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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

National Youth Week:

All National Media Outlets - June 13-19, 2020 – President and CEO Lori Hoff and her team will launch the first ever Virtual National Youth Week. National Youth week has 4 Pillars: Community Service, TeamWork, Innovation and Achievement. We have partnered with AT&T Veterans, Operation Gratitude, and Woman of AT&T. This year the team of youth across the county have come up with virtual ways to engage not only Youth but their parents and mentors. During this season of uncertainty and unmet expectations our youth are experiencing higher rates of depression and fighting the desire to give up.

Outreach Ministries International (OMI) is the Organization that launched National Youth Week 5 years ago. They will be celebrating helping thousands of youth and building stronger communities on their 20-year anniversary July 1, 2020. OMI mission is *“to instill resiliency skills through education and developing life skills to “at-risk” youth in hopes that they will become productive members of society. To provide opportunities that will focus on the entire mind, body, soul and spirit”*.

They currently have added a focus on reducing youth homicide and suicide with their survey State Your Case which can be found on www.stateyourcase.us this is a survey that measures conflict, anger, and self-esteem, three things that they believe lead to homicide and suicide. OMI will be launching the new updated survey on June 17, Innovation Day. They are asking all young people with their parents or mentors to take the survey and discuss the results. There will also be resources available to help.

During National Youth Week there will be a TikTok competition between the parents and mentors and the youth. They will have an opportunity to send a thank you note to a First Responder or Veteran with Operation Gratitude. They will also have the chance to Build a Fort with their family as a way to escape while staying in place and work on improving communication and eliminating conflict. We will close out the week with Achievement Day “Small steps lead to great things” by having guest speakers talk about how to be resilient in these hard times and celebrate success!