

2008 Youthbuild Annual Report

July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008



Photograph supplied by Rural Minnesota Concentrated Employment Programs, Inc – Perham, MN

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
Funding	3
Customers	3
Youthbuild Program Model	3
2008 Youthbuild Program Highlights.....	4
Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency (AEOA).....	6
Bi-County Community Action Programs	10
Carver-Scott Educational Cooperative	12
Central Minnesota Jobs And Training Services.....	15
City Academy.....	18
Guadalupe Alternative Programs	20
Rural Minnesota Concentrated Employment Programs, Inc.	23
Stearns-Benton Employment And Training Council.....	26
The City, Inc. Pride In The City (PIC).....	29
Tree Trust.....	31
Workforce Development, Inc. (WDI).....	34
Youthbuild Local Contacts	36
Youthbuild Data Summary – State Fiscal Year 2008.....	39

FUNDING

In 2008, \$1,075,000 in state funds supported Youthbuild Programs. Local Youthbuild agencies leveraged over \$3 million in matching funds through partnerships with local community services, housing and educational agencies, faith-based organizations, law enforcement agencies, unions, technical schools, and court services.

CUSTOMERS

The Youthbuild Program (YB) served 341 young people in 2008. Forty-four units of affordable housing were constructed or renovated, benefiting over 100 low-income individuals during the past year. 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. Of the youth served in 2008, over 90 percent had left or been expelled from traditional school, over half had previous involvement with the juvenile or criminal justice system, a third were disabled, about a quarter had drug or chemical abuse issues, 15 percent were pregnant or parenting teens, and 7 percent were homeless or runaways. Over half of YB participants were youth of color.

YOUTHBUILD PROGRAM MODEL

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

1. Service Learning
Builds citizenship skills, responsibility, problem-solving, conflict resolution skills, enhances decision-making, and provides opportunities to give back to the community through meaningful volunteer service.
2. Crime Prevention and Restorative Justice
Of the 178 Youthbuilders with prior criminal involvement, ninety percent (90%) have remained offense-free.
3. Experimental Learning and Work Based
Skills training in carpentry, medical and computer fields provide youth with industry-recognized certification and skills to obtain high wage/high demand jobs in these fields.



Minneapolis Pride in the City Youthbuilders framing a Habitat for Humanity house for a low income family



Rural Minnesota CEP Youthbuilders building the basement for a new home in Perham



Willmar Youthbuilders planting trees upon completing a new Habitat for Humanity home in Pennock, MN

2008 YOUTHBUILD PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Youthbuild Leadership Day - April 16, 2008

Fifty (50) youth from across Minnesota gathered at Camp Iduhapi in Loretto, MN to participate in leadership development activities and discussions and plan the following day's activities for Community Service Day in Minneapolis.

Community Service Day – April 17, 2008

Youthbuilders spent a half day in Elliot Park in South Minneapolis with the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) staff to renovate the fireplace lounge inside the Elliot Park Recreation Center. Youthbuilders also repaired broken benches and picnic tables, cleaned the pool and park facilities, and mulched trees and shrubs throughout the park. Several individuals received outstanding leadership awards signed by the Governor. One Youthbuild participant was chosen to receive the Josh Anderson Memorial Award, in memory of a former Youthbuild graduate who was killed in Iraq while serving in the United States military.

Emphasize Green Building in Home Construction

During 2008, Youthbuild construction projects began incorporating green building principles, including green construction techniques, recycling and reuse of building materials, and installation of energy-efficient appliances. Through its Green Initiative the Minnesota Youthbuild program is working to become a leader in energy savings and the reduction of carbon emissions across Minnesota.

SBETC Youthbuilders constructed a new Green Build home in St. Cloud. The project emphasized environmentally safe construction techniques and sound environmental building practices, compact fluorescent light-bulbs, low-flow showerheads, low volatile organic compound paints and solvents to reduce out-gassing, advanced framing techniques to ensure minimal material use, recycled wood and building materials, low-water vegetation to reduce lawn maintenance and water use. Waste from the building site was also recycled.



