



2003 MINNESOTA YOUTHBUILD REPORT

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Office of Community-Based Services
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**Effective July 1, 2003, these programs no longer provide Youthbuild services.*

In accordance with M.S. 3.197, the cost of producing this report was \$700.



City Academy Youthbuilder installing trusses during construction of a storage building.

2003 YOUTHBUILD PERFORMANCE OUTCOMES AND PARTICIPANT CHARACTERISTICS

Total Number of Youth Participants	319
Successfully Completed the Youthbuild Program	82%
2003 Average Cost per Youthbuild Participant	\$2,400
2003 Total State Appropriation	\$754,000

Long-Term Outcomes for Those Who Complete the Youthbuild Program

Completed High School or Obtained GED	88%
Enrolled in Post-Secondary Institution or Vo-Tech	34%
Entered Unsubsidized Employment	75%
Entered the Building Trades Profession or Related Field	28%
Average Wage of Unsubsidized Employment	\$10.35
Average Attendance Rate of Participants	84%

Housing Outcomes

Total Number of Units Constructed or Renovated	72
Total Number of Low Income Homeowners or Tenants Affected	201
Total Number of Homeless Tenants Housed	65

At-Risk Indicators

Left School, Dropped Out, or Expelled	90%
Juvenile or Adult Offender	64%
Chemical Abuse or Drug Use Problems	32%
Emotional/Behavioral or Learning Disability	33%
Homeless	15%
Pregnant or Parenting Teen	19%
Receiving Public Assistance	73%

Age

16-17	48%
18-24	52%

Race/Ethnicity

African American	25%
Native American	14%
Hispanic	11%
Asian American	13%
White	37%

Customers

The Youthbuild program served 319 young people in 2003. Seventy-two (72) units of affordable housing were constructed or renovated, benefitting over 200 low income and homeless persons during the past year. All youth participants were ages 16 to 24, economically disadvantaged or eligible for the High School Graduation Incentives program, and had previously dropped out or were at risk of dropping out of school. Over half of the participants were youth of color. Of the youth served in 2003, 90 percent had left or been expelled from traditional school, two-thirds had previous involvement with the juvenile or criminal justice system, one-third had drug or chemical abuse issues, one third were emotional/behavioral or learning disabled, three-quarters were receiving public assistance, and 90 percent were economically disadvantaged.

Program Objectives

(1) Increase education and basic skills of at-risk youth:

- Improve basic academic performance and school attendance.
- Increase high school and GED graduation rates.
- Increase enrollment in post-secondary institutions.

(2) Increase the employability skills of at-risk youth:

- Increase job readiness and work maturity skills.
- Increase construction and building trades skills.
- Increase job placement in the building trades.

(3) Provide leadership opportunities for at-risk youth:

- Develop self-esteem, respect, and personal empowerment.
- Enhance citizenship, problem solving, and negotiating skills.
- Develop life skills.
- Reduce crime, teen pregnancy, drug use, and other negative behaviors.

(4) Rebuild deteriorating communities and neighborhoods:

- Increase affordable housing for homeless, battered, and poor families or individuals.
- Provide construction or renovation of various social service agencies, including learning centers, homeless shelters, family and mental health centers, Head Start facilities, handicapped-accessible ramps for the disabled, and playgrounds for low-income daycare facilities.



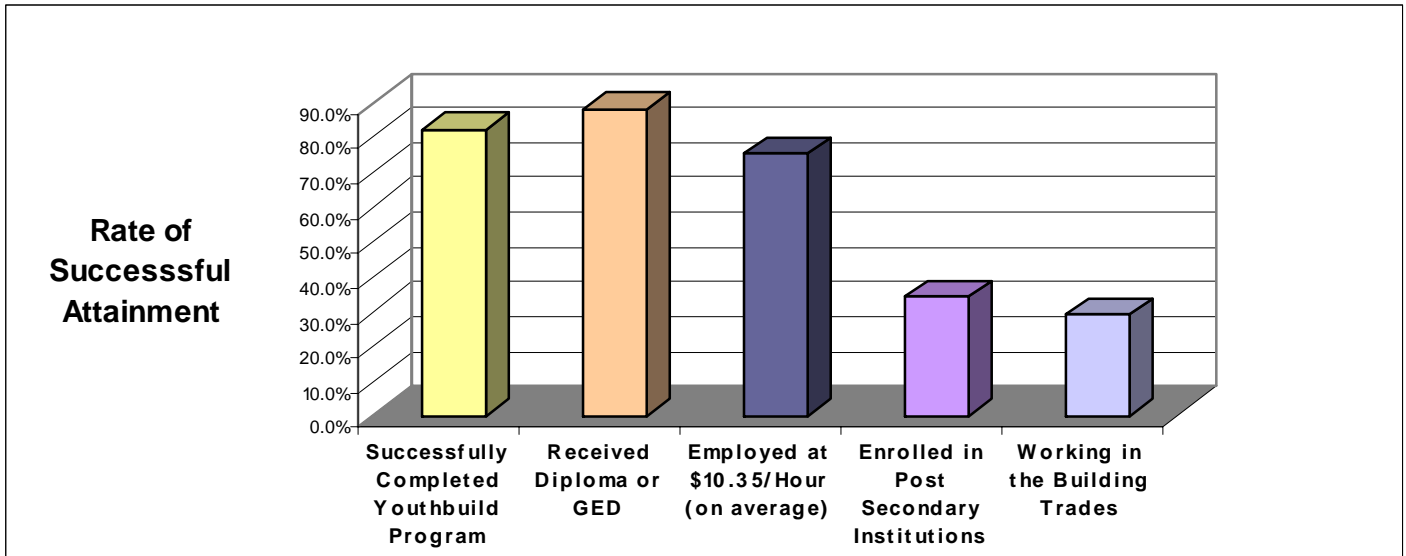
Willmar Youthbuilders constructing picnic tables for local park.



