



## 'Faces of Flint' Examines Day-to-Day Life During Water Crisis

*WKAR brings series to mid-Michigan TV and Radio beginning April 11.*

**EAST LANSING, MI; April 5, 2016** - The water supply in Flint, Michigan, has been declared a public health danger. Over the past two years, thousands of children in the city have been exposed to drinking water with high levels of lead. What is day-to-day life like in a U.S. city where the water supply is not safe for drinking, bathing, or cooking? How are residents coping through the crisis? How are they striving to ensure the best possible future for their children? "Faces of Flint" is a new series from WKAR exploring these questions.

"Faces of Flint" debuts on the WKAR Network throughout the week beginning April 11, 2016. Radio features will air as daily segments on "Current State with Mark Bashore." "Current State" airs weekdays at 9a-10a and 6pm-7pm on 90.5 FM and noon on AM870.

Documentary video shorts will air daily immediately following "PBS NewsHour" and ahead of primetime programming, approximately 7:57 p.m. on WKAR-TV.

All "Faces of Flint" stories will also be available online at [wkar.org](http://wkar.org).

Among the people we meet in "Faces of Flint" are Pastor Jeffrey Hawkins at Prince of Peace Missionary Baptist Church, who uses his spirituality to craft sermons centered around the Flint water crisis; second-graders at St. John Vianney Catholic School, sharing stories on how their life has changed; volunteers at the Hispanic Technology and Community Center, providing food, water, and testing kits to undocumented immigrants; the MacIntyre family, who aren't ready to give up on their hometown yet; and hip-hop artist Mama Sol, who uses her music to bring attention to and give voice to Flint residents struggling in the midst of the continuing water crisis.

"Faces of Flint" is a special collaborative project of WKAR and the College of Communication Arts and Sciences at Michigan State University. The reporting and production team is made of top journalism and media students and recent graduates working alongside WKAR Network professionals. The team is headed up by MSU faculty Associate Professor Geri Alumit Zeldes, WKAR Television Producer Nicole Zarembo and WKAR Radio Producer April Van Buren.

Work of the student journalists is funded in part by ComArtSci, School of Journalism, Knight Center for Environmental Journalism, MSU Office of Outreach and Engagement and MSU Alumni Association.

Funding is being sought to support production and marketing of "Faces of Flint," and to extend the series as a weekly feature beyond April 15.

WKAR Network with the College of Communication Arts & Sciences at Michigan State University is uniquely situated to cover the Flint water story and also develop resources that can help improve the quality of life for residents of Flint and other communities facing similar threats to health and safety.

The College of Communication Arts and Sciences (ComArtSci) at MSU is one of the top communication colleges in the world, home to journalism and media arts specialties, the Games for Education and Learning (GEL) Lab, the Health Communication and Risk Communication Center and the WKAR Network. WKAR Network is mid-Michigan's source for award-winning original television and radio plus the best from PBS and NPR.



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# WKAR

All 90.5 FM and AM 870 broadcasts are available via live online streaming on mobile devices and at [wkar.org](http://wkar.org). Most WKAR original television productions are available for on-demand viewing in the PBS App on Roku, Apple TV, on iPad/iPhone, Android devices, and at [video.wkar.org](http://video.wkar.org).

The WKAR Network is part of Michigan State University's College of Communication Arts and Sciences. The WKAR Network provides mid-Michigan and the global community with award-winning original programming and the best from PBS and NPR via television channels WKAR-HD, WKAR World and WKAR Create; and radio broadcasts at 90.5 FM, AM 870 and WKAR Radio Reading Service. At [wkar.org](http://wkar.org) and [video.wkar.org](http://video.wkar.org), the network offers live audio streaming, plus local news features, TV original full episodes and the best from NPR and PBS on demand. The WKAR Network provides additional community outreach with WKAR Ready to Learn Service and PBS LearningMedia.

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