Youthbuilders volunteering on Community Service Day in Elliot Park in south Minneapolis on April 17, 2008



PFC Josh Anderson, Youthbuild graduate, who was killed in Iraq in early 2008 and the Josh Anderson Memorial Award honoring his memory and outstanding leadership



Stearns-Benton Youthbuilders building a Green Build home

Rural MN CEP Youthbuild students also constructed a green home in Perham, Minnesota through the Perham Housing and Rehabilitation Agency. Because of added insulation and other energy-efficient building practices, the furnace was downsized substantially.

The two-bedroom, one bath 1,250 square foot home sold for \$129,000. Heating and cooling costs are expected to average \$30 per month.

City Academy Youthbuild collaborated with the University of Minnesota Design Center and HGTV to landscape the grounds of Wilder Recreation Center in St. Paul using green landscaping concepts such as installing rain gardens, perennial plants, and shade trees.

City Academy Youthbuild also constructed a new garage with a green roof covered with a waterproof membrane, soil and vegetation. The green roof was designed to increase the roof life span and reduce storm water run-off and the urban heat island effect. The green roof filters pollutants and carbon dioxide out of the air and adds amenity space.

For more information on Youthbuild Green Building Best Practices, see:

http://www.positivelyminnesota.com/youth/docs/best_practices/bp-YBgreen.pdf

National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER) Training and Certification

Youthbuild staff received NCCER Instructor Certification Training from YouthBuild USA. The NCCER is a not-for-profit education foundation which provides industry-driven standardized craft training and certification to address the critical workforce shortage facing the construction industry.

NCCER has developed the Instructor Certification Training program (ICTP), providing Youthbuild instructors with certification that meets the standards of instruction set by the industry. Upon certification, work site instructors train Youthbuild participants in the NCCER Construction, Maintenance, and Pipeline Curricula.



Perham Youthbuilders constructing an energy-efficient green home for low-income family



Rain garden designed and landscaped by City Academy Youthbuilders



Willmar Youthbuilders constructing a Habitat for Humanity home

ARROWHEAD ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY AGENCY (AEOA) VIRGINIA, MINNESOTA

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

EDUCATION AND 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 construction skills training to youth at the worksites. Youth receive a stipend for up to 40 hours per week. One-hundred percent 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 people to get a first-hand look at the field as a profession. The AEOA also offers youth an opportunity to work on various other in-house programs, such as the weatherization crew. Each year the Youthbuild staff work with the AEOA Housing Department to outline a plan for developing more low-income housing in local communities.

A strong experiential education approach is used to frame all Youthbuild activities. The participants spend a portion of their time in the Adult Basic Education classroom to attain their GED certificates. Specialized classroom training includes a Construction Math curriculum that was developed by the Adult Basic Education (ABE) department at AEOA. The ABE instructor meets with the youth in the classroom, and at times takes the group to their current worksite, or workshop, and utilizes experiential learning opportunities. Applying lessons learned in the classroom directly to a current worksite helps youth grasp the mathematical concepts.

"I never understood how important measurements could be when completing a construction project," said a Youthbuild participant. "Before I started learning about a ruler and tape measure I didn't know much more than what was an inch."



Arrowhead Youthbuild participants attend construction math classes each week. In the shop Amanda is busy applying the lessons she's learned on angles and accurate measurements.

Contact Information	Service Area	Statistics		
Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency (AEOA) 702 Third Avenue South Virginia, MN 55792 Gwen Grell, Program Coordinator	Saint Louis County (excluding City of Duluth)	Youth Offenders	Drug/Chemical Dependency	Receiving Public Assistance
		90%	60%	40%

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT AND SUPPORT SERVICES

Each youth attends weekly sessions that develop independent living skills and leadership traits. Some of the topics covered 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.



Jerid, Jonah, Dale and Brian working on one of the picnic tables that were a part of their entrepreneurship project this last year

Work readiness topics are covered with the youth. Training sessions are facilitated by the program's case manager and the staff at the local WorkForce Center. The case manager also assists with exploring financial aid options and submitting college or technical school applications for youth interested in post secondary schooling/training. Youthbuilders complete volunteer activities in the community as a public service and citizenship activity.