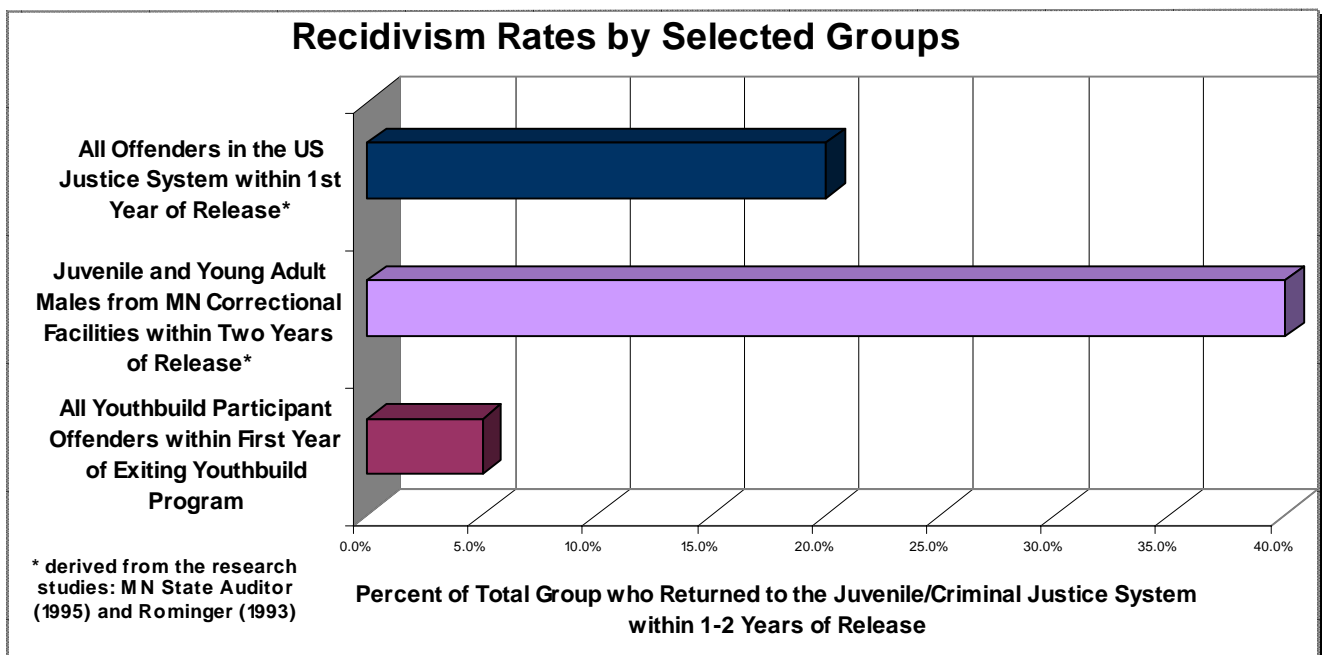
Youthbuilders set footings for a concrete foundation.

Participant Performance Outcomes

Follow-up data on former Youthbuild participants indicate that 88 percent of Youthbuilders who completed the program went on to obtain their high school diploma or GED. Approximately one-third went on to technical and vocational schools, colleges, and other post-secondary institutions. Seventy-five percent gained unsubsidized employment with an average starting wage of \$10.35 an hour. Of these jobs, approximately one-half were in the building trades field. Participants also gained increased skills in leadership development and self-esteem; they also reduced negative behaviors and attitudes regarding work, school, and social development.



