

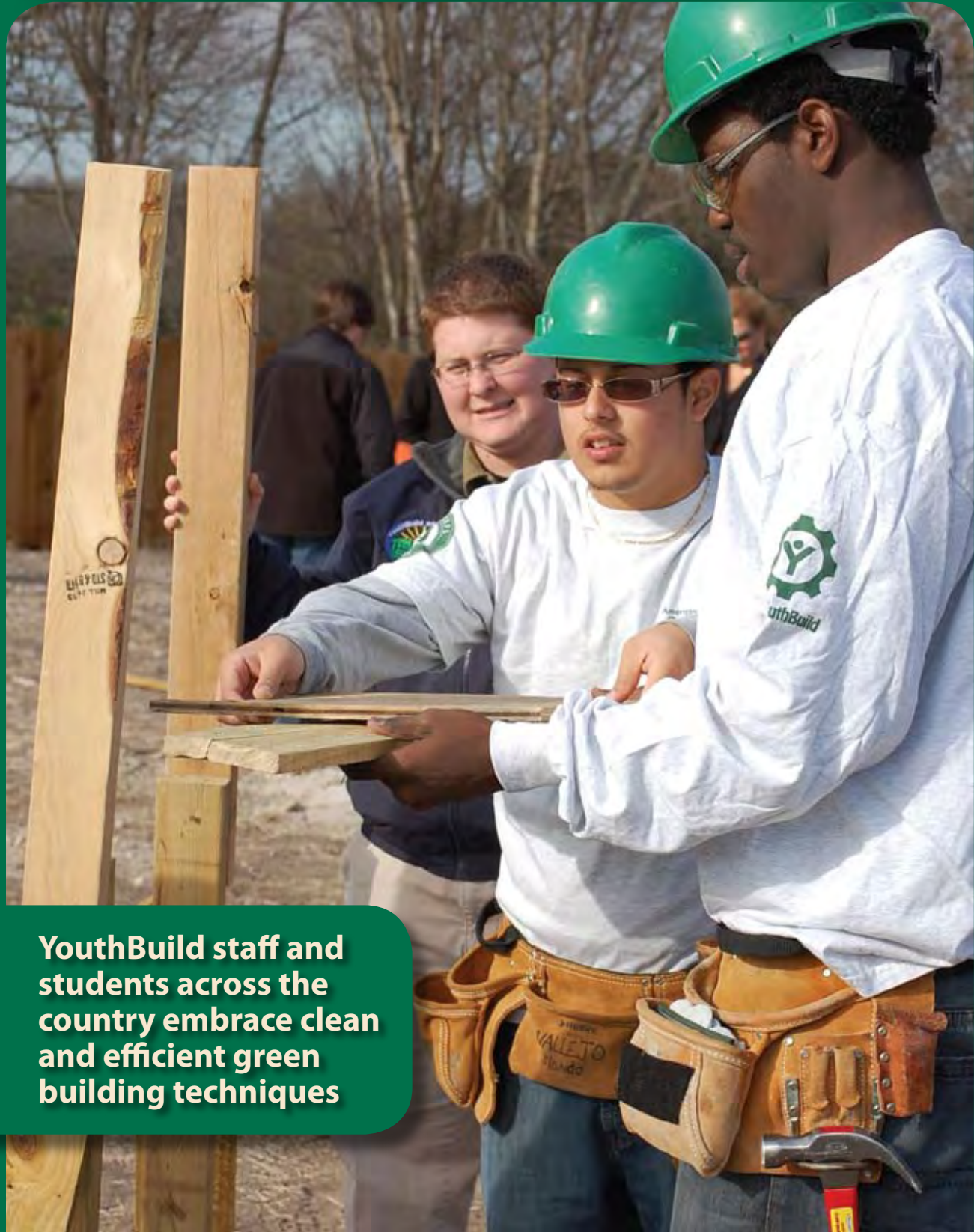
Special Green Service Issue



YouthBuild

Bulletin

The newsletter of
YouthBuild USA and the
National YouthBuild
Coalition Spring 2009



YouthBuild staff and students across the country embrace clean and efficient green building techniques

YouthBuild Bulletin

Spring 2009

YouthBuild USA

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About YouthBuild USA

Founded in 1990, YouthBuild USA is a national nonprofit organization that works to unleash the positive energy of low-income young people to rebuild their communities and their lives. It supports an expanding nationwide network of 226 local YouthBuild programs. In this role, YouthBuild USA orchestrates advocacy for public funding; guidance and quality assurance in program implementation; leadership opportunities for youth and staff; research to understand impact and best practices; and grants and loans to YouthBuild USA affiliates. It serves as a training and technical assistance contractor within the U.S. Department of Labor's Technical Assistance Collaborative for DOL YouthBuild grantees.