"Youthbuild teaches you great construction skills," said an Arrowhead YB participant, "but also teaches you that if you want to change your life in a positive manner you can do it."

The Arrowhead Youthbuild crew has a new shop located in Virginia that allows for additional training for crew members. During down times from housing projects, the participants build, market, and sell picnic tables. Building the tables has been a great way for new participants to learn about various tools and safety policies. The small profit from each sale is put back into the Youthbuild program. During the past year the crew also built chairs, when one young woman in the program took the blueprint for the adult version of the chair and scaled it down to child size.

"I've learned so much about measurements, tools, and how things fit together that I just wanted to see if I could do it," said the young woman.

PROGRAM/PARTICIPANT OUTCOMES

During Arrowhead Youthbuild's twelve year existence, the program has served approximately eighty-five youth and its crew members have created affordable and safe housing for over 100 low-income family members in the Arrowhead communities.

Two of the participants during this past year have gone onto post secondary schooling. One of these youth was formerly in foster-care. Three more youth entered unsubsidized



Tim shows off one of the child-size picnic tables the crew created. Between housing jobs, youth work on projects to increase their knowledge and abilities.

employment, overcoming such obstacles as chemical dependency and criminal juvenile records.

HOUSING/CONSTRUCTION

The youth crew assisted with the renovation of three houses and a transitional housing duplex. The YB crew completed demolition work in an upstairs bathroom and the main floor kitchen of a house located in Virginia. They rebuilt the interior walls and sheet rocked. The YB crew also installed the kitchen cabinets and the countertops. Throughout the house they did patching work and then painted the interior.

The basement of a three-bedroom house located in Chisholm was renovated. The YB crew did the demolition work to remove the water damaged sheetrock and replaced it with mold-resistant green sheetrock.

The YB crew helped renovate a third low-income residence located in Hibbing. The YB crew rebuilt and painted the home's front porch and installed a new sump pump and plumbing.

The YB crew renovated a transitional housing duplex in Virginia, owned by Range Mental Health.

The AEOA YB crew also remodeled several offices within AEOA's main agency building in Virginia, assisted with the remodeling of the local Housing and Energy Assistance office, and installed new playground equipment for the Virginia Head Start program.



Jeremy and Dale siding at a low-income home in Virginia



The Arrowhead Youthbuild crew working on the demolition and renovation of a home in Hibbing

SUCCESS STORY: AMANDA LECIEJEWSKI



Amanda successfully completed the Youthbuild program and is currently enrolled at Mesabi Range Community and Technical College.

When I entered the program I was really at a low point. I barely smiled, barely said "good morning," and really had nothing good to say. I felt frustrated. I knew where I was, and where I would like to be, but I had become used to the thought that the people around me just didn't understand me. When I started this program, I realized it was me that was afraid and didn't understand how to open up and let other people in. I realized that I am the only one responsible for holding back my feelings, shutting people out, and shutting people down by portraying a tough personality. Through Youthbuild, my self-esteem benefited, my people skills developed, and now I find I can readily accept things that in the past I would have shied away from. I can now take on the learning of things I don't know about, without fear of failure or rejection. New ideas and people don't scare me anymore.

I'm attending classes at Mesabi Range Community and Technical College, and I see something or someone new every day. I will always give a lot of credit to those at AEOA who helped me and didn't shy away from us kids, but supported and taught us.

Thanks to Arrowhead Youthbuild, I have goals and a plan. I'd like to thank everyone who helped me out while I was in the program. I think of them often and the thing that keeps me going is that I know I can go back and talk to them if I ever need a little advice or the support of these great mentors.

BI-COUNTY COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAMS BEMIDJI, MINNESOTA

Bi-County CAP, Inc., a private, nonprofit corporation serving Beltrami and Cass counties, operates the Minnesota Youthbuild Program in collaboration with Rural Minnesota CEP, Northwest Technical College, and Voyageurs Expeditionary High School.

EDUCATION

On May 17, 2008, 18 participants received their high school diploma from Voyageurs Expeditionary High School. In addition, another participant received a GED. Bi-CAP Youthbuild has one learner manager/ crew leader at Voyageurs Expeditionary High School in Bemidji. When the youth are not in crew or on site, they follow the regular high school schedule and rotate through regular classrooms and teacher changes throughout the day.

