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## **The Youth Connection 2014 Programming Participation and Highlights**

### **Direct Service Population: 6,346 people in 2014**

#### **The Youth Connection Career Academies Tobacco Compliance Check Team (July 2014)**

Youth that participated in TYCCA had an option to participate in tobacco retailer compliance checks. These youth were partnered with members of the Detroit Police Department and performed 112 compliance checks on Detroit tobacco retailer to make sure the stores were not selling tobacco to minors. Youth completed the checks and reported their findings to the Detroit Health and Wellness Promotion Department.

**Total participants: 4 youth**

#### **2014 Detroit Public Schools African American History Pacesetters Program (Spring 2014)**

In the summer of 2014, The Youth Connection, along with Detroit Public Schools, worked to reward youth who participated in DPS' pacesetters program. The purpose of the Pacesetters contest was to increase and assess students' knowledge of the contributions made by African American pacesetters through the reading of biographies, autobiographies and African American Literature. Students who participated increased their knowledge of African American contributions to the world and improved their reading comprehension of informational text and narrative text.

**Total Participants: 844**

#### **The Youth Connection 12<sup>th</sup> Annual After-School Fair (August 2014)**

The Youth Connection After-School Fair is a one-stop experience to get Detroit youth ready to go back to school and back to after-school programs. This past year we included a 5K prevention walk to the Fair and had College vendors there ready to talk to students about attending their schools. We hosted hundreds of after-school programs, over 3,000 parents and youth, and a building full of immunization and healthcare professionals and healthcare companies to provide free services to our youth. We had 100 volunteers and many partner agencies pitch in to provide a day of fun, information and education on Belle Isle on Saturday, August 16<sup>th</sup>, 2014.

**Total participants: 3,000 Detroit Parents and Youth  
100 volunteers; 100 after-school programs, vendors and healthcare professionals**

#### **The Youth Connection 2014 Boo Walk (October 2014)**

The Boo Walk, hosted by The Youth Connection and our sponsors, for children ages 12 and under and their parents to learn about healthy eating and activities inside the Conner Creek Village basement on October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2014. There were stations for kids to hula hoop, jump rope, make Halloween-related crafts and fruit stations to augment the candy they were sure to receive the next night.

**Total participants: 350 Osborn Community parents and youth  
20 volunteers**

**The Youth Connection Substance Abuse Prevention Education Classes (Calendar Year 2014)**

The Youth Connection offers Substance Abuse Prevention Education classes to middle school, high school and college-aged youth and their parents in the Osborn Community. Using a research-based prevention curriculum, The Youth Connection provides our youth with a fantastic educational curriculum to prevent substance abuse among our families in Detroit.

**Total Participants: 331 Osborn Community youth**

**The Youth Connection Community Connection for Fit and Healthy Kids: Osborn (Calendar Year 2014)**

The Youth Connection's "Community Connection for Fit and Healthy Kids" campaign, in partnership with the Michigan Fitness Foundation focuses on educating students ages 6-12 and their parents in Detroit's Osborn Community about the values of healthy eating and active lifestyles.

**Total participants: 487 Osborn Community Parents and Youth**

**The Youth Connection Pathways to Potential Health and Nutrition Program (September – December 2014)**

The Youth Connection, in partnership with the Michigan Fitness Foundation and the Michigan Department of Human Services Pathways to Potential Initiative, held nutrition education classes at Priest Elementary School (in 3 languages – English, Arabic and Spanish) as well as healthy food tastings to students and parents.

**Total participants: 90 Priest Elementary Parents and Youth**

**The Youth Connection DNR Summer Program (June - December 2014)**

The Youth Connection, in partnership with the Michigan Department of DNR and Economic Development Corporation, provided a summer internship and outdoor activities program from June through December of 2014. Youth explored the expectations and skills necessary to succeed by engaging in hands on training and exercises directly related to careers. Youth helped to renovate a comfort station on Belle Isle in November and December. Participants also completed paid summer internships at various companies, agencies and departments.

**Total Participants: 128 youth ages 16-19**

**The Youth Connection Career Academies College Tour (April 2014)**

The Youth Connection partnered with the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence STEPS program to take 82 high school students on a college tour that included stops at 12 universities and colleges in

4 states. University officials had admission officers available on site to review students' applications and waived registration fees. Many students received acceptances while on the trip.

**Total Participants: 82 high-school aged youth**

**The Youth Connection Ticket to Float Program (Summer 2014)**

The Youth Connection partnered with the National Park Foundation and River Raisin National Battlefield Park to provide a one-day kayaking and environmental education experience for 835 youth on the Huron River in July and August of 2015. Youth learned how to kayak and the various issues surrounding water quality, Michigan's natural resources and the history of the Motor Cities National Heritage region.

**Total Participants: 835 high-school aged youth**

**The Youth Connection Grow Detroit's Young Talent Program (July - September 2014)**

The Youth Connection, in partnership with City Connect, administered a work readiness and job placement program for 44 youth participants to receive 135-hour paid internship and work-readiness seminars. We also provided service to youth who needed academic remediation through our EBLI tutoring program. This program focuses on increasing students reading skills and, in many cases, raised the reading grade level of students significantly.

**Total Participants: 44 high-school aged youth**

**Comcast Internet Essentials Resume and Online Job Search Program (July - August 2014)**

In partnership with Comcast, the Youth Connection provided computer literacy, resume, and online job-hunting seminars for parents and youth of the Osborn Community. The trainings were conducted on Saturdays and gave over 30 people the chance to make/revise a resume and tips on using online job search sites. Comcast also promoted their \$9.95 per month high speed internet program.

**Total Participants: 31 parents and young adults from Detroit**