YouthBuild USA leads the national YouthBuild movement and contributes to the broader youth and community development fields in order to diminish poverty in the United States and internationally.

In local YouthBuild programs, low-income young people ages 16–24 work toward their GEDs or high school diplomas while learning job skills by building affordable housing for homeless and low-income people. Emphasis is placed on leadership development, community service, and the creation of a strong mini-community of adults and youth committed to each other's success.

YouthBuild Bulletin can be downloaded at www.YouthBuild.org.

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From the President



Dear Friends:

What a wonderful moment, full of hope and determination, to save our beloved planet from ourselves! The human energy is gathering all over the country to become more energy efficient, to green our buildings and our

lives, to protect our precious planet from our own ignorance, greed, or carelessness.

The Obama administration has made clear its commitment to this goal and is providing both resources and vision toward changing our habits and our systems.

YouthBuild USA and the YouthBuild USA Affiliated Network of local programs are eager to participate in this great growing greening movement.

Happily, we are well-positioned to do so because of the preparation that has been spearheaded by leaders among us and by enlightened funders.

Many thanks to Richard Halpin, executive director of American Youthworks, the long-term sponsor of Casa Verde YouthBuild in Austin; and to Eva Blake, director, and Chris Cato, coordinator, of YouthBuild USA's Green Initiative. Richard, Eva, and Chris have not only taken the lead, they have also driven us forward for years, refusing to accept inertia, distraction, or lack of resources as excuses for not taking responsibility for protecting our planet. They had the vision and the sensitivity to call for YouthBuild to go green years ago, and to prepare the trainings and the handbooks, the charettes and the partnerships, to help us all move into this arena.

We thank the Wal-Mart Foundation and The Home Depot for funding the YouthBuild USA Green Initiative.

The resources in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act will now provide many opportunities for local YouthBuild programs to throw their weight behind President Obama's vision. In addition to improving our own practices to build green, we can now prepare our students and graduates to obtain good jobs in their communities to help green public housing, schools, parks, and neighborhoods.

Another entity helping to drive the overall movement is Green For All, organized by Van Jones to bring unified grassroots support for greening initiatives. We are pleased and honored that Van Jones has joined YouthBuild USA's advisory board.

On March 17, the 20th annual YouthBuild Conference of Young Leaders coincides with the 30th anniversary of the first YouthBuild program, started in East Harlem. The National YouthBuild Directors Association will join with the young leaders, most of whom are now YouthBuild AmeriCorps members, on the National Mall to build the first of 85 green homes in a visible demonstration of the ability and desire of low-income young adults to participate in the new green economy. Also on the 17th, Casa Verde YouthBuild in Austin, Texas, will organize a "green academy" on the mall for the young leaders and directors seeking to expand their knowledge about energy-efficient practices.

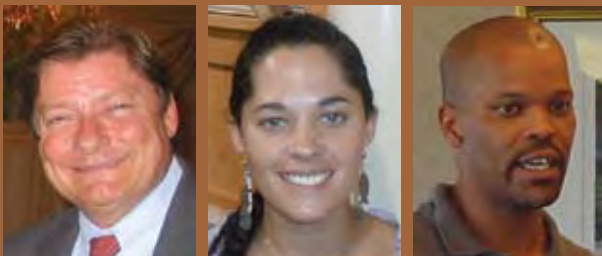
YouthBuild Philadelphia Charter School will organize the building of the home, which will be sent to Brownsville, Texas, where YouthBuild Brownsville and the Brownsville Community Development Corporation will build 84 additional homes, based on the same green model, for low-income residents of the Colonias.

We thank the leadership of the YouthBuild programs in Philadelphia, Austin, and Brownsville for their work in making this event possible, in support of President Obama's agenda for national service and the greening of America. We also thank the Wal-Mart Foundation and Bank of America for making this event possible.

We are just at the beginning! We are excited, feeling empowered and engaged, ready to do our part in America's new green economy.

