

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**LOCAL NON-PROFIT AGENCIES AND FAITH COMMUNITY TEAM UP TO ORGANIZE OSBORN  
NEIGHBORHOOD CLEAN-UP EVERY SATURDAY IN APRIL**

*Organizers are looking for volunteers to help neighborhood clean-up efforts along student walking routes to schools in the Osborn neighborhood of Detroit.*

**April 1, 2016, Detroit, MI** – The Youth Connection, in partnership with Matrix Human Services, Osborn Neighborhood Alliance, Southeast Michigan Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Bethel Lutheran Church, and St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church, have organized a community clean-up effort for the Osborn neighborhood in Detroit each Saturday in April. Volunteers will be boarding up/painting abandoned houses and cleaning up yards on designated walking routes for local school children from 8:30am – 4:00pm on April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, and 30<sup>th</sup>.

“We are grateful for the support we’ve received from volunteers from across the Midwest to make our children who walk to school in our neighborhood safer,” said Grenaé Dudley, President and CEO of The Youth Connection. “When we all come together we can make a real difference for our neighbors and help combat blight in Osborn.”

This clean-up is a continuation of the effort started by the National Lutheran Youth Gathering in the summer of 2015. Many of the homes in this neighborhood were cleaned up, but time did not permit for all the homes to be boarded. Boarding the homes make them safer for the neighborhood as they discourage vagrants, and help protect the property until it can be demolished or re-furbished.

The volunteers will target Waltham Street between Park Grove and E. McNichols on April 2<sup>nd</sup> (Fleming Elementary School). Each Saturday clean-up will target a different walking route to area schools.

If volunteers are interested in helping this effort, they can sign up online at <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a084bafa829a75-riseup/>. Or, people can go to Fleming Elementary School, 18501 Waltham Street, Detroit, MI 48205 at 8:30am on Saturday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>. Volunteers are encouraged to bring gloves and clothing they don’t mind getting dirty. Lunch and snacks will be provided. For more information or to answer any questions, please email [osborncommunityriseup@gmail.com](mailto:osborncommunityriseup@gmail.com). Donations for the clean-up effort will be accepted online at [www.tinyurl.com/osbornriseup](http://www.tinyurl.com/osbornriseup).

**About The Youth Connection:** *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, please visit [www.theyouthconnection.org](http://www.theyouthconnection.org).*

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