

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: Jeff Griffith, [JGriffith@theyouthconnection.org](mailto:JGriffith@theyouthconnection.org)  
Communications Director, The Youth Connection  
(O): 313-826-7099, Ext. 203 or (M): 313-414-1202

**ANNUAL AFTER-SCHOOL FAIR SET FOR AUGUST 29<sup>TH</sup> ON BELLE ISLE**

*Event hosted by The Youth Connection in partnership with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources will feature free backpacks, school supplies, athletic shoes, books and lunch for youth. The Fair is a showcase for after-school programs, health information, and youth entertainment.*

**August 26, 2015, Detroit, MI** – The Youth Connection is hosting the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual After-School/Back-to-School/Off-to-College Fair on Saturday, August 29<sup>th</sup>, from noon until 4 pm at the Casino on Belle Isle. Approximately 1,000 – 2,000 parents and children along with elected officials, after-school programs and other non-profit youth-serving agencies are expected to attend the event which will kick-off the new school year. The event will feature:

- **Free backpacks (Courtesy of Molina Healthcare and Detroit Department of Transportation)**
- **Free school supplies (Courtesy of Detroit Department of Transportation)**
- **Free athletic shoes (Courtesy of FOCUS Motor City)**
- **Free books (Courtesy of The Youth Connection)**
- **Free lunch (Courtesy of the Institute for Population Health)**
- **All Giveaways are for youth ages 18 and under. (Must be present to receive)**

*\* All giveaways will be available while supplies last.*

**Attendee note – In order to drive a vehicle onto belle isle, attendees must have a recreation passport from the State of Michigan. If they don't already have one, the passports are available on Belle Isle, at Secretary of State branch offices, or at the Detroit DNR customer service center at 1801 Atwater street.**

In addition to the fun and games, several organizations will be on hand to give parents one-stop shopping for all of their needs. We have invited major colleges and universities to be in attendance to distribute enrollment information to high school youth.

The event will be free to the public and will also feature enrollment options for after-school program providers and family entertainment. The Detroit Wayne Mental Health Authority and the Love Detroit Prevention Coalition are hosting a 5K walk before the Fair begins at 11 am to raise awareness about substance abuse prevention in Detroit.

(Continued...)

Studies show that after-school programs contribute significantly to overall development and education of our children. Yet, parents have indicated that they are unaware of the after-school programs available in their neighborhoods. The 14<sup>th</sup> Annual After-School Fair is one significant way to increase parental awareness of a wide variety of programs for children and youth.

The 14<sup>th</sup> Annual After-School/Back-to-School/Off-to-College Fair is hosted by The Youth Connection in partnership with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. The Fair is sponsored in part by Molina Healthcare, St. John Providence Health System, FOCUS Motor City, Love Detroit Prevention Coalition, City of Detroit Recreation Department, Wayne State University, Black United Fund of Michigan, Detroit Wayne Mental Health Authority, the FBI Detroit Field Office, and Ross & Contemporaries, LLC.

For more information, please call 313-826-7099 or visit our website at [www.afterschoolfair.com](http://www.afterschoolfair.com).

*The Youth Connection is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to connecting our youth to a brighter future through career exploration, job training, internships, after-school programs and academic assistance for metropolitan Detroit area youth. For more information about The Youth Connection, visit [www.theyouthconnection.org](http://www.theyouthconnection.org). For more information about the Fair, please visit [www.afterschoolfair.com](http://www.afterschoolfair.com).*

###