



News Release

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CONTACT: Raynetta Speed
Community Outreach Coordinator
Genesee County Land Bank Authority
(810) 257-3088 x. 536
rspeed@thelandbank.org

GENESEE COUNTY LAND BANK PARTNERS WITH 57 LOCAL GROUPS TO MAINTAIN 3,400 VACANT PROPERTIES IN 2015

FLINT, MI – The Genesee County Land Bank’s Clean & Green program kicks-off on Thursday, April 16 at 1 PM at GCCARD, 601 N. Saginaw Street, Flint. Representatives from each of the 57 Clean & Green groups will gather to connect with each other, receive program materials, and engage with the Land Bank around blight and vacant property challenges.

Through the Clean & Green program, the Genesee County Land Bank is partnering with 57 community-based groups to maintain 3,400 vacant properties in and around the City of Flint every three weeks in 2015. One of the goals of the program is engaging and employing youth through vacant property maintenance. More than 160 youth are expected to participate in Clean & Green this year. “The Land Bank has allowed us, through the Clean & Green program, to help young people put guns down and pick-up equipment to make the neighborhood better,” says Rev. R. Sherman McCathern, Pastor of Joy Tabernacle Church, one of the groups participating in Clean & Green this year.

Block-clubs, schools, churches, neighborhood associations, and local non-profits are some of the 57 community-based groups participating in the 2015 program. Each group receives a stipend for

maintaining at least 25 properties every three weeks. Maintenance includes mowing the grass and removing trash. Many groups do more than the required property maintenance and complete greening projects, including urban orchards, food gardens, flower gardens, pocket parks, and more.

About the Genesee County Land Bank's Clean & Green Program

Clean & Green has been a program of the Genesee County Land Bank since 2004. The purpose of the Clean & Green program is to support innovative community groups and organizations in the cleaning, maintaining, and beautifying of otherwise vacant properties in Genesee County. Through the program community groups seasonally maintain concentrated clusters of vacant properties. Each participating group receives a stipend for maintaining at least 25 properties every three weeks from April to September. Groups are selected to participate in the program through a competitive application process. Since 2004 the program has supported more than 65,000 vacant property "mowings" valued at \$3.1 million, invested more than \$1.3 million in community-based organizations, and engaged with more than 900 area youth. The 2015 Clean & Green program is supported through grant funding from the Ruth Mott Foundation and the Michigan Youth Violence Prevention Center. For more information on Clean & Green e-mail rspeed@thelandbank.org or call (810) 257-3088 x. 536.