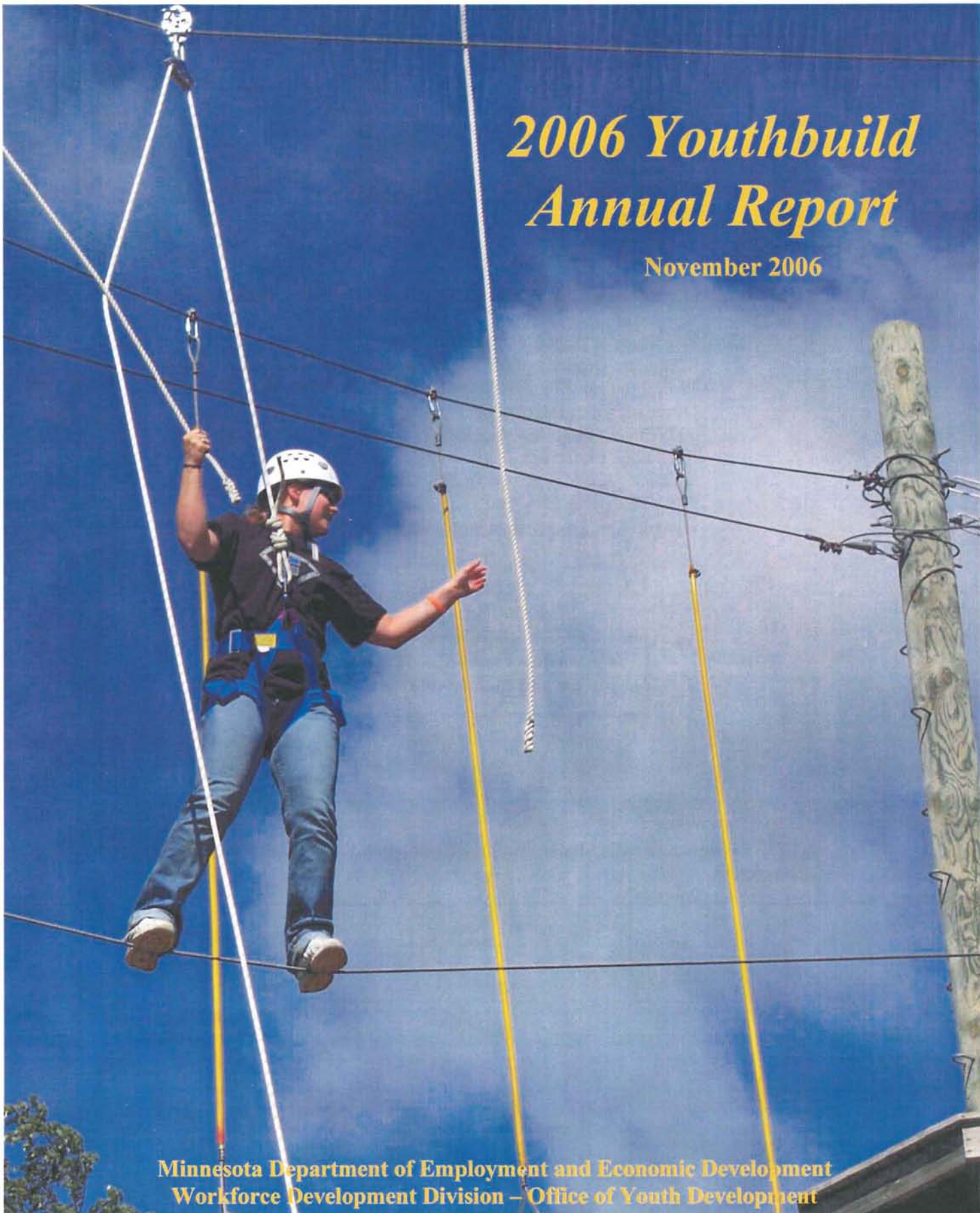


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# *2006 Youthbuild Annual Report*

November 2006

Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development  
Workforce Development Division – Office of Youth Development

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For additional information on the Minnesota Youthbuild Program, please contact:

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**In accordance with M.S. 3.197, the cost  
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NOTE: Alternate formats (audio, Braille, or computer disc) of this report are available upon request.

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### PERFORMANCE OUTCOMES AND PROGRAM CHARACTERISTICS

PARTICIPANT SUMMARY	
Total Number of Participants	306
Successfully Completed the Program	81%
Average Cost Per Participant	\$2,464
<b>AGE</b>	
Percent of Participants Ages 16-17	46%
Percent of Participants Ages 18-24	54%
<b>RACE/ETHNICITY</b>	
African American	12%
Asian American	12%
Hispanic	17%
Native American	11%
White	48%
<b>AT-RISK INDICATORS</b>	
Chemical Abuse or Drug Use Problems	27%
Emotional/Behavioral or Learning Disability	29%
Homeless	10%
Juvenile or Adult Offender	70%
Left Traditional High School, Dropped Out, or Expelled	91%
Pregnant or Parenting Teen	9%
Receiving Public Assistance or Living Below the Poverty Level	84%
PERFORMANCE OUTCOMES	
Completed High School or Obtained a GED	90%
Entered Unsubsidized Employment or Post-Secondary Institution	88%
Entered Building Trades Profession or Related Field	29%
Average Wage of Unsubsidized Employment	\$11.00
Average Attendance Rate of Participants	88%
HOUSING OUTCOMES	
Total Number of Units Constructed or Renovated	66
Total Number of Low Income Homeowners or Tenants Affected	131
BUDGET SUMMARY	
Total State Appropriations	\$754,000

# 2006 Youthbuild Annual Report

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## FUNDING

In 2006, \$754,000 in state funds supported Youthbuild Programs (see page 28 for current local contact information). In addition, local Youthbuild agencies leveraged over \$3 million in matching funds through their partnerships with local community services, housing, and educational agencies, faith-based organizations, law enforcement agencies, unions, technical schools, and court services.