The curriculum uses the Expeditionary Learning Outward Bound (ELOB) education model. This model is an off-shoot of the nationally recognized Outward Bound Program that incorporates team building and individual growth into the academic instruction. Students have the alternative option of completing GED testing. An articulation agreement reached with Northwest Technical College also allows Youthbuilders to receive technical college credit for up to two construction courses during their Youthbuild tenure, prior to their college enrollment.

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. The construction instructor supervises crews of youth. In addition, an Industrial Technology teacher spends one day a week on the construction site with the youth.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT AND SUPPORT SERVICES

All participants complete Red Cross First Aid and CPR training and are enrolled in a certification course developed by the National Center for Construction Education and Research that focuses on all aspects of entry level carpentry. Youth participate in budgeting classes and other life skills classes such as: resume writing, career exploration, employment skills, cooking, and tenant education. All Youthbuilders actively participate in community service projects.

HOUSING/CONSTRUCTION

The Bi-CAP Youthbuild Program recently completed a single family home in Bemidji to sell to a low income family. Youthbuilders were also responsible for maintaining and repairing 17 transitional homes owned by the agency in a two county service area.

Contact Information	Service Area	Statistics		
Bi-County Community Action Programs, Inc. 2529 15 th Street NW Bemidji, MN 56601 Anne McGill Assistant Director of Operations	Beltrami and Cass Counties	Youth Offenders	Teen Parenting	Receiving Public Assistance
		88%	37%	29%

The youth completed a total rehabilitation remodel on two of the transitional houses in the city of Walker. Over the years, Bi-CAP Youthbuild has constructed nine single family houses that were sold to low income families. Bi-CAP Youthbuild has also constructed a Head Start building in Backus and rehabilitated the existing Head Start Center in Walker. The program has also constructed a duplex to house two transitional families, renovated the Bi-County CAP office building in Bemidji and constructed the building in which the Youthbuild Program resides.

SUCCESS STORY: STEPHANIE FAIRBANKS

Stephanie Fairbanks is a seventeen year old Native American youth who recently graduated from Voyageurs Expeditionary High School and a Certified Nursing Assistant's Program while attending Youthbuild. Stephanie says, "Before I started Youthbuild I had a goal of becoming a nurse, but I did not know how to make it a reality. When I started, the staff were very welcoming and right away they asked about my goals for the future. Since then I have explored the nursing field and know it is what I want to do with my life. I am currently registered for the Licensed Practical Nursing Program at North West Technical College. I hope to follow this course with a Registered Nursing Program. Youthbuild has really helped me a lot. I'm learning great leadership skills and job readiness skills. I don't get nervous speaking in front of other people anymore, and it's fun learning how to build and fix things. I know these skills will help me in my future."



Stephanie Fairbanks earned a Nursing Assistant certificate and is currently enrolled at North West Technical College in Bemidji in the Licensed Practical Nursing Program.

CARVER-SCOTT EDUCATIONAL COOPERATIVE CHASKA, MINNESOTA

Carver-Scott Educational Cooperative (CSEC) operates a full year Youthbuild Program at the Spring Lake Alternative Learning Center (ALC) at Lydia and at the main campus in Chaska. CSEC also operates a summer only Youthbuild (YB) program at the main campus. During the 2007-08 school year, CSEC created the Youthbuild Leadership Academy, designed to place in internships those students who had demonstrated skills and experience in construction, technology or a health career.

Students enrolled in the full year program attend morning academic classes and afternoon Youthbuild training. The afternoon component is a combination of classroom construction training and actual construction work. Students meet with their case manager daily.



Youthbuilders from Carver-Scott Educational Cooperative show-off the shelter they constructed for the city of Chaska

CSEC partners with several school districts, Scott County Housing Redevelopment Agency, CAP Agency, and various social service programs. The summer only program is a partnership between CSEC, Carver County Employment and Training and Scott County Employment and Training. Students who meet the eligibility requirements of the Minnesota Youth Program (MYP) through the WorkForce Center are hired and paid by the county. Their worksite and program is planned and supervised by CSEC, which offers students the opportunity to earn academic credit for their work.