In Service and Solidarity,

Dorothy Stoneman, Founder and President



Richard Halpin, Eva Blake, Chris Cato

Reflections of Green YouthBuild USA Green Initiative

YouthBuild Green Initiative

www.YouthBuild.org/green

The YouthBuild USA Green Initiative was launched in 2005 to support YouthBuild programs practicing green building and promoting green careers as integral parts of the program's development of young leaders and pathways out of poverty. YouthBuild USA helps programs measure the value of green construction not only by its health and environmental benefits, but also by its suitability as a promising career choice for graduates.

Since launching the initiative, YouthBuild USA and its training partner, Casa Verde YouthBuild, sponsored by American YouthWorks, have trained 148 YouthBuild staff in a comprehensive approach to green construction. The initiative's trainings have helped YouthBuild programs learn about or enhance their knowledge of green building practices. YouthBuild programs and their housing partners adhere to a variety of standards programs administered by LEED for Homes, EarthCraft, Earth Advantage, Green Homes Northeast, Green Communities, and National Association of Home Builders, among others.

In 2006, with support from the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative,

the initiative has trained about 40 students and staff in solar electric installation and conducted six green building-design charrettes, where students helped plan their program's next building project so they can achieve the goal of meeting a select list of green building standards. In addition, the initiative, in partnership with Eagle Eye Institute and The Trustees of Reservations, has completed a three-year demonstration project, Green Industry Career Pathways, in which six YouthBuild programs introduced their students to careers in arboriculture and forestry. After the project, student participants were employed as conservation technicians by the partner organizations.

Green building, renewable energy, and energy conservation have become the entry points through which YouthBuild students and graduates trained in these skills join the growing green economy. In addition to training their young people to build green homes, weatherize and retrofit existing properties, and install renewable energy systems, YouthBuild programs also introduce students to energy auditing, land conservation, Brownfield remediation, lead abatement, and hazardous waste removal.

As YouthBuild program staff and students gain experience and grow as environmental leaders, they become part of the first wave of a newly trained green-savvy workforce that can help close the wage and career-

opportunity gaps that are prevalent in YouthBuild communities.

The YouthBuild USA Green Initiative looks forward to providing more training, on-site and telephone technical assistance, and grant and leadership opportunities to the YouthBuild network. Two current areas of focus are green certification and green partnerships. The green certifications focus includes providing information on and assistance in obtaining certifications through Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED), North American Board of Certified Energy Practitioners (NABCEP), Residential Energy Services Network (RESNet) and other programs. The green partnerships focus involves building relationships with national and regional employers, workforce development organizations, advocacy organizations, and vocational and education partners.





Green Building

Green building is a comprehensive approach to construction, renovation, and demolition that conserves the earth's natural resources and protects human health.

Green building is achieved by incorporating techniques that save energy, conserve water and materials, improve indoor air quality, use nontoxic and recycled materials, and use renewable energy technologies in the design and construction of a home.

By rehabilitating and constructing affordable homes with green practices, YouthBuild provides homes that have minimal environmental impact, while also increasing the quality of life and providing significant energy cost savings for homeowners—a valuable service for low-income communities.

YouthBuild programs have applied many green building practices including the following:

- Home weatherization
- Brownfield and contaminated site remediation
- Installation of solar electric systems
- Storm water management
- Alternative insulation such as cellulose and batting
- Alternative wall structures such as SIPs, ICFs, and adobe
- Sustainable hardscapes and landscapes
- Purchase of locally produced materials
- Waste reduction and material reuse
- Installation of green and cool roofs

Green Careers

Green jobs form a new category of occupations that benefit and improve the environment, pay living wages, and offer opportunities for career advancement. The green jobs movement has gained a lot of traction due to the political support it has received and the tremendous growth in alternative energy and green industry sectors. Most green jobs require technical training rather than a college degree, making it an excellent path toward economic self-sufficiency for low-income people.

Green jobs range from solar panel installation to wind turbine maintenance, hybrid car manufacturing and repair, and parks administration and maintenance.

YouthBuild programs have provided experience and training for many jobs in the green industry including:

- Green building design and construction
- Home retrofitting for increased energy efficiency
- Hauling and reusing construction materials and debris
- Hazardous materials clean-up
- Landscape design and installation
- Parks and open space restoration and maintenance
- Recycling and reuse
- Solar installation
- Cool roof installation
- Whole-home performance, including attic insulation and weatherization
- Environmental site assessment and sampling

Green Leadership

YouthBuild defines good leadership as taking responsibility to make sure things go right for your life, your family, your community, and your world.