## YOUTHBUILD PROGRAM MODEL

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

### Work-Based Learning Model

- Provides advanced carpentry skills to effectively transition youth into employment and technical college in the building trades fields
- Provides acquisition of positive work habits to successfully transition youth from school to the real world of work or advanced post-secondary training
- Recognized for excellence as both a state and national work-based learning model



### Community Service and Citizenship Model

- Enhances citizenship, responsibility and respect for self and others
- Develops decision-making, problem-solving, negotiation, and conflict resolution skills
- Provides opportunities to give back to the local community through meaningful community service



### Crime Prevention and Restorative Justice Model

- Recognized as a model program for restorative justice for youth involved in gangs and the justice system
- Over 50 Youthbuild participants have provided restitution to crime victims in 2006
- Of the 211 Youthbuilders with prior involvement, less than five percent (5%) re-offended





### YOUTHBUILD PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

#### Increase Education and Basic Skills of Low-Performing Youth

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



#### Increase the Employability Skills of Jobless Youth

- Increase job readiness and work maturity skills
- Increase career awareness and development
- Increase construction and building trades skills
- Increase job placement in the building trades



*Leadership Team in the BWCA*

#### Provide Leadership Opportunities for At-Risk Youth

- Develop self-esteem, respect, and personal empowerment
- Develop life skills: conflict resolution, time management, budgeting, communication, and attitude
- Enhance citizenship, problem solving, and negotiating skills
- Reduce crime, teen pregnancy, drug use, and other negative behaviors
- Increase commitment to community service and responsibility to local community

#### 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, and handicapped accessible ramps for the disabled



## 2006 Youthbuild Annual Report

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### CUSTOMERS

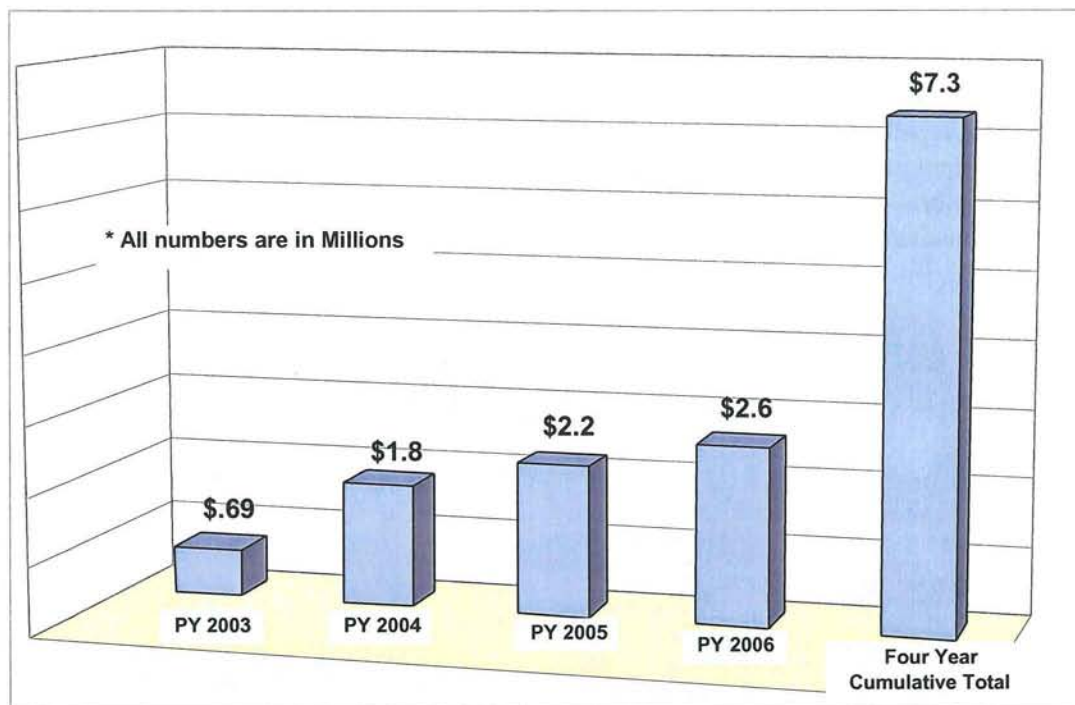
The Youthbuild Program served 306 young people in 2006. Sixty-six (66) units of affordable housing were constructed or renovated, benefiting over 130 low income and homeless persons during the past year. All youth participants were ages 16 to 24, economically disadvantaged or eligible for the High School 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 2006, 90 percent had left or been expelled from traditional school, over two-thirds had previous involvement with the juvenile or criminal justice system, one quarter had drug or chemical abuse issues, one quarter were emotional/behavioral or learning disabled, over 80 percent were receiving public assistance or were economically disadvantaged.





### PROGRAM COST COMPARISONS

#### State's Total Net Benefits Attributable to the Youthbuild Program



From 2000-2003, DEED conducted a cost-benefit study of the Youthbuild Program to examine the benefits and cost savings to the state of Minnesota generated by training at-risk youth and offenders in the Youthbuild Program.

Based on results of the analysis, the state's investment in Youthbuild participants pays off the first year immediately following participants' graduation from the program. "Net" revenues and cost savings, generated from additional tax revenues and prison/corrections savings to the state of Minnesota, are calculated to be approximately \$700,000 in the first year, \$1.8 million in the second year, \$2.2 million in third year, and \$2.6 million in the fourth year.

Over a four year period, the total cumulative pay off exceeds \$7 million. The results are summarized in the chart above (to view the study's full text and analysis go to: <http://www.deed.state.mn.us/youth/ybuild.htm>).

In 2007, DEED is planning to conduct a follow-up cost-benefit analysis on the Youthbuild Program based on the earlier study.



## 2006 Youthbuild Annual Report

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### **ARROWHEAD ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY AGENCY (AEOA) VIRGINIA, MINNESOTA**

Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency operates Arrowhead Youthbuild in the quad city area of Virginia, Eveleth, Gilbert, Mountain Iron and surrounding communities. Collaborative partners in the project include the Adult Basic Education Program, the Area Learning Center, AEOA's Housing Services, Range Mental Health, the local WorkForce Center and the area juvenile justice probation staff.

#### **EDUCATION AND JOB READINESS SKILLS**

A strong experiential education approach is used to frame all Youthbuild activities. The participants spend a portion of their time in either the Adult Basic Education classroom or the Area Learning Center in order to attain their high school diplomas or GED certificates. Specialized classroom training includes construction math and an array of work readiness topics such as resume development, employer expectations, completing applications, creative job search, and effective interviewing.



