



For Immediate Release Contact:  
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## **10,000 Face Masks and School Supplies to be Handed Out in Detroit and the Metro Area**

**Michigan Roundtable for Diversity and Inclusion and Community Movement Builders Detroit Launch COVID-19 Rapid Response Project**

DETROIT, Mich. – Michigan Roundtable for Diversity and Inclusion and Community Movement Builders Detroit (CMB) will be giving away 10,000 face masks and basic school supplies to individuals and organizations in Detroit starting this week as part of the launch of their *Race2Equity COVID-19 Rapid Response Project*.

During this time of unprecedented hardship, the two organizations are working together to provide elements of security for people in and around Detroit. The work of Michigan Roundtable is to empower individuals to transform communities and the workplace to overcome racism, discrimination, systemic inequities and institutional and inherent bias. CMB is a member-based collective of black people building sustainable, self-determining communities through cooperative economic platforms and collective community organizing.

In Michigan, the African American population has experienced grave consequences due to COVID-19. Blacks in Michigan make up only 14% of the total population but are over 40% of the deaths due to the coronavirus. This disparity exists because of systemic racism and segregated communities. Michigan Roundtable works with partners like CMB-Detroit to remediate these impacts.

The two organizations will be donating face masks and school supplies, upon request, from the Mama Akua Community House in Zone 8, in northwest Detroit.

“Face masks are mandatory to enter stores to help ensure the safety of all people,” said Yusef Shakur, Michigan Roundtable co-director and president of CMB-Detroit. “We believe it is mandatory to support those who are the most marginalized and vulnerable, to not only ensure their safety, but also assure they are not excluded and discriminated against.”

Those who are in need or want to donate can call Shakur at (313) 459-6008. There will also be regular coordinated no-contact sites throughout the metro region. Site locations will be updated on the website [www.miroundtable.org](http://www.miroundtable.org) and on Michigan Roundtable’s Facebook page.

Donations can be made to support this effort [here](#).