The YouthBuild Green Initiative supports YouthBuild programs and students as they take leadership to ensure that things go right for all life on Earth by working towards a healthier environment for ourselves, our community, and our planet.

Many YouthBuild programs are fostering green leadership through green curriculums, service activities, and job explorations as well as outdoor experiences, which inspire students to make a personal commitment to care for and protect the environment.

The next wave of young leaders developed within the YouthBuild network will have a profound impact on how America responds to global climate change, energy consumption, and other concerns.

It is easy to deliver on the “what” and “how” of environmental responsibility, but a clear understanding of “why” is necessary to build the true commitment of present and future generations of environmental citizens.

Green Schools

Several YouthBuild schools are exploring greening their facilities. In May 2009, YouthBuild diploma-granting schools and GED programs that are funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation will share information on their school greening and green curriculum activities during a green session at the National Schools Initiative and Postsecondary Education Initiative gatherings convened by YouthBuild USA. ♦

YouthBuild USA Provides Green Affordable Housing Training with Support from Wal-Mart Foundation

Green Affordable Housing Trainings demonstrate that transitioning from conventional to green building is not as daunting as it seems.

Walmart 

“You don’t have to change much, but you do have to change some old habits,” says Ted Roan about transitioning from conventional to green and energy-efficient building practices. Roan is a trainer for American YouthWorks’ Casa Verde YouthBuild and the instructor for YouthBuild USA’s Green Affordable Housing Trainings, where he sets out to assure YouthBuild construction trainers, program managers, and others that the switch to green building is not as unwieldy an ideological or procedural shift as they might have feared.

Three Green Affordable Housing Trainings have been held so far—in Austin, Texas; Rockford, Illinois; and Fall River, Massachusetts. The final training will be held in April 2009 in Portland, Oregon. The trainings are part of a solar- and green-building training initiative funded through the Wal-Mart Foundation. All YouthBuild programs are invited to attend



Ted Roan

the trainings. In addition, Wal-Mart Green Fellow programs (see article beginning on page 8) receive on-site visits for green building and solar-electric installation support.

The four-day trainings focus on green building methodologies, new building materials, cost-effective building efficiency, and exploring green homes or other green buildings under construction. In addition, Roan demonstrates to participants green instruction tools and curricula that can lead to YouthBuild students

earning mastery certificates in areas such as sustainable construction techniques and alternative building materials. Sixty-seven staff members from 19 YouthBuild programs attended the training sessions. In many cases, entire construction staffs were able to plan a green building project as a result of the trainings. ♦

2005 Civic Works YouthBuild graduate

Danielle Brice Gets a “Cool” Job after Finishing YouthBuild

Danielle Brice was hired in 2007 as a cool-roof technician by Civic Works, the Baltimore nonprofit service corporation that runs Civic Works YouthBuild. In 2008 she became the associate supervisor of Civic Works’ Cool Roof program, which installs Energy Star approved white roofs that significantly reduce heat transfer to interiors of buildings, thus reducing Baltimore’s summertime energy demands. She is now associate project leader for 3E Energy Solutions, a social enterprise being launched by Civic Works. 3E will provide services that increase the energy efficiency, safety, and comfort of Baltimore row homes. The initial offerings of 3E will be air-sealing services and cool roofs. Danielle will lead cool roof projects and work with the project leader to supervise and manage installers during air-sealing installations.



Danielle Brice first joined a YouthBuild program in 2001, having considered YouthBuild after seeing a group of YouthBuild AmeriCorps members engaged in morning calisthenics in front of the Baltimore City Hall. She completed her first year of AmeriCorps service with YouthBuild in 2003 with Sandtown Habitat for Humanity. She acquired skills in framing, flooring, sheetrock, roofing, windows, and doors.

In 2004, Danielle joined the YouthBuild team at Civic Works, where she continued to hone her carpentry skills through 2004 and 2005. She built scaffolding and pushed herself to get past her fear of heights.

Danielle had second-guessed her decision to join the program when money was tight and she had considered moving on. Looking back, she recognizes the value of the on-the-job training she received and is glad she followed through. Danielle first applied a cool roof while working with YouthBuild at Civic Works. She learned the skills that she now passes on to others like herself.

“When I first came to YouthBuild, I was a young lady. Now I’m a woman.” Danielle says, describing her personal transformation. “There are a lot of things I used to do (be loud, get smart, miss days) that I don’t do anymore.”