#### **LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT**

Each youth attends weekly sessions that develop independent living skills and leadership traits. Skills include: budgeting, planning and preparing meals, the process of renting or leasing an apartment or house, and how to set-up financial services at a bank. Each youth meets weekly with a case manager and completes a full vocational evaluation, spending time to review the results with a professional Vocational Evaluator. The case manager also assists with exploring financial aid options and submitting college or technical school applications for youth interested in post-secondary. Youthbuilders also conduct volunteer activities in the community as a public service and citizenship activity.

#### **CONSTRUCTION/WORK EXPERIENCE**

Youthbuilders learn basic construction skills through a mix of classroom activities and on-site training and work experience. A journeyman carpenter provides skills training to youth at the work sites. Youth receive a stipend for up to 40 hours per week and 100% attendance during a two-week period is rewarded with incentives. Participants are taught techniques in areas such as framing, sheet rocking, demolition, landscaping, siding, roofing, layout procedures, and blue print reading. Youth also have an opportunity to "job shadow" construction trades to get a first-hand look at the field as a profession. The Youthbuild crew recently had the opportunity to learn about in-floor heating systems and assist with the installation of an actual system. The AEOA also offers youth an opportunity to work on various other in-house programs, such as the weatherization crew.





### HOUSING PROJECTS

During the past year the youth crew completed the renovation of two houses in Virginia and Hibbing that will house up to 9 low-income family members. They also used a jack-hammer to remove the old concrete front and side steps, replacing them with new wooden ones, and renovated the garage into a useable building, including removal of the roof's tar paper and shingles, and the building's old siding.



Other Youthbuild projects included remodeling a bathroom for a low-income single mother, remodeling three offices for a mental health provider, building a storage shed for a homeless shelter, and assisting with the renovation of an old three-story school in Hibbing to be converted to 27 apartments for individuals with lower functioning skills/abilities. Crew members also installed chain link safety fences and playground equipment at Head Start Centers. During Arrowhead Youthbuild's ten year existence, the program's crew members have created affordable and safe housing for over 100 low-income family members in the Arrowhead communities.

### AEOA SUCCESS STORY: JENNA JORGENSEN, AGE 18

My name is Jenna Jorgensen.



Before I came to Arrowhead Youthbuild my life was out of control. I was injecting Meth and had also started selling the substance. I was so "spun" all of the time that I lost touch with what was really important to me. At that time all I really cared about was where I was getting my next "bump"! As a result of living my life that way, I lost everything and everyone I cared about. I was only eating about once a week and I almost never slept. My entire family gave up on me, except for my mom and grandmother.

Since I began working with Arrowhead Youthbuild my life has changed for the positive. I'm off of drugs and I've even started repairing the family relationships I had damaged earlier.

The first time that I walked into the Youthbuild classroom I was doubtful that I could ever get my GED and I felt overwhelmed. However, our teacher, Carol, helped me by explaining things in a way that I could understand.

This whole process hasn't been easy. I kept getting aggravated and wanted to quit. Dave Gornick, our crew supervisor, kept talking me into sticking with the program and had me focus on how important getting my GED could be for my future. I look at him like a dad. I never could have made it to where I am now without Dave. It took me awhile, but I'm proud to say that I recently passed all the GED tests and have my certificate!

I have learned so much since I started here: how to build things that I never dreamt I could build, how to manage my money better, and a lot about healthy relationships. Right now I am working with my case manager to enroll in college.

Arrowhead Youthbuild is a great program. I would recommend it to any youth who needs to turn their life around and is looking for a second chance. With what I have learned here, I am prepared to start my life over and take it in the right direction this time.



## **2006 Youthbuild Annual Report**

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### **BI-COUNTY COMMUNITY ACTION BEMIDJI, MINNESOTA**

Bi-County CAP, Inc., a nonprofit agency serving Beltrami and Cass counties, operates the Youthbuild Program in collaboration with Rural Minnesota CEP, Northwest Technical College, and Cass Lake Alternative Learning Center (ALC).

#### **EDUCATION**

Bi-CAP Youthbuild has two full-time teachers out-posted at the Youthbuild Program site from the Cass-Lake/Bena school district. The curriculum uses the Expeditionary Learning Outward Bound (ELOB) education model, an off-shoot of the nationally recognized Outward Bound Program that incorporates team building and individual growth into the academic instruction. An articulation agreement reached with Northwest Technical College also allows Youthbuilders to receive technical college credit for up to two construction courses prior to their college enrollment. For the first time, Bi-CAP Youthbuild partnered with a local nursing home to offer a Certified Nursing Assistants course and testing. Eight Youthbuilders, who took advantage of this opportunity, passed the course work and testing and obtained their certification.

#### **CONSTRUCTION/WORK EXPERIENCE**

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. A certified instructor supervises crews of youth. In addition an Industrial Technology teacher spends one day a week on the construction site with the youth. Youthbuild participants are paid approximately \$6.00 an hour for 32 hours of work and training each week.

#### **LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT**

Workshops this year included a field trip to J. W. Smith State Park in Duluth where Youthbuilders combined a biology class with state history, including a trip to the Glensheen mansion. Youthbuilders also completed several job skill classes, Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR), and First Aid Training. Service projects this year included Adopt-A-Highway clean-up, helping at the local Humane Society, and participation in the Citizens River Monitoring Program sponsored by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.

#### **HOUSING PROJECTS**

Youthbuilders were responsible for maintaining and repairing 17 transitional homes owned by the agency in a two county service area. The youth also completed a total rehabilitation of one of the transitional houses and began another.

### BI-CAP SUCCESS STORY: ROBERT SORENSON



Just prior to his enrollment in Youthbuild, Robert spent six months in a correctional facility for 4<sup>th</sup> degree possession of a controlled substance and criminal property damage. Once in Youthbuild, Robert was determined to change his former life style, get a diploma, and continue his education through post-secondary. Robert became a positive role model for his peers, known for his perfect attendance and willing attitude. He was always prompt, prepared, and willing to participate in any activity. He was also enthusiastic, hard working and goal driven.

