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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Ford Motor Company and Michigan Community Resources Team Up to Volunteer Across Detroit

June 8, 2017 — Detroit, MI—Today, Michigan Community Resources (MCR) and volunteers from Ford Motor Company helped Detroit Abloom and Marygrove Community Association install green stormwater infrastructure (GSI) projects. With over sixty volunteers spread between the two sites, significant progress was made in completing new GSI installations for both organizations. Detroit Abloom and Marygrove Community Association are two recipients of MCR's Neighborhood Exchange Green Stormwater Mini-Grant Program, funded by the Fred A. and Barbara M. Erb Family Foundation.

MCR's mini-grant program provided \$5,000 and ongoing technical assistance to five community groups for green stormwater installation projects in Detroit.

"Both Marygrove Community Association and Detroit Abloom had talked to us about the need for manpower to get shovels in the ground to implement their projects," Andrea Perkins, Program Manager at MCR said. "And after a conversation with Ford Motor Company about their employee volunteer program, we saw the perfect opportunity to bring these groups together."

At Detroit Abloom, a cut flower farm founded on vacant lots in the Jefferson Chalmers neighborhood on Detroit's east side, volunteers built new raised flower beds and fences, constructed a pavilion, and helped maintain the existing flowerbeds.

"You couldn't ask for a better day," one volunteer said.

A sentiment echoed across town at the Marygrove site located on Indiana Street on Detroit's west side.

"We have 31 volunteers from Ford here today," Mark Settembrini, a financial analyst from Ford Motor Company who organized the volunteers, said. "Everyone is doing a great job and pitching in. Overall a beautiful day."

"I couldn't be happier by the turnout today," said Steven Josephson of Marygrove Community Association. "Not only are there a lot of people, but they are working hard. These volunteers

have allowed us to expand our plans. I don't know if we would have done the rain garden without Ford and MCR's help."

Along with the rain garden, volunteers at the Marygrove site helped construct a pumpkin patch, flower beds, and a keyhole garden.

"We even had two volunteers go down the street and rent a jackhammer to help break up the ground because it is so dry!" Andrea Perkins said.

Back on the east side, Tom Milano, executive director of The Garden Detroit, summed up the day, "I'm inspired to see so many wonderful people out here at our project, Detroit Abloom, working to help us implement our Neighborhood Exchange Green Stormwater Mini-Grant and share in a vision of how cut flower farming can transform vacant blighted land into beautiful and productive landscapes."

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About Michigan Community Resources

The mission of Michigan Community Resources is to support and empower nonprofit community organizations in Michigan that serve low-income individuals and communities, with an emphasis on community economic development, by providing pro bono legal services and technical assistance. Founded in 1998, its programs include legal assistance, educational training & publications, urban planning services, and community outreach. MCR helps community organizations build their capacity, accomplish blight mitigation and neighborhood improvement activities, and improve quality of life. Learn more at mi-community.org.

About Detroit Abloom

Detroit Abloom is one of two projects directed by The Garden Detroit, a Michigan nonprofit organization. Our other project is a two-acre urban farm called The Garden, where we have been growing flowers and vegetables for the past six years. Both projects are located in the Jefferson Chalmers neighborhood on Detroit's lower east side. Their long-term goal is to work with the community to create local jobs and businesses by simultaneously transforming vacant blighted lots into beautiful and productive landscapes and help revitalize the Jefferson Chalmers neighborhood and east side of Detroit.

About Marygrove Community Association

Marygrove Community Association (formerly Marygrove Block Club) was founded in August of 2009 by residents living in Northwest Detroit. MCA encompasses Wyoming to McNichols, McNichols to Greenlawn, Greenlawn to Puritan and Puritan to Wyoming. Marygrove Community Association members work hard to provide a safe and clean neighborhood for our residents.

The Marygrove Community Association mission is to encourage community volunteer involvement, increase awareness of safety issues and provide safe streets and neighborhood preservation through increased community pride, improvement, and development