



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Kent County Staff, Partners Team Up to Provide Flint
Residents with Thousands of Gallons of Water**

GRAND RAPIDS – Clean water from our tap is something many of us take for granted. Right now, many people in our state can't drink the water out of their own taps due to lead contamination. After numerous Kent County employees, the Cultural Insight Council and employees from several partner agencies expressed interest in helping the people of Flint, staff decided to do something: raise money to purchase large quantities of water for Flint residents. Tomorrow, they will deliver 6000 gallons of water and money to purchase water filters and meet long-term needs.

Wayman Britt, Assistant County Administrator, grew up in Flint. This is a cause that is very close to his heart. "There is still a great deal of need and our staff and partners answered the call for help. This drive responded to the most immediate need: clean water," Britt said. "I am so proud to work with people who care about the needs of others and wanted to do something to help. Kent County is more than a workplace – we are a team."

Rather than bring water to work, cash donations were accepted. "Meijer worked with us to negotiate a discounted price for water for the drive," said Daryl Delabbio, County Administrator. "Our staff was in contact with the Flint City Administrator's Office who assured us that there is still a great need for bottled water. The Road Commission, Ford Airport, Kent District Library (KDL), Network180, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) and Grand Valley State University's (GVSU) Office of Equity & Inclusion joined us in this effort. I'm touched by the outpouring of support from our staff and partners."

GVSU's Office of Equity & Inclusion made the first significant donation of \$300. In the weeks that followed, the Kent County Road Commission, Juvenile Detention and the Health Department collected almost \$500 each, MDHHS raised \$500, KDL raised over \$600 towards the drive... the list goes on!! We also heard from many people who had already donated to the cause through their own efforts.

In the end, the three-week drive netted more than \$5300 in donations; \$4000 was used to purchase 30 pallets of water. Food Bank of Eastern Michigan and Meijer coordinated delivery. The rest is being donated to Community Foundation of Greater Flint, who is assisting in crisis response.

Media Note: Photos of the water delivery will be available tomorrow on the Kent County Facebook page. Please feel free to use them with Courtesy Kent County, MI Facebook.