He became involved in the first Native American Youth Summit in our state and was a delegate to Youthbuild Leadership Day at Camp Ihduhapi in Loretto, Minnesota, designing the winning logo entry for the state YouthbuildMN T-shirt. During his time in the program, Robert earned his high school diploma and enrolled in a two year construction electrical program at the Leech Lake Tribal College. Youthbuild staff are very proud of this young man's success!



## 2006 Youthbuild Annual Report

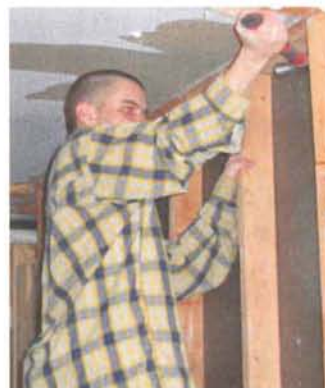
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### **CARVER-SCOTT EDUCATIONAL COOPERATIVE CHASKA, MINNESOTA**

School District #930, the Carver-Scott Educational Cooperative (CSEC), operates the Youthbuild Program on the Main Campus in Chaska, and at the CSEC Spring Lake Alternative Learning Center (ALC) located in Lydia. CSEC collaborates 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**

During the school year, students participate in morning academic classes and Youthbuild activities in the afternoon, where they earn required or elective credit. Academic skills in math, English communication and social studies are also taught or applied in the Youthbuild component. In the summer, Youthbuilders earn up to four semester credits in Math, English, Social Studies, or work experience/construction. Youthbuild emphasizes community involvement and citizenship throughout all activities. Career development includes field trips to local technical and community colleges, industry exploration and goal setting.



#### **CONSTRUCTION/WORK EXPERIENCE AND JOB READINESS**

Students must apply and complete an interview to be accepted into the Youthbuild Program. A licensed career and technical education instructor provides construction skills training to Youthbuilders on the work site and in the shop/classroom. Youth are involved from start to finish on construction projects, enabling them to develop a wide range of skills which will prepare them for entry level jobs or advanced standing in local technical colleges where articulation agreements are in place. Work maturity skills such as attendance, promptness, task completion, positive attitude, accepting responsibility and working as part of a team are addressed on an on-going basis on the construction site.

#### **LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT**

CSEC has been designated a National and State Leader School for Service-Learning, and was recently inducted into the Service-Learning Hall of Fame, a designation awarded to only eight schools located in Minnesota. The CSEC Youthbuild program combines meaningful service and classroom studies in a way that strengthens communities and improves student learning.

To develop their leadership skills, Youthbuild students are involved in the interview process for new students, serve as peer mentors, participate in a school-wide leadership class, or serve on the service learning committee. Youthbuilders are also often called to present at professional conferences highlighting "Youth Development of Youth Voice." Students leave Youthbuild with more self-confidence and the ability to be more self-sufficient.



During the school year, Youthbuild students participated with their peers in activities focused on peace. The culmination of this theme was the dedication of the Peace Pole with the words 'Make Peace Prevail on Earth' written in four languages. The Peace Pole and inscriptions represented the heritage of the students and the community.

### HOUSING/CONSTRUCTION

In the 2005-2006 program year, the Youthbuild students completed a house for the Scott County HRA which was sold to a first-time homeowner. They also completed the remodeling of their own school, the CSEC Spring Lake ALC located in Lydia. Last year, they remodeled the three existing classrooms and constructed an addition to the school building which added two large classrooms, a new entrance, and a reception area.

### CSEC SUCCESS STORY: AMINIDAB MENDEZ

Prior to coming to Minnesota, Aminidab Mendez was involved in the gang culture in California. After his family moved to the Chaska area, he again joined a gang in his community. His life choices were not going to keep him alive much longer. As the oldest of eight children, Aminidab decided it was time to turn his life around. He enrolled in the Spring Lake Area Learning Center Youthbuild Program, stopped associating with gang members, and began attending school regularly. He quickly found he could make decisions that would be better for him and his family.



Aminidab graduated last year, the first in his family to earn a high school diploma. He is currently working as a property manager for his uncle and also has a full time job at a gas station. He just purchased a house for his family, something he never thought would have been possible a few years before. Aminidab is proud of the skills and positive attitude he has learned in Youthbuild, stating that the best things in life are those he has worked hard for and has earned honestly.



## **2006 Youthbuild Annual Report**

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### **CENTRAL MINNESOTA JOBS AND TRAINING SERVICES (CMJTS) MONTICELLO, MINNESOTA**

Central Minnesota Jobs and Training Services (CMJTS) operates the Minnesota Youthbuild Program in the New London-Spicer area and the Pine City area in collaboration with the New London-Spicer and Pine City Alternative Learning Programs and the West Central and East Central Minnesota Habitat for Humanity organizations.

#### **EDUCATION AND JOB READINESS SKILLS**

Academic activities are integrated with work experience, job readiness, and leadership activities. Applied Math and World of Work are required courses that teach math skills necessary for any job in the construction trades. Youthbuilders also develop work readiness skills such as punctuality and adhering to proper dress, language, attitude and teamwork standards.

The Pine City ALC Youthbuild students were also involved in the Career Horizons program for three hours each week. This course focuses on career exploration with an emphasis on nontraditional fields and technical skill areas.

#### **CONSTRUCTION/WORK EXPERIENCE**

A certified carpenter supervises participants on the work site. Participants spend two hours a day at the job site learning specific carpentry skills. In addition, punctuality, safety, work quality, conflict resolution, and teamwork principles are taught and reinforced on the job.

#### **LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT**

Youthbuild activities emphasize teamwork principles, awareness of social issues, problem-solving, and civic responsibility. New London-Spicer students attend the Prairie Woods Environmental Learning Center to develop leadership, self-motivation and self-discipline skills, while Pine City students attend the Audobon Center engaged in problem-solving and team-building activities. Team-building activities throughout the year provide problem-solving activities to develop strategies to work together more effectively and improve assertiveness and communication skills within the group. Youthbuilders also visit colleges and career fairs in the Willmar area and work with a counselor on career planning and goals. After a house is completed, Youthbuilders are individually recognized and receive certificates from Habitat for Humanity during an Open House ceremony.

