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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****Starfish Family Services in partnership with Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to host “Diapers for Detroit” with over 30,000 youth**

INKSTER, MICH. (July 13, 2015) – Starfish Family Services, a private, nonprofit agency serving vulnerable children and families in metropolitan Detroit, partners with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) to host “Diapers for Detroit” on Saturday, July 18, 2015. “Diapers for Detroit” is one of many service learning projects that is a part of the overall ELCA Youth Gathering worldwide initiative to offer youth an opportunity to strengthen their faith and discover their call to serve the world – at home and abroad. Almost 30,000 youth, adult leaders and others will participate in the ELCA Youth Gathering July 15-19 in Detroit, Michigan.

“The ELCA Youth Gathering is a triennial event that brings together thousands of high-school age Lutherans from across the country and overseas for faith formation, worship, fellowship and service. We invite Gathering participants to engage in Detroit’s unique story of tenacity and hopefulness,” said Lisa Jeffreys, Youth Gathering program coordinator. “We will join in partnerships of accompaniment all across the city, allowing Gathering participants to see God at work through transformative experiences.”

“We are thrilled to partner with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) to host ‘Diapers for Detroit.’ Our goal primary goal is to bring in critical resources that we can distribute to our partner agencies, clients, neighbors and communities in need. We also hope it helps to raise awareness about the desperate need for diapers among many of our local families and engage the community in our mission,” said Ann Kalass, Starfish Chief Executive Officer. “Thousands of youth from across the country will participate in service learning projects in Metro Detroit in July during the Youth Gathering and ‘Diapers for Detroit’ is just one of them. The potential of receiving thousands of diapers for families in need is a huge win for the communities we serve.”

**Diapers for Detroit:** Saturday, July 18, 2015 at 30000 Hiveley Rd. Inkster, MI 48141. **Time:** 11:30 a.m.

**About Starfish Family Services:**

Founded in 1963, Starfish Family Services is a private, nonprofit agency serving vulnerable children and families in metropolitan Detroit. Our passion is early childhood development. We strive to prepare young children for a successful start to school. Our programs and services uniquely recognize and respect the important role of parents and other caregivers in the long-term success of children. As a leading provider of Early Head Start and Head Start programs, we embrace a comprehensive strategy that also works to address other challenges that children and their families may face at home. In addition to early childhood services, we provide parenting programs, children’s mental health services, after-school programs, and other youth services including an emergency shelter for teens and youth in crisis. [www.starfishonline.org](http://www.starfishonline.org).