In 2003, a cost-benefit analysis was commissioned by the Youthbuild Advisory Committee to measure the direct costs and benefits to the State of Minnesota. The cost-benefit analysis study is available for viewing at: www.mnwfc.org/youth/mdesy04.htm.



Funding

In 2003, \$754,000 in state funds supported Youthbuild Programs (see page 19 for current local contact information). Ten local Youthbuild agencies leveraged over \$4 million in matching funds through their partnerships with local community, housing, and educational agencies, law enforcement agencies, unions, technical schools, and court services.

Total Program Costs in 2003, including training and housing construction

Cost per participant = \$2,400

2003 State Appropriation

= \$754,000

Federal Government, Local Non-Profit, and Private Donations in 2003 = \$4,000,000

Program Models and Focus

Youthbuild provides a unique set of services to participants that focus on three major learning models:

1) Pre-Apprenticeship Work-Based Learning Model

- Provides pre-apprenticeship carpentry skills to effectively transition youth into formal building trades apprenticeship programs and building trades fields of study at vocational-technical colleges.
- provides comprehensive work-based services and acquisition of positive work habits to successfully transition from school to the real world of work or advanced post-secondary training for those who do not go into the building trades.
- Recognized as both a state and national work-based learning model.

(2) Youth Community Service and Citizenship Model

- Enhances citizenship skills, self-esteem and respect in youth.
- Provides opportunities to give back to the local community through meaningful and necessary community service: graffiti removal, yard work and snow shoveling for elderly and disabled neighbors, and assistance at food shelves.

(3) Crime Prevention and Restorative Justice Model

- Recognized as a model program for restorative justice for youth involved in gangs and the justice system.
- Over 100 Youthbuild participants have provided restitution to crime victims.
- Of the 204 Youthbuilders with prior involvement, less than 5 percent have re-offended this year.



Finnish Boarding House, Ironworld, Chisholm remodeled by AEOA Youthbuilders (before and after photos).

**BI-COUNTY COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAMS (BI-CAP)
BEMIDJI, MN**

Bi-County CAP, Inc., a private nonprofit corporation serving Beltrami and Cass counties, operates the Minnesota Youthbuild program in collaboration with Rural MN CEP and Cass Lake Area Learning Center.

EDUCATION and WORK EXPERIENCE

Academic instruction is provided by the Cass Lake Area Learning Center (ALC). Students working on high school diplomas receive instruction at the ALC. The course work is individualized, and instruction is one-on-one. Students have the alternative option of completing GED testing. An articulation agreement reached with Northwest Technical College also allows Youthbuild graduates to receive technical college credit for two construction courses, based on their Youthbuild participation.



The work experience is two-tiered. Tier One involves construction training and job-readiness instruction. Tier Two provides high school credits for work experience in the building trades industry. Two certified instructors supervise crews of youth. Participants are paid \$6.00 an hour for 32 hours a week.

LEADERSHIP

Youthbuild workshops this year addressed topics such as chemical abuse, sexually transmitted diseases, and cardio-pulmonary resuscitation (CPR) training. Community service projects this year included snow shoveling and yard work for the elderly, a Head Start cultural diversion project, building ramps for the disabled, helping at the food shelf and at the Beltrami Animal Shelter, and highway cleanup.

HOUSING

Youthbuilders are nearing completion of three single-family homes for low income homebuyers. They have also rehabilitated several transitional housing units in Beltrami and Cass counties.

Success Story: Ashley Seely

I started Youthbuild in August 2002. After the week-long orientation, I knew I wanted to be a part of the program. Briefly into the program, I found out I was pregnant. I worked hard, learned many construction skills, and though I was pregnant, I went to the site and participated safely in the development of a house that I am so proud of. I went to many leadership activities including job searching, job readiness, highway cleanup, participation in the State Fair, and helping at the Senior Citizens Center. A year went by really fast and before I knew it, I had my baby girl, Sierra; graduated as an honor student; and started college. Now I am an intern with the program, raising my daughter, and attending three in-school classes at Bemidji State University. I continue to learn more and make bonds everyday. I still have many memories, like of my nervousness during orientation and the time when I walked down the line at my graduation ceremony. I know I couldn't have done it without the help and support of Youthbuild. They taught me life-long leadership and construction skills. This has been a wonderful, worthwhile experience. I am glad I have been part of it!



**THE CITY, INC.
MINNEAPOLIS, MN**

“Pride in the City” Youthbuild program in Minneapolis is a collaborative effort between The City, Inc., a nonprofit youth agency, and Habitat for Humanity.

EDUCATION

Youthbuild participants are enrolled in The City School, an accredited alternative learning center with school sites located in north and south Minneapolis. The curriculum emphasizes basic skill acquisition in math, English, problem solving, leadership development, and



Dao Lee insulating the interior of a basement.

a community building mission. Job search skills, and college and career planning are emphasized through post-

secondary options classes. Field trips to various sites, including Dunwoody Institute, the University of Minnesota, and St. Thomas University, encourage interest in the building trades and staying in the Youthbuild Program.