#### **HOUSING PROJECTS**

This year, Youthbuilders at the Spicer-New London ALC assisted with the completion of one home for a low-income family and in the set-up of the Habitat Store outside of Willmar. Pine City Youthbuilders assisted to finish the siding on one shed at a Habitat for Humanity site and worked to construct an 8 ft. x 10 ft. shed at another site. The shed provides valuable storage to the single-family house which does not have a garage.



### CMJTS SUCCESS STORY: KYLEE SAUTER, AGE 17

Before joining Youthbuild, I quit high school when I was in the 9<sup>th</sup> grade. I felt that the days at school were long and boring and because of this my grades were failing and I was skipping classes. So with everything that was happening, I enrolled into the local ALC. I was interested in Youthbuild because I got paid and I also got school credit. But I also learned a variety of new skills: how to build a shed for storage, how to set skids, set trusses on center, sheeting, flooring, roofing, and siding. It all took a lot of measuring and planning to complete the projects, and sometimes we had to re-do some stuff. Because of the measuring and journaling that we did, we got school credit in Math and English. We also worked on a playhouse for the local ECFE which is a school for 3-4 year-olds. We painted it and put on windows, shutters, and trim. It was fun because everyone liked it and it turned out great.



One of my successes of joining the Youthbuild program was that I bought a car with my money after completing the program. I was also able to get my drivers license. My grades and attendance at school also have improved because of Youthbuild. I have now started a new job at Ascott Manufacturing. I work before and after school. I receive \$7.50 an hour but when I turn 18 I will get \$16.00 an hour. My Youthbuild experience has also helped me get good job references.



## 2006 Youthbuild Annual Report

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### **CITY ACADEMY ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA**

In August of 2004, City Academy Youthbuild began a new partnership with Two Rivers Land Trust located in Oakdale, Minnesota. The successful completion of the 2006 Oakdale project has ensured another year of partnership with the Land Trust.

#### **EDUCATION**

City Academy staff continues to work with the College of St. Catherine to develop holistic assessments to effectively inform students of the learning progress. A major focus for City Academy Youthbuild is preparing all graduates for Post-Secondary participation, a goal that has been 85% achieved.



#### **CONSTRUCTION/WORK EXPERIENCE AND JOB READINESS**

Students gained experience starting with demolition, through final finishing and landscaping. Applied skills included: safety, basic tool skills, site preparation and maintenance, teamwork, framing, concrete, sheetrock, finishing, cabinet, door, window and stair installation, painting, tiling and carpet installation, and landscaping.

#### **LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT**

In August and January, students participated in Outward Bound Leadership activities in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area. Students earned stipends in \$100 increments based on attendance, safety and leadership. The majority of participants increased leadership skills and improved attendance.

Students and staff worked together to organize the first ever statewide Youthbuild Conference in April at Camp Iduhapi. At the dedication and Open House of the Oakdale duplex, Youthbuild students served as guides on behalf of the Oakdale City Council and the Mayor.



#### **HOUSING PROJECTS**

This past year, City Academy Youthbuild was given full responsibility for the renovation of a four bedroom duplex. The property is being offered, at a considerable discount, to families who have been displaced by the closing of an area mobile home park.

### CITY ACADEMY SUCCESS STORY: ANTUAN HAGGINS

Antuan Haggins entered City Academy Youthbuild after completing time at a juvenile corrections facility. In his own words:

*"Being locked up taught me a valuable lesson that I won't forget. I learned that my temper isn't going to get me anywhere except locked up so now I keep my cool. In the near future I see myself as successful. I want to live life without any roadblocks or obstacles and I'm well on my way of doing that. I will be attending a two year college and hopefully be able to transfer to a four year program. While in school I will be studying to be an Automotive Service Technician."*

Antuan graduated in June of 2006. He was accepted into and is currently attending Grand Rapids Community College in the Automotive Technician Program.



*Graduate Antuan Haggins  
June 9, 2006*



## **2006 Youthbuild Annual Report**

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### **GUADALUPE ALTERNATIVE PROGRAMS (GAP) SAINT PAUL, MINNESOTA**

Guadalupe Alternative Programs (GAP) operates the Youthbuild Program on the Westside of St. Paul in collaboration with Neighborhood Development Alliance (NeDA), Community Neighborhood Housing Services, the American Red Cross, and Argosy University.

#### **EDUCATION AND JOB READINESS SKILLS**

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 training in areas such as career awareness, interviewing, developing a resume, organizing a job search, and post-secondary planning. Recent field trips have included local technical colleges, a construction training center and visits to professional job sites.

#### **CONSTRUCTION/WORK EXPERIENCE**

Construction site managers, Jim Grosso and John Fera, and a new carpenter's assistant, Padraig Stitt, provided specific construction skills training to participants on the work site during the past year. Participants spend 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. Participants earn a stipend of approximately \$6 per hour if attendance and safety participation are excellent.



#### **LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT**

Youthbuild participants serve on the Student Leadership Board and Peer Educators. The Student Board is involved in all levels of school governance, including mediating student disciplinary matters and hiring of teachers and support staff. Youthbuild participants also serve as crew leaders on the work site. Several participants assisted in the Dias de los Muertos and Cinco de Mayo celebrations in the local community.

#### **HOUSING PROJECTS**

During 2006, Youthbuilders renovated one single-family home on St. Paul's West side.



### **GAP SUCCESS STORY: WILLIE B. JONES, III**

Willie came to GAP with a host of issues. He faced serious family issues, among them, homelessness, and took a year off of school due to poor attendance and grades. Willie came into Youthbuild in 2004, with the goal of completing his education and learning a trade in order to help support his family. He quickly rose to the position of youth crew leader and was given the responsibility of assisting in the training of new recruits in advanced carpentry skills. Willie, whose family originally came from Mississippi and whose grandfather still lives there, was one of a few Minnesota Youthbuilders chosen to travel to the Gulf Coast for Katrina relief in June. Willie graduated in June 2006, with plans of continuing his training with building contractor and long-time Youthbuild partner, Jim Grosso.





## 2006 Youthbuild Annual Report

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### RURAL MINNESOTA CONCENTRATED EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS, INC. PERHAM, MINNESOTA

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

#### EDUCATION AND JOB READINESS SKILLS

Youthbuilders meet with Perham ALC instructors each morning, rather than twice weekly as has happened in the past. Daily meetings have encouraged more rapid school success and productive work crews.