Danielle wants to eventually open her own cool-roof business, hire untrained workers from the community, and work with them to develop their skills and abilities. ♦

Wal-Mart Foundation Sponsors YouthBuild USA Green Fellows Program



The YouthBuild USA Green Initiative's program encourages green innovation and implementation

In 2008, the YouthBuild USA Green Initiative introduced a new and exciting program, YouthBuild Green Fellows, which is sponsored by the Wal-Mart Foundation. Fifteen YouthBuild programs that had a strong interest in green building and a thorough plan to implement their ideas were chosen to receive assistance and training in green construction and green job development. (There are many other YouthBuild programs practicing green and sustainable construction, training, service, and leadership principles that are not part of the Green Fellows program at this time.)

Under the Wal-Mart grant, YouthBuild USA has provided green building trainings, on-site visits by consultants, monthly conference calls with green experts, grants to support green building expenses, and technical

assistance from the project manager of YouthBuild USA's Green Initiative.

Over the course of the year, Green Fellows programs have demonstrated great improvement in various capacities in training their students in green construction, teaching and inspiring ecological awareness, and preparing graduates for employment in companies that benefit the environment. Each program is at a different level in green building but they share a common desire to build green and equip the next generation of young leaders for environmental citizenship.

YouthBuild USA's Green Fellows are: Casa Verde Builders, Civic Works YouthBuild, Cobb County YouthBuild, LA CAUSA YouthBuild, Operation Fresh Start, PACE YouthBuild New Bedford, Portland YouthBuilders,

YCC YouthBuild Waukegan, YouthBuild Boston, YouthBuild Fall River, YouthBuild Hazard, YouthBuild Just-A-Start, YouthBuild McLean County, YouthBuild Rockford, and YouthBuild San Jose.

YouthBuild USA will conduct interviews with Green Fellows to collect data on best practices, certificate acquisition, and successful partnerships to be shared with the field and public at large.

YouthBuild programs are taking on more and more responsibility to green their construction practices and instill in students a greater awareness of environmental impact. YouthBuild USA strives to support programs and students in capturing this momentum by continually introducing new green opportunities and resources. ♦

YouthBuild Green Fellows Program Achievements



Portland YouthBuilders Portland, Oregon

- Created a registered pre-apprentice program and developed and integrated three-month environmental education program into curriculum
- Since 2000, has built homes that have met Earth Advantage, Energy Star, and Super Good Cents standards for energy efficiency, indoor air quality, resource efficiency and environmental responsibility
- Won the City of Portland's Regional Erosion Prevention award in 2004 for excellent management of storm water and runoff

YouthBuild McLean County

Bloomington, Illinois

- Developed a subdivision that included Energy Star certified homes.
- Staff member Brian Fitzgerald became a LEED Accredited Professional
- Entire construction staff trained in green building
- Builds relationships with local wind farms for potential student training and employment

YouthBuild Just-A-Start

Cambridge, Massachusetts

- Provides weatherization and energy audit training for students
- Secured rights to weatherize and retrofit a home that uses solar power and will be LEED-certified
- Participates in green leadership and stewardship through work with the Trustees of Reservations and involvement in Cambridge's Green Jobs Task Force

continued

The Wal-Mart–YouthBuild Partnership



In 2008, the Wal-Mart Foundation awarded a \$5 million, two-year grant to YouthBuild USA to enhance opportunities for disconnected low-income young adults in Wal-Mart communities to transform their lives and rebuild their communities.

The grant assists local YouthBuild programs as they expand and create

programming for unmet community needs, such as attracting more young women to YouthBuild through a health-care track, building green affordable homes, expanding access to jobs in green industries, and helping YouthBuild graduates build assets through individual development accounts, which enable them to go to college, buy homes, and start businesses.

The Wal-Mart–YouthBuild partnership provides much-needed resources that benefit local community organizations and, most importantly, young people who are doing their utmost to succeed against all odds in America's poorest communities.

The Wal-Mart–YouthBuild partnership has had widespread and positive impact, as over 2,400 low-income young people are working toward their GEDs or high school diplomas in 59 YouthBuild programs that received grants from the Wal-Mart Foundation, and building 336 units of affordable housing, of which 139 are expected to be built green. In addition, 1,000 students have graduated from these programs, 30 of whom have been placed in green jobs.

