwald Schools National Historical Park with a visitor center in Chicago and a small number of Rosenwald Schools in the South.

It will be the first National Park to commemorate the life and legacy of a Jewish American and the first to interpret the impact of Rosenwald Schools.

You can play an important role in making it happen!

Your support will enable wider dissemination of this great American story through in person and virtual programs, increased coverage in national and local publications, further interactions with support groups for Rosenwald Schools, and additions to the list of more than 200 nonprofit organizations across the nation that already support establishing the Park. It will help the Campaign to attract more attention in Congress and the Executive Branch.

Your support will make a difference!

Together we WILL create this National Park and SOON!

DONATE

For questions and suggestions, please write to info@rosenwaldpark.org.

Stephanie Deutsch, editor

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