



## The Frederick Douglass Legacy Project

**The Frederick Douglass Legacy Project is a local effort to financially support the Frederick Douglass Resource Center located in Rochester, New York.**

**Frederick Douglass** (born **Frederick Augustus Washington Bailey**, February 1818–February 20, 1895) was an American social reformer, orator, writer and statesman. After escaping from slavery, he became a leader of the abolitionist movement, gaining note for his dazzling oratory and incisive antislavery writing. He stood as a living counter-example to slaveholders' arguments that slaves did not have the intellectual capacity to function as independent American citizens. Many Northerners also found it hard to believe that such a great orator had been a slave.

Douglass wrote several autobiographies, eloquently describing his life as a slave, and his struggles to be free. His first autobiography, *"Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave,"* was published in 1845 and was his best-known work, influential in gaining support for abolition. He wrote two more autobiographies, with his last, *"Life and Times of Frederick Douglass,"* published in 1881 and covering events through and after the Civil War. After the Civil War, Douglass remained active in the United States' struggle to reach its potential as a "land of the free". Douglass actively supported women's suffrage. Following the war, he worked on behalf of equal rights for freedmen, and held multiple public offices.

Douglass was a firm believer in the equality of all people, whether black, female, Native American, or recent immigrant. He was fond of saying, "I would unite with anybody to do right and with nobody to do wrong."

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