YouthBuild Green Fellows Program Achievements continued

YouthBuild Hazard Hazard, Kentucky

- Built 17 homes that exceeded National Model Energy Code
- Uses raised heel roof trusses that rest higher above the ceiling to allow room for thick insulation and cut back on waste
- Provides education on energy-efficiency to new owners of YouthBuild homes

YouthBuild Boston Roxbury, Massachusetts

- Completed the first LEED residential YouthBuild project in the country, registered for platinum LEED certification
- Renovated a historic brownstone using many green practices, including the installation of a green roof
- Developed “The Designery” program, which helps students design, budget, and plan projects for a team-based study of architecture, construction management, and landscape design

YouthBuild San Jose San Jose, California

- Developed curriculum to train students to become certified solar panel installers
- Helped form the Worldwide Green Corps to provide training in green technology to young adults
- Plans to plant 100,000 trees by 2010

YouthBuild Fall River Fall River, Massachusetts

- Participates in Green Industry Career Pathways to provide green leadership and job training
- Developing “green living” science curriculum
- Plans to build home with solar electric power generation in consultation from Energy Star, LEED, and Green Homes Northeast raters—the first green affordable home in Fall River

Cobb County YouthBuild Marietta, Georgia

- Holds annual green building design charettes where students learn new green techniques and design projects employing sustainable practices
- Uses EarthCraft House Program guidelines used for curriculum and home certification

Civic Works YouthBuild Baltimore, Maryland

- Created B'more Green, a workforce development program that helps provide entry-level careers in environmental technology and brownfield remediation
- Installed cool roofs on a number of low-income homes serviced by the city's weatherization office through a grant from the Maryland Affordable Housing Trust
- Retrofits and weatherizes homes in partnership with the City of Baltimore



PACE YouthBuild New Bedford New Bedford, Massachusetts

- Created a new program called “Minus Green/Plus Green,” which aims to curb negative influences and provide green training that yields positive opportunities
- Participated in many service projects including writing a green children's book
- Creating a Clean Energy Workforce Training Plan to teach workshops on solar technologies, energy efficiency and conservation, energy auditing, and green building in hopes of providing certifications



Casa Verde YouthBuild Austin, Texas

- Built 90 homes certified by Energy Star through the City of Austin's Green Building Program
- Uses innovative green methods including SIP panels, Hebel blocks, metal roofs, and ridge vents
- Building green charter school, registered for gold LEED certification, that will include a kitchen, and day-care facility to remove barriers to student participation

Operation Fresh Start YouthBuild Madison, Wisconsin

- Constructs and rehabilitates homes with Energy Star ratings and uses the "Green Built Home New Home Checklist"

YCC YouthBuild Waukegan Waukegan, Illinois

- Participated in conservation projects on public lands for students through the Lake County Forest preserves
- Ran program with training on invasive species removal and habitat and stream bank restoration
- Awarded a Midwest Ecological Burn certificate on forest burning
- Plans to build the first green home in city of Waukegan that will be LEED certified



YouthBuild Rockford Rockford, Illinois

- Building a Zero Net Energy home with Energy Star rating and aiming for LEED platinum rating
- Arranges for students to obtain certification through NCCER green building curriculum
- Plans to develop a green charter school

LA CAUSA YouthBuild Los Angeles, California

- Developed the "Green Construction Resource Guide" for East Los Angeles area that includes information on local green builders, suppliers, and green construction training programs
- Created the Green Young Parents Project to provide comprehensive education, leadership development, and green job training for young and expectant parents
- Works with Residential Energy Assessment Inc. to provide HERS training and certification



For more information about the Green Fellows program or question about other YouthBuild programs practicing green principles please Contact Eva Blake, green initiative director, at eblake@YouthBuild.org.

YouthBuild Students Come Face-to-Face with Nature in Green Career Program



The Green Industry Career Pathways (GICP) program is a collaborative effort of the Eagle Eye Institute, the Trustees of Reservations, and YouthBuild USA. The program allows interested YouthBuild students to get hands-on experience in arboriculture, landscaping, and forest management—skills invaluable to young people interested in green careers.

The GICP program allows YouthBuild participants to gain awareness of and an appreciation for nature and their roles as stewards of the environment.

By exploring their environment, students become responsible green leaders by connecting personally to the natural world, correcting or lessening the harmful impact humans have on the environment, and caring for the rural areas they visit and the urban communities in which they live.

Through the GICP program, students also acquire marketable skills, gain valuable field experience, and begin to develop professional relationships as they learn about rewarding careers in the natural resource field.