WORK EXPERIENCE

Under the supervision of a journeyman carpenter and a site supervisor, participants spend one day each week learning with appropriate tools and gaining a basic understanding of physical structures and housing construction. With supervisor-student ratios of 1 to 4, participants acquire experience in a variety of areas relating to carpentry, including cabinet construction, taping, shingling, staining, framing, blocking, siding, drain tile, and blue print reading. Participants also learn to utilize surveying and design skills and have opportunities to work with tiring strips, footings, concrete rebar trusses, and sheer panels. Participants are eligible for elective credit and a stipend based on attendance.



Raymond Johnson and Kentara Dean, with instructor Grant English, drain tiling around a south Minneapolis home.

LEADERSHIP

As teacher assistants and mentors to younger students at Longfellow Middle School, Youthbuilders help to teach reading and writing skills and assist students with homework assignments. Longfellow staff reported that the Youthbuild students were among their best assistants and mentors and asked them to continue the program next year. Youthbuilders lead the student board and have played an active role in The City, Inc. activities.

HOUSING

Youthbuilders worked on the construction of six Habitat for Humanity home sites in the Minneapolis and St. Paul areas. They have also constructed interior/exterior prefabricated walls and various framing at the Habitat for Humanity panel plant facility.



Brandon Howard and Raymond Johnson installing drain tile and egress windows on a home under construction in south Minneapolis.

**CARVER-SCOTT EDUCATIONAL COOPERATIVE
CHASKA, MN**

The Carver-Scott Educational Cooperative (CSEC) operates the Youthbuild program in various locations throughout Carver and Scott counties. It has a long history of collaboration projects with the Scott County HRA, Carver County HRA, Scott-Carver-Dakota Community Action Agency, Youth Employment and Training programs in both counties, and the Carver-Scott Housing Coalition.



EDUCATION and WORK EXPERIENCE

The educational curriculum emphasizes applied learning in the areas of math, reading, writing and citizenship. Related topics are woven throughout the program, and it is possible to complete four graduation standards by the end of the school year. Career development activities include field trips to local technical and community colleges, industry exploration and goal setting.

A licensed vocational instructor provides specific construction skills training to youth on the worksite and in the shop/classroom. Youth are involved from start to finish on most construction projects, enabling them to develop a wide range of skills. Good work behaviors such as attendance, promptness, task completion and working as part of a team are addressed on an on-going basis. Students can participate in either a full-time or part-time program that runs throughout the entire school year; or a full-time program that runs throughout the summer months only.

LEADERSHIP

CSEC has been designated a National and State Leader School for Service-Learning. The Corporation for National and Community Service and the Minnesota Department of Education recognized CSEC for dedication to combining meaningful service and classroom studies in a way that strengthens communities and improves student learning. CSEC also was inducted into the Service-Learning Hall of Fame, a designation awarded by the National Youth Leadership Council to only six schools in the state of Minnesota. Staff and students are frequently involved in teacher trainings and workshops. Youthbuild participants assist in the interview process, serve as peer mentors, participate in a schoolwide leadership class, serve on the service-learning committee and are called upon to testify at legislative hearings.

HOUSING

In 2003, the students worked on projects for the Jordan Family Center, completed a new house for the Carver County HRA, and remodeled a home to be used for the West Carver Alternative Learning Center. The students also started



and completed a home in Norwood Young America for a family of ten, and will participate with a professional crew in the construction of ten low-income townhouses next year. In 2004, CSEC Youthbuilders will build a new building adjacent to the main campus to be used as a new woodworking shop. They will also perform major repair work and renovations on the West Carver Area Learning Center.

CSEC Youthbuilders framing a childcare facility.



Excerpt From a Letter from the Parent of a Carver-Scott Youthbuild Participant

“As a senior in high school, my daughter dropped out’ of everything. She stopped attending classes, would hide out during the day, and stopped caring about anything.

After the first day at Youthbuild, she came home bubbling with excitement. About the people that ran the program, the other kids in it, and what they were going to do for the community that summer—for other people who didn’t have the blessings of a home.

Every day, she learned more and grew from her experience. The instructors treated the kids like ‘real people’, with minds of their own. The kids were held accountable for their actions, it wasn’t an ‘easy way out’. She talked more and more about what she was doing to help poorer people in the community. It was very important to her, to do her best on the job because someone else would be living there and taking pride in a home she helped to build especially for them. She became a leader, she expressed her views and stood up to her peers and defended her values.