Technical math and reading skills are discussed and used by Youthbuilders during home construction. "Participation in Youthbuild helps students to develop a good work ethic and marketable career skills. Students learn to work together, as well as independently. It is a good fit for students who learn by doing" (quote from an instructor).



#### WORK EXPERIENCE

Youthbuilders spent 2 ½ hours each day learning carpentry at the job site. They were paid \$6.15 per hour with a bonus of 75 cents per hour based on both attendance at the worksite and progress in school on a weekly basis. On the construction site, the building inspector and several subcontractors explained their areas of expertise to Youthbuilders. The crew got an opportunity to understand what and why things are done, as well as ask specific questions.

#### LEADERSHIP AND LIFE SKILLS

Each Friday, Youthbuilders participate in three hours of Life Skills Training with staff from the Human Achievement and Performance Academy (HAPA). The Life Skills instructor became a great resource and mentor to the Youthbuilders, who were encouraged to express their opinions and participate in the group discussions. "The workshops created an understanding among students that they all struggle with aspects of their lives. They could see the connections they all have as human beings and community members," explained the case manager. Topics deal with real life day to day situations that impact young people's lives: using credit wisely and building good financial credit, self esteem, motivation, getting along with others, healthy relationships, resiliency, insurance and rental issues. Youthbuilder comments on the workshops included, "I like every thing about Life Skills because it teaches responsibility;" "I think life skills is a great class and everyone should have a chance to go;" and "In Life Skills, I've learned a lot on so many topics."



## 2006 Youthbuild Annual Report

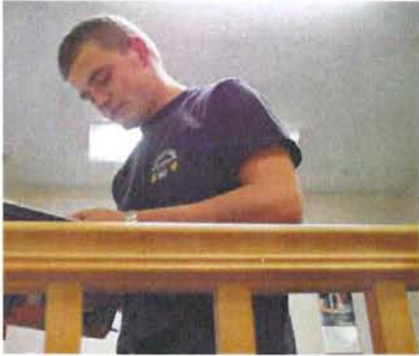
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This year, field trips included Schmitz Ford, during the Car Purchasing/Maintenance Life Skills session, and Fergus Falls Community College. Youthbuilders also planned and initiated an open house for the project site and ALC that included a luncheon for school staff, parents, and partners involved in Youthbuild and a youth designed power point presentation, personal stories, and a trolley car transport to the project site.

### CONSTRUCTION/ HOUSING

One bi-level single family home was rehabilitated in the city of Perham. Youthbuilders gutted the entire house, including tearing out plaster and lath walls, flooring, chimney, shingles, siding, as well as tearing down an old attached garage. The Youthbuild crew built on an addition that included a bedroom, a laundry area, and a one stall garage. The students replaced the windows, chimney, doors, and erected new walls and rafters. The crew installed sub-flooring, sheet rock, and drywall throughout the home. The house was sold to a single mother with two children. They moved into the house in August 2006.

### RURAL CEP SUCCESS STORY: DUSTIN LAMMERS-ANDERSON



I had dropped out of school at 16 and in the 10th grade. I was failing all but a couple of classes. The high school setting just didn't work for me. I was working everyday, going from job to job and not staying anywhere. I was sick of the "day to day" and trying to make ends meet. I decided I needed to go back and get educated. In Youthbuild at the Perham ALC, I started getting good grades and making progress weekly. It helps to make money while going to school so you don't have to worry about a job after school. I will graduate in May of 2007. The progress I've made isn't just in Youthbuild, but with other people in the community who know I'm working with

Youthbuild. All in all, it's upped my ethics and value system. I've learned to rely upon myself to get things done. Youthbuild relates to so many facets of the community and really opens up opportunities. I plan to extend my education into some MN college where I can expand upon my construction abilities and a few other things. I am pretty open at this point, but for sure know that I'll be going on to complete some sort of post secondary education. I want more than just a high school education.



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### RURAL CEP SUCCESS STORY: BILLY LAMMERS-OLSON

I did ok in school, but kept quitting and failing lots of classes. I didn't fit into the school setting and having to sit in class all day long. I tried three schools and nothing was working. I enrolled in Youthbuild at the ALC and fell into the groove. They treat you like a human being. You can be free and still get your education and not have to follow such strict guidelines. They gave me the chance to come to school and make money. My grades are much better, pretty much A's and B's compared to D's and barely passing. I will graduate sometime in November or December of 2006. Youthbuild has opened up so many doors within the community and has broadened my horizons. Things will be easier now that I've built solid skills that can be used later on. I plan to go onto some sort of community college.



Fred Sailer, the Perham ALC Director commented that the Youthbuild program has allowed them to help people like themselves, people who have struggled financially and have had to work hard for everything they have. Their ability to give back is what they have gained from this. They take pride in their work and what they've accomplished. They should because they've earned it.

The thing that I have seen with these two is that they both possess tremendous leadership skills. The type of program we offer is a perfect fit for them, and honestly for us also, because of the leadership they provide within the building. They take charge and understand process and how to work through a process. They are really skilled that way.

#### Words of Advice from Dustin and Billy:

If you quit high school and think going back isn't an option, you need to check out the ALC and Youthbuild. They'll work with anyone with any schedule, shy of night classes. Don't give up, just keep going. You can do it. It's one of the best programs for Minnesota youth ever created. Go Youthbuild!

### **STEARNS-BENTON EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING COUNCIL ST. CLOUD, MINNESOTA**

Stearns-Benton Employment & Training Council (SBETC) operates the Youthbuild program, serving eligible youth in Stearns and Benton counties. The Youthbuild program is operated in collaboration with St. Cloud Area School District 742 Area Learning Center – West and Central Minnesota Habitat for Humanity.

#### **EDUCATION AND JOB READINESS SKILLS**

This past year, a full time ALC instructor provided Youthbuilders with individualized instruction and planning to work toward high school graduation. An Employability Skills Seminar focused on career planning, job search, personal finance, as well as job readiness skills such as dependability, team work, problem solving and flexibility. In addition, construction trade instruction was included in their school curriculum. Each Youthbuilder's educational objective was to receive the high school diploma and continue in post-secondary education or building trades apprenticeship.