Originally launched as a demonstration project with the expectation that it would become an ongoing program in Massachusetts and a model for YouthBuild programs throughout the country, the GICP program took off when it received an anonymous foundation grant in 2005. The program has so far introduced over 816 YouthBuild students to careers in green industries.

Seven Massachusetts YouthBuild programs have participated in the GICP program: CTI YouthBuild of Greater Lowell, YouthBuild Boston, YouthBuild Brockton, YouthBuild Fall River, YouthBuild Just-A-Start, YouthBuild New Bedford, and YWCA YouthBuild Springfield.

Green Industry Career Pathways Program: 2005–2008 successes

- 🌿 The GICP program introduced 816 students to green careers through the Learn About Forests and Stewardship Days events and other career-focused and skill-building activities.
- 🌿 The Trustees of Reservations hired 23 GICP program students for summer conservation internships at four different sites in Massachusetts.

With a mission of further bridging the gap between YouthBuild students and careers in the green industry, the Green Industry Career Pathways project continues to serve as a life and leadership resource, growing our green leaders from the inside out. ♦



2006 YouthBuild Just-A-Start graduate,
Green Industry Career Pathways program participant

Wynter Augier Shares Love of Nature with Others

I really enjoyed my internship at Mass Audubon Habitat in Belmont, Massachusetts, that I came across through Eagle Eye Institute and my job counselor at YouthBuild Just-A-Start, in Cambridge. I learned that I love working outdoors, and the projects I've done really show my talent. My work shows that I'm very creative and have a natural touch to doing this type of work. It showed me that I can do things other than construction.

Getting out into nature is really peaceful. Being outdoors and doing this type of work is something that I've never been involved in because I never got out of the city much. Here you hear the birds and crickets chirping—that's what you hear all day. You work at your own pace and it's beautiful.

I've learned that I am a very good people person. I love being around different people. I learned that I can do whatever I set my mind to. My boss gave me an option of making a head of a brook or mowing lawns. I said, "all right, I'll make a head of a brook." It came out very nice and showed my true talents.

Also, I learned different names of spiders and different plants and the seasons that they grow. I've learned about erosion problems. I've learned about the life span of trees. I've learned how woodchucks and chipmunks eat certain plants in the garden and how they can be pests. I've learned different names of butterflies, crickets, and grasshoppers. I've learned a whole lot.

I turned this internship into a way to teach others that there are other things to do besides construction. I'm trying to set up ways for YouthBuild students to come up to places like this, to get them out of the inner city and teach them about nature, to show them that there's a different life than just always being in the streets. You know, some of the students that I brought back here to do a project removing invasive plants, buckthorn and goutweed, have never been out of the city. Being out here was a total shock to them. They really loved coming here and that makes me feel great inside that I could be a leader to them.

I hope that more people have the opportunity to come here and do exactly what I did—open their minds to new things. ♦

Article originally published by Eagle Eye Institute.



YouthBuild Programs Across the Nation Honor Green Call-for-Service Day

ServiceNation and Green for All launched a call-for-service day last September to propel green-economy legislation and encourage volunteerism. More than 2,700 events were organized across all 50 states to showcase the organizers' and participants' dedication to green service and green jobs.

Fifteen YouthBuild programs reported on their day of action and many more programs participated. Many of the service projects were focused on

green, sustainable, and energy efficient activities including tree planting, energy audits, green house framing, energy-efficient light bulb installation, bike repair, electronics recycling, and landscaping.

LA CAUSA's special guest

LA CAUSA YouthBuild hosted a particularly special service event. As LA CAUSA reported, "The event was intended to help a family of low income in the rehab of their home. On the service day we repainted the

entire home and did landscaping work that turned the front yard into a beautiful home. People came from all over the city. The actor, Tobey Maguire, came to support the event and participated from the beginning of the event until the closing. We held a press conference after where youth performed some poetry, Tobey spoke, the declaration of service was read and presented, and everyone at the event physically signed on." ♦



YouthBuild programs that organized or participated in September green service events include:

California: LA CAUSA YouthBuild **Illinois:** YCC YouthBuild Waukegan, YouthBuild Lake County, YouthBuild McLean County **Kentucky:** YouthBuild Hazard **Massachusetts:** YouthBuild Brockton, YouthBuild Fall River, YouthBuild New Bedford **New Jersey:** Isles YouthBuild Institute (Trenton) **Oregon:** Portland YouthBuilders **Texas:** YouthBuild Brownsville, YouthBuild Dallas **Vermont:** ReCycle North (Burlington)

Ely Flores harnesses the California sun

Ely Flores, 2005 graduate and former leadership facilitator of the LA CAUSA YouthBuild program in Los Angeles, California, has come a long way over the past four years.