Once she receives her diploma, she wants to go on to school and learn more about the construction trade, and stay involved in the community. I cannot say enough good things about the positive effect that Youthbuild had on my daughter. These people (strangers doing their job) brought back my daughter. She kept a part-time job while attending Youthbuild, and sometimes her days lasted well over 12 hours—and she didn’t complain. She was up bright and early and ready to go again the next morning.

She met the goal she set for herself—100 % attendance and never late. She discovered who she is and believes in herself and the difference she can make in other people’s lives.”

Sincerely,

Julie A. Mabee

**CITY ACADEMY
ST. PAUL, MN**

City Academy, the nation's first charter school, operates the Youthbuild program in collaboration with the city of St. Paul (Planning and Economic Development and Parks and Recreation Departments), the East Side Neighborhood Community Development Corporation (ESNDC), and St. Paul Public Schools.

EDUCATION and WORK EXPERIENCE

City Academy students spend 30 hours a week in the classroom with teacher-student ratios of 1 to 8. Internships in the community and participation in post-secondary programs provide students with bridges to the world beyond high school. The curriculum includes all facets of the construction industry: market research, site selection, negotiations and planning with city agencies, financing, mortgage underwriting, marketing processes and property management techniques. Courses include: blueprint reading, drafting for the homeowner, architectural history, neighborhood design, business and community law, architectural math, computer drafting, and woodshop.



A construction trades specialist provides construction skills training to participants approximately 15-20 hours a week at the construction site. In addition, participants attend job readiness classes that emphasize work related behaviors such as punctuality, regular attendance, and the importance of effective teamwork and communication. City Academy Youthbuild has formed partnerships with McGrass Construction, Sherer Brothers, Bob's Drywall, Vern Craven's Concrete, Gateway Mechanical, and Ries Electric Company.



LEADERSHIP

As advisory board members, students are involved in the actual planning and evaluation of the construction projects, including making public presentations to the City Council, selecting project sites, and petitioning City offices to obtain site approval and control. Students also do yard work and shovel walks for elderly neighbors.

HOUSING

In the past five years, Youthbuild participants have completed approximately 100 single family homes and rehabbed five homes for low-income families in the east and west side neighborhoods of St. Paul.

Success Story: Kang Khang



Kang Khang has been named the 2003 Youthbuild success story by both staff and students. Ka is one of the most enthusiastic team members ever to join our team. In school and on the jobsite, Ka was willing to tackle any task and work at it until she had perfected the skills. One of her lasting monuments to the school and community are the newly tiled restrooms. Five restrooms, four of which had all the challenges of old rooms, including uneven floors and walls, are now completely re-tiled.

Even though one of the rooms needed to have more than one "start over," Ka stayed with the task and gained the skills of a master ceramic tiler. She and a friend prepared more than 300 handmade egg rolls to share at "National Night Out." Ka graduated in June and is a full-time student at St. Paul College. The skills she gained in Youthbuild and her proven leadership will always be assets to our community.



RURAL MINNESOTA CEP, INC. DETROIT LAKES, MN

Rural MN CEP, Inc. operates the Minnesota Youthbuild program in collaboration with the Perham-Dent School District, Otter Tail-Wadena Community Action Council, and the Leaf River Habitat for Humanity Project.

EDUCATION and WORK EXPERIENCE

Students work toward a high school diploma through the Perham-Dent Alternative Learning Center. Students also attend life skills classes one day per week. Rural MN CEP provides career planning, guidance, and job search instruction to all participants. A certified construction trades instructor provides supervision, skill-training, and work-based project learning to participants for an average of 15 hours per week during the school year and 30 to 40 hours per week during the summer months.

LEADERSHIP

Participants serve as crew leaders under the supervision of the construction instructor, and have responsibilities that include tracking breaks, reviewing time cards, and assigning tasks to other participants. Several youth provide peer counseling in areas of worker safety and responsibility. Youth on the advisory committee provided input on project decisions and help to evaluate program outcomes.

HOUSING

The Youthbuild crew completed their 13th single family dwelling in the Perham area last spring. They are currently working on an energy efficient panel construction home.

Success Story: Angela Galletta

Youthbuild was an extremely interesting part of my life. I had never had the opportunity to do a woodworking class (let alone Youthbuild class) so I joined the class and really enjoyed it. It got tough at times being the only female and the weather got cold at times but I stuck with it and made it through the year. At the moment, I am employed at the Perham Memorial Hospital & Home. I am in the nursing home section as a Nursing Assistant working with the elderly and patients with dementia. I am planning to attend NDSU 2nd semester to become an RN (registered nurse) or to work in the ER (after completing a CNA course and receiving my high school diploma through Perham Alternative Learning Center last summer). I am living on my own (since I was 17) on the outskirts of Perham, but I am planning to move to the Fargo-Moorhead area sometime soon.



