
The Youth Connection 2015 Programming Participation and Highlights
Direct Service Population: 4,026 people in 2015

The Youth Connection Substance Abuse Prevention Education Classes (Year-Round 2015)

The Youth Connection offers Substance Abuse Prevention Education classes to middle school, high school and college-aged youth in the Osborn Community. Using an evidence-based prevention curriculum, The Youth Connection provides our youth with a fantastic educational experience to prevent substance abuse and promote positive self-image, conflict resolution skills and positive communication among our families in Detroit.

Total Participants: 220 Osborn Community youth

The Youth Connection Career Academies Tobacco Compliance Check Team (June 2015)

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 61 SYNAR 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 Wayne Mental Health Authority and the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services.

Total participants: 2 youth

The Youth Connection Strengthening Families Program (August – September 2015)

The Youth Connection, in partnership with the Love Detroit Prevention Coalition, hosted a Strengthening Families program for parents and youth in the Osborn neighborhood. This research-based program helps families reconnect and tackles tough issues such as family communication and respect, goal-setting and family values. This first-time training was a huge success for the families that participated in late summer/early fall.

Total participants: 12 participants

The Youth Connection Community Connection for Fit and Healthy Kids: Osborn (Year Round 2015)

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 about the values of healthy eating and active lifestyles.

Total participants: 487 Detroit Parents and Youth

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The Youth Connection DNR Summer Program (June - December 2015)

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: 90 youth ages 16-19

The Youth Connection Career Academies College Tour (April 2015)

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: 44 high-school aged youth

The Youth Connection Ticket to Float Program (Summer 2015)

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 1,016 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: 1,016 high-school aged youth

The Youth Connection Grow Detroit's Young Talent Program (July - September 2015)

The Youth Connection, in partnership with City Connect, administered a work readiness and job placement program for 42 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: 43 high-school aged youth

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The Youth Connection 14th Annual After-School Fair (August 2015)

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 1,800 parents and youth, and a building full of student-led college groups, healthcare professionals and healthcare companies to provide free services to our youth. We had almost 100 volunteers and many partner agencies pitch in to provide a day of fun, information and education on Belle Isle on Saturday, August 29th, 2015.

**Total participants: 1,800 Detroit Parents and Youth
100 volunteers; 100 after-school programs, vendors and healthcare professionals**

Comcast Internet Essentials Resume and Online Job Search Program (September 2015)

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 the first week in September 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: 34 parents and young adults from Detroit

The Youth Connection Community Conversations Project: Transportation (May 2015)

The Youth Connection, in partnership with the Michigan Fitness Foundation, the Parade Company, Voices of Detroit Initiatives and others, developed a unique town-hall style meeting with youth and seniors from Detroit's Osborn neighborhood to discuss transportation issues – where people go, how they got there, and what could be done to improve transportation in and around Osborn. Participants wrote and produced a play along with transportation vision boards and a final report that was distributed to leadership at the state and local levels.

Total Participants: 51 youth and senior participants from Osborn Community

The Youth Connection ServSafe Food Handlers Training (Summer 2015)

Staff from The Youth Connection led two trainings for youth from other non-profit organizations (Alternatives for Girls and Urban Neighborhood Initiative) that allowed them to become certified in ServSafe Food Handling techniques. This certification is the restaurant and food-industry standard for workers in that industry.

Total Participants: 27 youth participants