#### **WORK EXPERIENCE**

Work site instructors provided training in the areas of safety, use of tools, and equipment. Construction trade training included site preparation, excavation and footings, block work, framing, roofing, mechanical, insulation, drywall, siding, windows, finish trim, flooring and landscaping. Youthbuilders earned a stipend of \$5.00/hour and also received job placement assistance and high school credit. Youthbuilders visited several trade apprentice programs including plumbers, electrical, carpentry, masons, and laborers. Those youth who successfully completed the program were assisted with post-secondary schooling and follow-up services.

#### **LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT**

ALC instructors provided training in team building, self confidence and motivational activities, making good choices, responsibility, cooperation, self respect and learning the value of community. The Youthbuilders participated in a high ropes challenge course which developed group communication skills, improved conflict management skills and built trust. On site counselors at the ALC provided supportive services to address any barriers to high school completion. Opportunities were available to job shadow, conduct informational interviews, hear guest speakers, go on field trips, attend job fairs, perform service learning projects, and visit post-secondary schools.

#### **HOUSING PROJECTS**

During the season of 2006, Youthbuilders partnered with Central Minnesota Habitat for Humanity and K. Hovanian Homes to build a house in Elk River during the summer of 2006. This "Blitz Build" allowed Youthbuilders to see every phase of building a home from start to finish in five days. The Youthbuild crew also built a partition wall at the Habitat for Humanity office to separate their office from the warehouse and built a fence and installed new windows for Habitat for Humanity housing projects in St. Cloud.



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### SUCCESS STORY: TINA JACKSON

While helping on the Habitat for Humanity Blitz Build, Tina said she found the job she plans to pursue after graduation. While watching a bricklayer work on a Habitat for Humanity House in Elk River, she decided she wanted to gain the training and certification needed to become a mason herself. "I thought it looked so cool" Jackson said. Tina has since graduated from ALC and has enrolled in the Brick/Mason Apprenticeship program in Saint Paul.



### **THE CITY, INC. "PRIDE IN THE CITY" MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA**

The City, Inc., a nonprofit organization serving at risk inner-city youth, operates a Youthbuild Program called Pride in the City. In collaboration with Habitat for Humanity, the crew of Pride in the City works on new construction in North Minneapolis.

#### **EDUCATION AND SUPPORT SERVICES**

The City, Inc. operates an alternative high school for inner-city youth who failed to achieve in the more traditional school setting. The City School is part of the Minneapolis School District providing quality education in a small class size setting. In addition to the academic coursework, The City School also offers courses in the construction trades.

Pride in the City (PIC) students attend regular academic classes for four days per week at The City School, while working in housing renovation and construction for one six-hour shift one day a week.



#### **CONSTRUCTION/WORK EXPERIENCE**

PIC offers three distinct, yet sequenced, service aspects. These are on-the-job training, vocational experience and vocational instruction. On-the-job training consists of actual carpentry building and construction work at the job site under the supervision of a certified carpenter. Construction skills learned by students include: prefab, siding, drywall, roofing, layout and blueprint reading. In addition to learning carpentry skills, students learn about teamwork, leadership, good work ethic and safety on the job.

#### **LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT**

PIC students participate in activities to develop their leadership skills. Activities include student government, organizing group presentations, participating in outside leadership training, and volunteering with program events at The City, Inc. All students have open and complete access to family, advocacy, educational and post secondary services as well.

#### **HOUSING PROJECTS**

During the past year, Pride in the City Youthbuilders worked with Habitat for Humanity in North Minneapolis to help construct two town homes in the Heritage Park Neighborhood. Both homes were sold to low-income families. The youth crew took great pride in making a dream become a reality for a family who has never owned a home.



## **2006 Youthbuild Annual Report**

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### **SUCCESS STORY: GARY P.**

Gary was very reluctant to join the Pride in the City crew at first but with some encouragement he decided to give this program a try. He figured it was a paycheck anyway. But after a few weeks he realized that this job was much more than a paycheck. Before the program Gary did not know what he was going to do after he finished high school but after three weeks of working on the new construction in Heritage Park he realized that he really liked this work. He felt that he was good at it too. Gary completed the program successfully and graduated from the City School and had plans to go on to post secondary school to learn more about the construction trades.

Gary was once a kid who had very few, if any, aspirations for a bright future and today, because of Youthbuild and Pride in the City he has solid plans and a chance at a happy and productive life.

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### **WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT, INC. (WDI) WABASHA/GOODHUE, MINNESOTA**

The WDI Youthbuild Program is operated by Workforce Development, Inc. in partnership with the local Housing and Redevelopment Authority, Local Carpenters Union 1382, Wabasha Alternative Learning Center (ALC) and Deerview Alternative School of Red Wing, as well as Goodhue and Olmsted Counties' Habitat for Humanity.

#### **EDUCATION AND JOB READINESS SKILLS**

River Valley Academy, located in Kellogg, and Deerview Alternative School in Red Wing, provide academic and construction preparation classes for Youthbuilders during the first half of the day. Students must meet all academic requirements before they are allowed to attend the Youthbuild activities in the afternoon. Youthbuild participants work with staff to address educational issues and develop a transition plan to earn their high school diploma or GED. To assist them in the preparation of future training or employment, Youthbuild staff help participants identify career goals, transferable and marketable work skills, and job search skills that lead to success in finding and maintaining employment.



#### **CONSTRUCTION/WORK EXPERIENCE**

Youthbuild participants learn the basics of safety, tool handling, and develop basic wood-working skills before moving on to larger-scale projects. The vocational instructor coordinates construction duties and supervises youth on the project site, allowing them to apply skills they have learned in class. Youth receive a training stipend and may also earn bonuses and scholarships based on performance and attendance. Applying their construction skills gives the youth confidence and a personal feeling of accomplishment as they see their efforts improve the lives of themselves and others. The competency-based nature of Youthbuild is motivating for youth and has been recognized as a "best practice" in Youthbuild programming.



#### **LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT**

Youthbuild provides many opportunities to develop 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 challenge" courses to gain the team building skills. As youth participate in all aspects of the planning and implementation process of a construction project they gain problem solving skills and become familiar with the resources available to them in their community. Field trips to colleges, technical colleges and businesses in the trades also provide them with the opportunity to learn about various careers in the field and how to access them in the future.