Youthbuild participants with local Representative Dean Simpson during Youthbuild day at the Capitol.



Stress panel house built by CEP Youthbuilders.



Angela Galletta with Michael Whitney, Tyghe Lane, Scott Matty inside the house they built.

**GUADALUPE ALTERNATIVE PROGRAMS
ST. PAUL, MN**

Guadalupe Alternative Programs (GAP) operates the Youthbuild program on the West Side of St. Paul in collaboration with Project for Pride in Living.

EDUCATION

Students spend between ten and twenty hours a week in academic classes. The curriculum focuses on the acquisition of basic skills and also provides enrichment opportunities such as studio arts, physical education, and cultural activities. Youthbuild participants receive job readiness skills training in areas such as career awareness, interviewing, developing a resume, organizing a job search, and post-secondary planning. Field trips in 2003 included going to technical colleges and an apprenticeship training center.

WORK EXPERIENCE

A journeyman carpenter provides specific construction skills training to two crews of four youth each on the worksite. Participants spend approximately fifteen hours a week in work experience training, which includes work maturity skills, safety training, teamwork development, and carpentry skills. Specific skills gained this year include framing, sheet rocking, roofing, painting, installation of doors and windows, and landscaping. During the school year, participants earn a stipend of \$100 each quarter if attendance and safety participation are excellent. During the summer, "best" participants are hired and earn between \$6.00 and \$7.00 per hour for up to forty hours of work for ten weeks.

LEADERSHIP

Youthbuild participants are encouraged to run for GAP's Student Board. The Student Board is involved in all levels of school governance, including mediating student disciplinary matters and hiring teachers. Also, Youthbuild participants were involved in various forms of community service, such as snow shoveling, a food drive, and a blood drive.

HOUSING

During 2003, participants built a daycare facility and renovated two single family dwellings.



Nick Whaley and Gilbert Castillo on east side St. Paul project in January.



*Above Left: Josefina Martinez, "Outstanding Youthbuild Participant."
Left: Jason Cochran wearing safety ear protection at a worksite.*



CENTRAL MN JOBS AND TRAINING SERVICES MONTICELLO, MN

Central Minnesota Jobs and Training Services operates the Minnesota Youthbuild program in Willmar, New London, and Spicer in collaboration with the Willmar Area Learning Center, New London-Spicer ALP, and West Central Minnesota Habitat for Humanity.

EDUCATION

Academic activities are integrated with work experience, job readiness, and leadership activities. Each student participates in the School-to-Work Transition class along with the career exploration and vocational evaluation program at the Career Assessment Center. Students at the Willmar ALC also participate in the shop/classroom part of Youthbuild, which teaches skills such as computer aided drafting, building estimating, understanding building codes, and blue-print reading.



Ferrin Synhorst staining wood doors.



Jeremy Meis and Nick Neal installing sheet rock.

WORK EXPERIENCE

A certified vocational instructor provides skill training within a classroom/shop setting, and a certified carpenter supervises participants on the work site. Participants spend two hours a day at the jobsite learning specific carpentry skills. In addition, punctuality, safety, work quality, conflict resolution, and team work principles are taught and reinforced on the job.

LEADERSHIP

In the classroom and on the job site, participants are taught team work principles, awareness of local social issues, problem-solving skills, and civic responsibility. Over the past year, participants

have been involved in various projects for the City of Willmar, Prairie Woods Environmental Center, Willmar Regional Treatment Center, and others. Participants also gave presentations to the Willmar School Board.

HOUSING

This year, participants worked on the construction of two homes in Willmar and New London. The participants also assisted in the construction of storage sheds for the Willmar Housing Authority.

Success Story: Natasha Malvin

Youthbuild has helped me so much with school credits and financially. I have been in Youthbuild for a little over a year-and-a-half. It has been such a good experience. In Youthbuild, we get a school unit for each hour we work, which has really helped me because I have a three-year old son to support. Youthbuild also provided me with classroom time where I learned AUTOCAD and drafting. It has encouraged me to explore non-traditional careers. [During her participation in Youthbuild, Natasha graduated from Willmar Alterantive Learning Center and enrolled in Ridgewater Technical College in Willmar.]



Jeremy Meis, Nick Neal, Jeremy Pacholl, and Nate Masters laying the foundation.

**ARROWHEAD ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY AGENCY (AEOA)
VIRGINIA, MN**

Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency, Inc. operates the Arrowhead Youthbuild program, providing services to youth in the quad city area. Collaborators in the project include the Northland Educational Cooperative, Adult Basic Education Program, AEOA Housing Services, and Arrowhead Corrections.

