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**STUDENTS FROM THE YOUTH CONNECTION DONATE SUPPLIES  
TO HELP FLINT FAMILIES IN CRISIS**

*Students, staff members, board members, and others from The Youth Connection to donate water and cleansing wipes to families of students at New Standard Academy in Flint, MI, on March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2016*

**March 29, 2016, Detroit, MI** – The Youth Connection announced today it is donating bottled water, paper products, cleansing wipes, and bottles of hand sanitizer to help Flint, MI families dealing with the current water and economic crisis. Students and staff from The Youth Connection (TYC) will deliver the goods to students at New Standard Academy on Wednesday, March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2016.

The donation drive, which included items donated by students in TYC programs, staff members of the agency, members of its board of directors and visitors to its headquarters, was the idea of students in The Youth Connection Career Academies (TYCCA). TYCCA works with Detroit youth ages 14-24 to help prepare them to attend college and/or start a career.

TYC has partnered with Molina Healthcare of Michigan, whose president Christine Surdock is a member of The Youth Connection Board of Directors, to help facilitate the donation at New Standard Academy, a free charter elementary school in Flint. Molina Healthcare also donated bottles of hand sanitizer to The Youth Connection for distribution.

Among the items to be donated are over 1,000 bottles of water, 400 bottles of hand sanitizer, 60 packages of wipes, along with various paper products (plates, cups, etc.).

Regarding the donation, The Youth Connection's President and CEO Grenaé Dudley said: "We are blessed in many ways at The Youth Connection. First, to have students in our program, staff members and board members who have donated these items to help the families of Flint. Second, that our students decided to help their counterparts in Flint is fantastic and indicative of the character of our youth."

The Detroit Police Department Chief's Neighborhood Liaison Office is providing the transportation of the students and donated goods from TYC headquarters in Detroit. The youth are leaving at 9:45am and arriving at New Standard Academy at 11:00am. TYC students will then read to kindergarten and first grade students and participate in an interactive educational activity with fifth and sixth grade students in addition to handing out the donated goods.

Students and young adults from TYC regularly participate in community service projects as part of their program experience. Youth from TYCCA will also be working every Saturday in April in partnership with Osborn Rise Up! Neighborhood Clean Up to perform neighborhood beautification.

*(Continued)*

**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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