He has gone from high school dropout to community and youth activist, and now his new role is taking him to even greener pastures.

As the new outreach coordinator for Grid Alternatives, of California, Ely is working to provide solar-panel systems to low-income families in the same northern and southern California communities he helped rebuild just a few years ago.

Through their Solar Affordable Housing program, Grid Alternatives has reduced family electric bills by about 75

percent. Over the next 30 years, the panel systems will prevent roughly 10,257 tons of greenhouse gas emissions—the equivalent of planting 14,315 trees.

Working directly with low-income families, elected city officials, contractors, and nonprofits, Ely is out and about in Los Angeles communities promoting Grid's clean-energy and energy-efficient services. He has plans to do big things at this wonderful organization.

For more information about Grid Alternatives, visit their Web site, www.gridalternatives.org.



Massachusetts second state to pass law for creating pathways out of poverty through green job funding

In July 2008, Massachusetts enacted the first state law providing funding for green jobs, becoming a pioneer in green legislation.

Governor Patrick signed the Green Jobs Act, which will provide \$68 million over five years in grants and funding to develop and support green jobs initiatives in Massachusetts. A \$1 million annual budget was allocated toward green jobs training programs that serve low-income populations.

Many of the eleven YouthBuild programs in the state build green affordable homes, perform community weatherizations, plant trees, and cultivate environmental awareness. The state's leadership in passing this legislation gives these programs the opportunity to ramp up their efforts. Several have already applied for funding, and the Massachusetts YouthBuild Coalition is pursuing additional opportunities with the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs.

The YouthBuild Green Initiative: www.YouthBuild.org/green

Learn more about green building with these YouthBuild USA publications

For more information or to order, visit the YouthBuild USA e-store at www.YouthBuild.org/green

Shades of Green: A Green Building Guide for YouthBuild Affiliates outlines the basics of green building for YouthBuild construction staff.

YouthBuild Green Pages lists resources for successful green construction such as prospective funders, materials suppliers, and training providers.

YouthBuild AmeriCorps Green Homebuilding Service Day

Tuesday, March 17, 2009 ♦ National Mall, Washington, D.C.

8:30 am – 2:00 pm

YouthBuild students frame the walls of a green affordable home, which will be sent to a low-income community in Brownsville, Texas, to serve as a model for 85 green homes

2:00 – 3:00 pm ♦ Closing Ceremony

YouthBuild students are joined by Sen. John Kerry and other legislative champions and invited guests to raise the walls of the house

YouthBuild USA's Green Initiative has had the pleasure of working with many organizations, including:

American YouthWorks	Eagle Eye Institute	Green Advantage	Imani Energy	National Center for Construction Education and Research
Building Trades (MIT)	Earth Day Network	Green Communities Working Group	Massachusetts Green Jobs Coalition	Solar Enterprises
Center for American Progress	Emerald Cities Initiative	Green For All	Massachusetts Technology Collaborative	The Trustees of Reservations
Clean Energy Corps	Energy Action Coalition	The Home Depot		Wal-Mart Foundation
	Energy Star Homes			



The national YouthBuild network represents an extraordinary public-private partnership. YouthBuild USA works with federal funding agencies to assure the quality and increase the impact of local YouthBuild programs.

Community- and faith-based nonprofit organizations sponsor most YouthBuild programs; some are sponsored by local public agencies. YouthBuild USA and local YouthBuild programs receive financial support from diverse public and private national and local sources.

Primary funding for local YouthBuild programs comes from the **U.S. Department of Labor** under the federal YouthBuild program, administered by the Employment and Training Administration (ETA). The federal appropriation in FY09 is \$70 million, supplemented by \$50 million in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 for a total of \$120 million. Substantial additional funding is provided by:

Major public funders

Corporation for National and Community Service

U.S. Department of Agriculture

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

U.S. Department of the Treasury

Major private funders

Annie E. Casey Foundation

Bank of America Foundation

Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

Charles Stewart Mott Foundation

Ford Foundation

Goulston & Storrs

The Home Depot Foundation

Lilly Endowment Inc.

Lumina Foundation for Education

Skoll Foundation

Wal-Mart Foundation

Walter S. Johnson Foundation

W.K. Kellogg Foundation

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