OUWB Celebrates Make a Difference Day in one Detroit Community

Oakland University William Beaumont (OUWB) School of Medicine faculty, staff and students celebrated national Make-a-Difference Day by participating in the 2nd Annual OUWB/ Mission City Brightmoor Health Fair and Fall Festival.

Residents from the four square-mile, neighborhood in northwest Detroit attended the fair at the Mission City Building, where OUWB students administered free flu shots and organized a germ buster station.

"We used fun, interactive stations to explain important nutrition and health information," said Jean Szura, OUWB Director of Service Learning.

To the delight of the attendees, Detroit firemen stopped by to share fire safety materials and show kids – and adults – their fire truck. They opened up their rig to demonstrate how they use the equipment and even allowed attendees to feel what it's like to spray water from the fire hose.

"We reached a wide-range of people who were grateful to ask questions about how to keep their families healthy," said Szura. "Overall, it was a rewarding day for the 25 OUWB volunteers. We felt like we were making a difference in this community."

Outreach programs benefit the community that OUWB serves and, at the same time, strengthens the bonds among the OUWB students, faculty and staff who implement the programs. Medical students experience meaningful interactions with their future patients while learning to communicate important information.