EDUCATION and WORK EXPERIENCE

Arrowhead Youthbuild academic activities assist students with achieving their GED or high school diploma. These activities combine experiential education with traditional classroom settings in order to provide the most effective learning environment for each student. In addition to the core curriculum, students attend seminars on job-readiness, job search, career development, and life-coping skills. A journeyman carpenter provides skills training to youth at the worksites.

Participants are taught framing,

sheet rocking, demolition, landscaping, siding, layout procedures, and blueprint reading. Participants also “job shadow” construction trades professionals to get a first-hand look at the field as a profession. Youth receive minimum wage upon entry into the program, but may receive merit increases based upon factors such as attendance, attitude, performance, and assumed responsibility.

LEADERSHIP

Youthbuild participants who demonstrate responsible and conscientious work habits are put in charge of specific tasks at jobsites when appropriate. Lessons of accountability and quality assurance are demonstrated during inspections by the crew supervisor. Additionally, participants have been involved in outdoor challenge activities designed to build self-esteem, confidence, and leadership skills. Activities have included high-ropes courses and rock climbing.

HOUSING

In the past year, Youthbuilders completed a project renovating an old school into new office space for Range Mental Health Center in Hibbing. Youthbuild participants also completed a project at Ironworld Interpretive Center in Chisholm restoring a historic Finnish Boarding House that housed underground miners over 100 years ago. Youthbuild also purchased a home through the AEOA Housing Services, and is currently renovating the house to be sold to a low-income family.



Dave Gornick, carpentry instructor for the past eight years, is described by his Youthbuilders as one of the crew and someone respected by all.



Tobi Hedin meticulously painting interior walls.



Above: Youthbuilders Ben Meyer, Chris Harfield, and Chris Stella finishing roof sheathing on a garage. Below: Exterior view of the Finnish Boarding House at Ironworld in Chisholm.



STEARNS-BENTON EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING COUNCIL ST. CLOUD, MN

Stearns-Benton Employment & Training Council operates the Youthbuild program in collaboration with the St. Cloud Housing Coalition and Tri-Cap Community Development.

EDUCATION and WORK EXPERIENCE

Youthbuilders attend classes through Adult Basic Education (ABE) and their respective Alternative Learning Centers for up to 15 hours per week to work toward obtaining a GED/high school diploma. Youthbuilders receive elective credits toward their high school diploma for their worksite learning.

Youthbuilders learn job specific skills on the worksite. In addition to spending time on job tasks, Youthbuilders learn the technical skills involved in the construction project, including power tool safety. Performance reviews are completed for each crew member on an ongoing basis.

LEADERSHIP

Youthbuilders share active leadership roles within their team structure each day. Two opportunities are available to learn effective leadership skills. The Housing Coalition provides one-on-one leadership from a retired veteran with over 25 years experience. The other opportunity is to be part of a leader-led construction crew doing new construction.

HOUSING

The Youthbuilders assisted in remodeling several low income apartment units. Youthbuilders contribute to low-income housing in two ways, rehabilitation of existing units and new construction. In 2003, Youthbuilders remodeled ten apartment units and constructed one new home.

AEOA Youthbuild Success Story: Sarah Kapella

My life before joining the Arrowhead Youthbuild program was going downhill quickly. I got pregnant when I was 15 years old and dropped out of school. I was hanging out with all the wrong people, getting in trouble and doing drugs. It took a lot of work and dedication from my boss, Dave Gornick, to help straighten me out, and a mother who refused to give up. Dave made sure I went to school, did all my homework, and helped me get my permit and license. I thought of him as my second dad. I also got a variety of different job skills, everything from changing a lightbulb to painting houses and building a garage. I also got to travel a lot and help out disabled people. I worked with Arrowhead Youthbuild for two years, was on the right track, and signed up for welding in college. I got halfway through the year, and took a job fixing cell phones for \$10/hour. A few months later I went through Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency's homebuyer class and bought a house at 21 years old. Then a few months later, I got laid off and started going back down that same bad road again. Thankfully, my mom wouldn't give up on me. She gave me the idea to join the Army National Guard. I signed up the next day. Now, I'm in shape, physically and mentally, and graduate in only 26 days. I actually feel proud of myself, being the first female in my family to join the military.



When I'm done, I am going to go to college to be a lawyer. I look back and wonder where I would have ended up if it wasn't for the Arrowhead Youthbuild program. Thanks for your patience and motivation. You helped change my life, and I couldn't have done it without you Dave.

**WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT, INC.
WABASHA, MN**

Workforce Development, Inc. operates the Wabasha Youthbuild program in partnership with Wabasha County Housing and Redevelopment Authority, Wabasha County Alternative Learning Center (ALC), Local Carpenters Union 1382, and Three Rivers Community Action, Inc. The program is located in the River Valley Academy, an alternative school serving Wabasha County.