## 2006 Youthbuild Annual Report

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### HOUSING/CONSTRUCTION

This year's projects include building Habitat for Humanity houses in Rochester and Red Wing as well as participating in the building of a home Rochester that is built completely by youth. In addition, Youthbuild has expanded to include a program in Red Wing where out-of-school youth and alternative school youth worked on the building of a second Habitat for Humanity home. Youth found it very rewarding to participate in the building of a new house and were proud to show it off to family and friends.



### SUCCESS STORY: MIKE SHEQUEN (in the words of Ron Benson, Youthbuild instructor)



Mike would usually arrive at school with a terse "good morning warden" to ALC Principal John Sakellariou. I was warned, upon accepting Mike as a Youthbuild participant, I would encounter an angry young man and not to expect much. While Mike got along well and was respected by his peers, he did not respect teachers or administrators and was not shy about expressing himself.

Hard physical labor at a construction site was an elixir Mike readily accepted. Not long after starting Youthbuild Mike began to show signs of taking charge of his life. Teachers and other adults became less an enemy and more of a tool he could use to help manage his life. When confronted with

complexities that required systematic problem solving, Mike used his natural ability to ask questions and get answers. I noticed higher levels of confidence almost daily.

Mike's leadership qualities became evident later in the year when we had an opportunity to build a dozen garden benches for the Wabasha County 4H clubs with a very tight deadline. Mike was able to interpret the plan, make cut lists, outline a production process, and keep things organized to complete the project on time.

Mike's hard work has led to a dramatic transformation over the course of this school year. His focus on academics has brought him with in three credit hours of graduating one full year ahead of schedule. He has also had virtually perfect attendance throughout the year in both school and Youthbuild. This young man will be back in Youthbuild next year as a student mentor. I am fully confident Mike will go on to a post-secondary experience and will prepare himself to be completely in charge of his life. He has earned my respect.

## 2006 Youthbuild Annual Report

### YOUTHBUILD LOCAL CONTACTS

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*Service area: Beltrami and Cass Counties*

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*Service area: City of Saint Paul*

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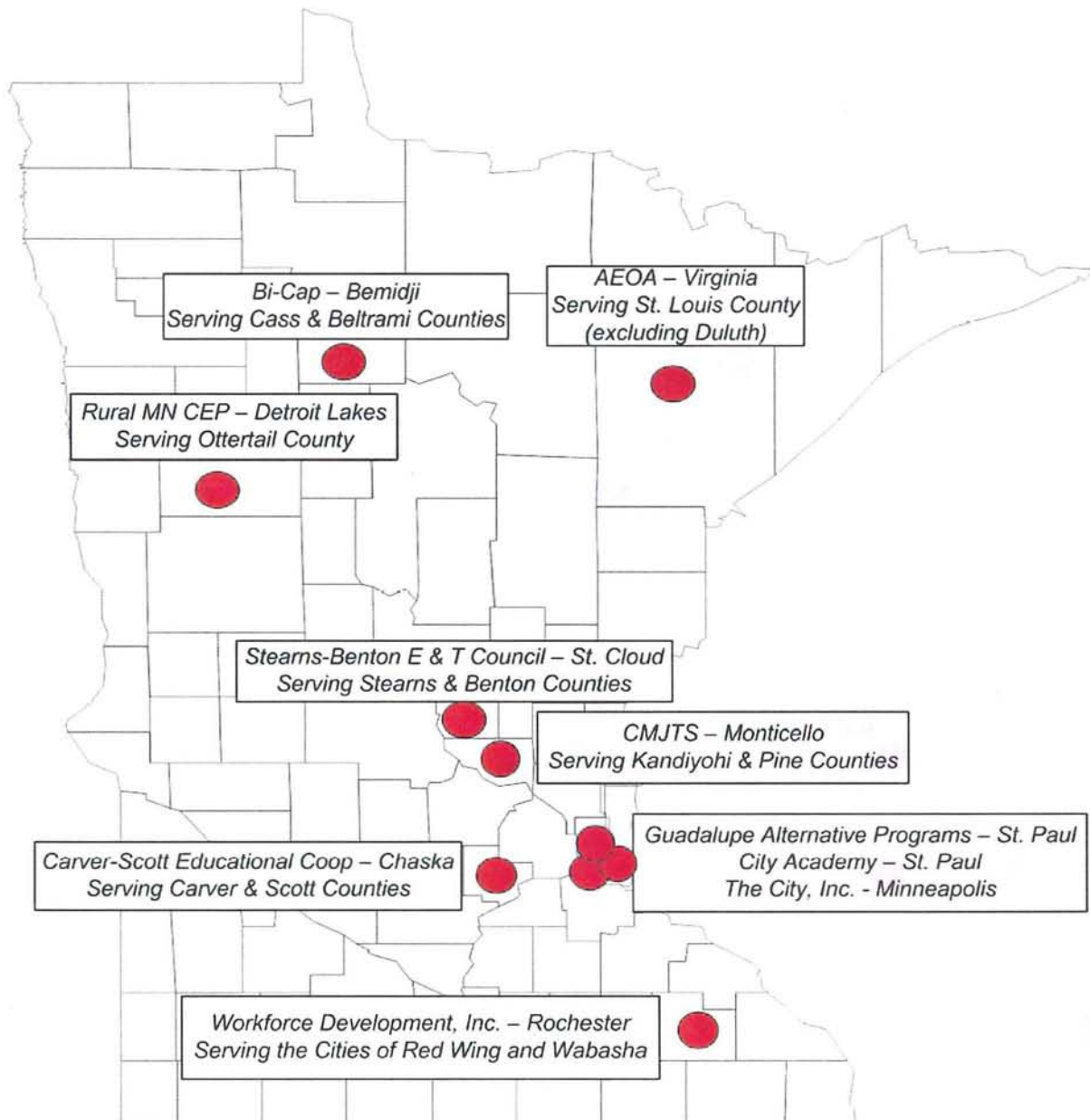
#### Workforce Development, Inc.

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*Service area: Cities of Red Wing and Wabasha*



## 2006 Youthbuild Program Service Areas





positively  
*Minnesota*