

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ANNUAL AFTER-SCHOOL FAIR SET FOR AUGUST 20TH 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 16, 2016, Detroit, MI – The Youth Connection is hosting the 15th Annual After-School/Back-to-School/Off-to-College Fair on Saturday, August 20th, from noon until 4 pm at the Casino on Belle Isle. Approximately 1,500 – 2,500 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, Wayne State University, Detroit Empowerment Zone Coalition, United Way of Southeastern Michigan and Arise Detroit)
- **Free school supplies** (courtesy of Salvation Army of Plymouth, Arise Detroit and Detroit Empowerment Zone Coalition)
- **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 750 backpacks, 750 pairs of shoes, 1,000 books, and 500 free lunches.*

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, the Educational Achievement Authority 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.

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.**

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 15th Annual After-School Fair is one significant way to increase parental awareness of a wide variety of programs for children and youth.

The 15th 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 Quicken Loans, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, Molina Healthcare, St. John Providence Health System, Focus: Detroit, Love Detroit Prevention Coalition, Detroit Wayne Mental Health Authority, Wayne State University, Arise Detroit, United Way for Southeastern Michigan, and the Detroit Field Office of the FBI.

For more information, please call 313-826-7099 or visit our website at 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. For more information about the Fair, please visit www.afterschoolfair.com.

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