EDUCATION

Youthbuilders work with the youth counselor to develop an individual plan to address educational issues. Youth work to bring up their academic skill level and to complete a high school diploma or prepare to test for the GED. To assist them in preparation for future training or employment, the program helps youth identify transferable SCANS skills (Secretary's Commission on Achieving Necessary Skills). As youth become familiar with the skills they are using, they are better prepared to understand the expectations of future employers and to have success in that employment.

WORK EXPERIENCE

A licensed vocational instructor coordinates the work experience component and supervises the Youthbuild participants. The program provides an environment in which the youth can apply the skills as they are learning them. This gives youth a stronger self-concept and a personal feeling of accomplishment because they can see that their efforts improve the lives of others. Youth receive a training stipend of \$5.25 per hour and may also earn bonuses and scholarships based on performance and attendance.



Brett Gremminger and Jon Wilson saw boards while building a wheelchair ramp for an elderly homeowner.



Wabasha Youthbuilder Amy LaFond works hard on the job.

LEADERSHIP

This program provides many opportunities for the development of leadership and teamwork skills through training, field experiences, service learning, and career exploration opportunities. The youth enjoy challenging activities like climbing walls and high ropes courses as they gain team-building skills. Youth participate in all aspects of planning and implementation of the construction projects to help them develop problem-solving skills and become familiar with the resources in their community.

HOUSING

Projects this year have included the construction of fifteen air conditioner covers for low-income housing units, construction of two sheds for collection of recycling materials in low-income areas, construction of several handicapped-accessible ramps for disabled low-income families and a room in the River View Academy to accommodate the new Day Treatment Program.

**SUMMIT ACADEMY OIC
MINNEAPOLIS, MN**

(Effective July 1, 2003, Summit Academy OIC is no longer a Youthbuild service provider.)

The Summit Academy OIC Youthbuild program has collaborated extensively with the Greater Minneapolis Metropolitan Housing Corporation, Minneapolis Public Housing Authority, Flannery Construction, Thor Construction, Central Neighborhood Improvement Association and South Side Neighborhood Housing Services, The City of Minneapolis and Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP) during the past several years.



EDUCATION AND WORK EXPERIENCE

Youthbuild students obtained hands-on training from journeyman carpenters by completing competency skill sets in the shop and then continuing the learning process in the field. Students obtained their diploma or GED through the use of the Minneapolis Adult Basic Education Center. Youth also attended workshops and field trips on financial management, conflict resolution, anger management, drug education, labor unions, and job searching. In addition, Youthbuilders have attended training workshops at the Home Depot University.

LEADERSHIP

Community service projects in recent years have included street clean ups and sweeps in the Central neighborhood and joint efforts with MADDADS assisting in crime and gang prevention in the Near North neighborhood and Central South neighborhood. Youthbuilders attended City Hall for a forum on the rezoning of city wards. Youthbuild participants ran their own student government, the Policy Committee, which was responsible for holding regular meetings, keeping minutes, recommendations on discipline issues, and monitoring the budget for student activities.



Summit Youthbuilders renovating a home in Minneapolis.

HOUSING

Youthbuilders applied their skills in a concrete project for the City of Minneapolis and NRP. Also, Youthbuilders were engaged in the 5th Avenue Southside Sod Project and a major interior paint job with the new YWCA Urban Sports Facility. Youthbuild helped construct the new childcare center within the facility in 2000.

**PROJECT FOR PRIDE IN LIVING
MINNEAPOLIS, MN**

(Effective July 1, 2003, Project For Pride in Living is no longer a Youthbuild service provider.)

Project for Pride in Living (PPL) operated the Minnesota Youthbuild program in collaboration with Guadalupe Alternative School (GAP).

EDUCATION AND WORK EXPERIENCE

Students spent half their day in academic classes and received job-readiness skills training in areas such as career awareness, interviewing, developing a resume, organizing a job search and post-secondary planning. Field trips included visits to technical colleges and an apprenticeship training center.

A journeyman carpenter provided specific construction skills training to two crews of four youth each on the worksites. Participants spent approximately fifteen hours a week in work experience training, which includes safety training, teamwork development and carpentry skills.

LEADERSHIP

Youthbuild participants held positions on the student board which is involved in all levels of school governance, including mediating student disciplinary matters and hiring teachers. Youthbuild participants also provided community service such as snow shoveling and help with a food drive and blood drive.

HOUSING

This year the Youthbuild participants built a daycare facility and renovated two single-family dwellings.



Nick Whaley prepares for a cold day of working outside on framing a house.



Interior renovation on the Finnish Boarding House in Chisholm is nearing completion by AEOA Youthbuilders.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE MINNESOTA
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Upon request, this report is available in alternate for-
mats such as audio, Braille or computer disk.

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