EDUCATION, CONSTRUCTION WORK EXPERIENCE AND JOB READINESS

CSEC teachers created curriculum applied in the program that is based on Minnesota State Academic Standards. Examples include: Community Involvement, a course which includes Language Arts Standards and Government/Citizenship Standards, and Blueprint for Geometry which meets Minnesota Math Standards requirements. Youthbuild students create a portfolio to document their achievements during the program, including evaluation checklists, work readiness skills checklist, a resume, letter of recommendation, and sample job applications. Students often include photos of housing projects they have completed during the program.

Contact Information	Service Area	Statistics		
Carver-Scott Educational Cooperative Crosby Park Manufacturing/ Technology Center 309 Lake Hazeltine Drive Chaska, MN 55318 Joyce Eissinger Program Coordinator	Carver and Scott Counties	Disabled or Special Education	Drug/Chemical Dependency	Youth Offenders
		36%	22%	20%

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Youthbuild students are assigned a case manager to help plan their schedules, monitor their progress, problem solve and communicate progress back to the students home school district.

Youthbuilders have access to a mental health worker and, in most sites, a chemical health worker. Men's groups, women's groups, smoking cessation groups, sober support groups to name a few, are always available options for students. A Transition Plan is completed by each student outlining goals along the way.



Jeremy Bushey and Mr. Anderson display the Josh Anderson Memorial plaque awarded to Jeremy in 2008

Youthbuild students spend every Friday afternoon with a CSEC staff member focusing on Leadership Development and Service-Learning. Topics in leadership include professional etiquette, public speaking, communication skills, problem-solving, perspective-taking, collaboration, diversity, decision-making, ethics, personal leadership assessment, theory and meeting with local leaders. They also spend some of this time assessing community needs and planning service activities to meet those needs, and meeting with local and national leaders.

PROGRAM PARTICIPATE OUTCOMES

Since the Youthbuild program began at CSEC, it has proven to be one of the most effective ways of engaging youth in changing and seeing new possibilities. This year the combined Youthbuild programs saw an 86 percent completion rate and for students who were terminated or quit the program, all but two remained in school. All students earned credits in the program and all participated in service in the community, logging over 1,500 service hours.

HOUSING/CONSTRUCTION

Main Campus School Year Construction Projects

- Completed the finishing touches on the school café
- Worked to refurbish Jonathan apartments owned by the Carver County Community Development Agency
- Demolished an old bus stop and built a new 12X14 hip roof bus stop for Carver County
- Constructed pine furniture for cabins, owned by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, which will be placed around the state
- Built tables, bench seats, 4 bunk beds for each of 5 cabins

Spring Lake Alternative Learning Center (ALC) School Year Construction Projects

The Youthbuild students formed a positive partnership with a low-income, neighboring farm family. The father suffered a traumatic brain injury and is receiving disability, and one of the three children in the family is a special needs child. The Youthbuilders assisted the family with the following volunteer projects: removed and replaced sidewalk at the farm, replaced fencing, built dog house and fenced kennel area, repaired interior walls and painted all bedrooms, replaced laminate floors in bedroom, and installed new windows.

Youthbuild Leadership Academy

Two students enrolled in Youthbuild for at least one year prior were selected for the Leadership Academy. Internships included working with an independent contractor and a local lumber business to learn various aspects of the lumber/contracting business. Upon completion of the program and graduation, both were accepted into the college of their choice. Five students were involved in various aspects of the computer technology/design field. They were involved in website design and creation, video production/creation, graphic design and entrepreneurship development. One student worked on a high profile project for St. Francis Regional Hospital helping to create various marketing pieces for a new initiative at the hospital.

Summer 2008

- Students demolished and dismantled two classrooms for CSEC, one at the main campus and one at the Crosby Park location, then completely reconstructed/finished them for a new purpose.

