

## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **Oakland County to Host Youth Summit**

**Oakland County, MI** (February 5, 2008) – Oakland County middle and high school students selected from the 28 school districts and Oakland County child welfare stakeholders will join in discussions at a two-day, County-wide Youth Summit beginning in February. The two-day summit will begin with youth discussions on Monday, February 25<sup>th</sup>, from 8:30 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. and continue with stakeholder dialogue on Monday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>. Both meetings will be held at the Oakland County Executive Office Building in Waterford.

Youth participating on day one have been selected from a wide range of economic, ethnic, and social backgrounds, and include those who are actively involved in school, and those who are struggling and not meeting their full potential. The stakeholders will conclude the summit on day two by gathering together to discuss issues raised at the youth meeting, identify possible solutions and assist in organizing the first County-wide Youth Council.

The goal of the project is to create a forum in which youth may voice their concerns about issues important to them, and connect with Child Welfare stakeholders throughout Oakland County who can assist them in creating and implementing solutions. The summit is designed to educate young people about the importance of informed dialogue and the potential they have to influence change in their community.

“Our Court is honored and excited to be a sponsor of the Youth Summit,” stated Judge James Alexander, Presiding Judge of the Circuit Court Family Division. “The event will allow us to hear directly from our youth the issues that are important to them. It’s important that they understand the Court not only cares about their thoughts, but also wants to help them reach their goals.”

The summit is sponsored by the Oakland County Circuit Court – Family Division, Oakland County Community Corrections, Oakland Schools, and Welcome Baptist Church in Pontiac, and paid for by the Juvenile Accountability Block Grant.

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