

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**ANNUAL AFTER-SCHOOL FAIR SET FOR AUGUST 19<sup>TH</sup> ON BELLE ISLE**

*Event hosted by The Youth Connection 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 7, 2017, Detroit, MI** – The Youth Connection is hosting the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual After-School/Back-to-School/Off-to-College Fair on Saturday, August 19<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.

**New this year to the Fair will be the first ever I2D2 Fit ‘N Fun Family Olympics!** The Olympics are an interactive, unique, challenging and most importantly FUN inflatable obstacle course created to help youth and families learn about health & fitness while competing against other families for great prizes!

**The Fair 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.**

The event will also feature:

- **Free backpacks** (courtesy of Molina Healthcare and Wayne State University)
- **Free school supplies** (courtesy of Dollar Tree)
- **Signing up for free athletic shoes** (courtesy of Focus: Detroit)
- **Free books** (courtesy of The Youth Connection and First Book)
- **Free lunch** (For youth 18 and under - courtesy of the City of Detroit Recreation Department Summer Food Service Program)
- **All Giveaways (except for the shoes) are for youth ages 18 and under. (Must be present to receive)**

*\* All giveaways will be available while supplies last. We will have approximately 500 backpacks, 500 pairs of shoes, 1,000 books, and 600 free lunches.*

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In addition to the fun and games, several organizations will be on hand to give parents one-stop shopping for all of their needs. Detroit Public Schools and many charter and private schools will be at the Fair promoting school registration and information for parents about the upcoming school year. Several local and state universities will also have recruitment tables at the Fair for older youth.

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 16<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 16<sup>th</sup> Annual After-School/Back-to-School/Off-to-College Fair is hosted by The Youth Connection in partnership with the State of Michigan DNR. Sponsors of the event include the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, Detroit Wayne Mental Health Authority, Molina Healthcare, St. John Providence Health System, Focus: Detroit, Love Detroit Prevention Coalition/Detroit Recovery Project, Wayne State University, Michigan First Credit Union, Detroit Recreation Department, and the Detroit Field Office of the FBI.

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).*

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