SUCCESS STORY: PHIL SORTER

When Phil Sorter started with Youthbuild (YB) three years ago, Phil was an angry young man who trusted nobody, and had a point to prove. He was a tough guy with an attitude. He had some tough times at home with Mom and Dad being divorced, sometimes living with Dad and other times with Mom. There was never any consistency with Phil. Phil would often make up stories and excuses to get out of trouble. There were some issues/concerns with Phil's chemical use at the beginning. Phil was not making good decisions at school, leaving school, absences, tardiness, fights, mouthing off to students and staff, not turning in work. He had an interest in the addition to the school that YB was building in the 2005-06 school year, always checking out what we were doing and seeing the progress we were making. He finally filled out an application and was hired on in the spring of 2005-06 school year. From that time forward Phil was a different man. He took on a leadership role, often working harder than anyone else on the YB crew. He had a vested interest in his school and was very excited to show everyone what he was building. The next year it was like having a helping hand with YB, he was taking on the role of team leader and mentor to the new YB students. His attitude towards staff and students was different, he also was becoming a leader in school, letting students know the expectations and that this place was becoming like a second family to him. Many staff have commented on how much he has changed from when he first started.

Phil graduated in June of 2008, and is very proud of the fact that he has left his mark at school, by helping build the addition that students will use for many years to come. Phil can be recommended for any construction crew.

CENTRAL MINNESOTA JOBS AND TRAINING SERVICES MONTICELLO, MINNESOTA

In program year 2008, Central Minnesota Jobs and Training Services (CMJTS) operated the Minnesota Youthbuild Program in the Willmar community. Included in the collaboration was the Willmar School District, Habitat for Humanity of West Central Minnesota, Heartland Community Action Agency, Nordland Lutheran Church, and the Willmar Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA).

EDUCATION AND WORK EXPERIENCE

Academic activities were integrated with work experience, job readiness, and leadership activities. The participants were required to take academic courses that applied to the building projects, including Applied Math and World of Work. These courses teach math skills necessary for any job in the construction trades. The participants also worked on career development and work readiness skills such as getting to work promptly, completing time sheets and logs, and adhering to proper dress, language, attitude and teamwork standards. Participants also completed extensive occupational and career assessments with the assistance of the Willmar School District school-to-work coordinator.

Under the supervision of a certified carpenter, participants spent 12 hours each week for 24 weeks at the job site learning specific carpentry skills. The Youthbuild curriculum also focused on teaching participants soft skills. The value of punctuality, safety, work quality, conflict resolution, and teamwork principles were taught and reinforced on the job.



Miguel and Luis Bazaldua pose by the shed they built for Habitat for Humanity as part of the Youthbuild Project in Willmar



Instructor Steve Michaelis instructs the Youthbuild students at a Habitat for Humanity home in Pennock

Contact Information	Service Area	Statistics		
Central Minnesota Jobs and Training Services (CMJTS) 406 7th Street, PO Box 720 Monticello, MN 55362-0720 Rita Borchert Youth Program Coordinator	Kandiyohi County	Migrant Youth or Limited English Proficiency	Disabled or Special Education	Youth Offenders
		46%	46%	27%

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT, SUPPORT SERVICES AND FOLLOW UP

All students had an additional 3.5 hours each week of leadership training, community service, and learning activities. CMJTS staff provided this training through many activities which included:

- An initial orientation and safety training using the DEED safety curriculum (<http://www.positivelyminnesota.com/youth/safety>);
- Team building events, including an outing at Prairie Woods Environmental Learning Center in Spicer, MN;
- Assessment;
- Games relating to work situations;
- WorkForce Center tours and career counseling focusing on high pay/high demand industries; and
- Bethesda Health and Housing (long-term care facility) student-driven service projects.

HOUSING/CONSTRUCTION

In the classroom and on the job site participants learned teamwork principles, problem-solving skills, and civic responsibility and increased their awareness of local social issues.

Youthbuilders completed eight large projects and several smaller activities throughout the year. These included:

- prepping and painting walls at the Willmar junior high school;
- building two carpet pool tables for area church youth programs;
- building signs for Habitat for Humanity to recognize the 50th home built by the organization;
- remodeling cabinets at the Alternative Learning Center shop;
- working in Habitat's *Restore* and on the store's small projects;
- completing two sheds for Habitat; and
- working with HRA during a move



Miguel and Luis Bazaldua show their muscle while framing a new Habitat for Humanity house in Pennock

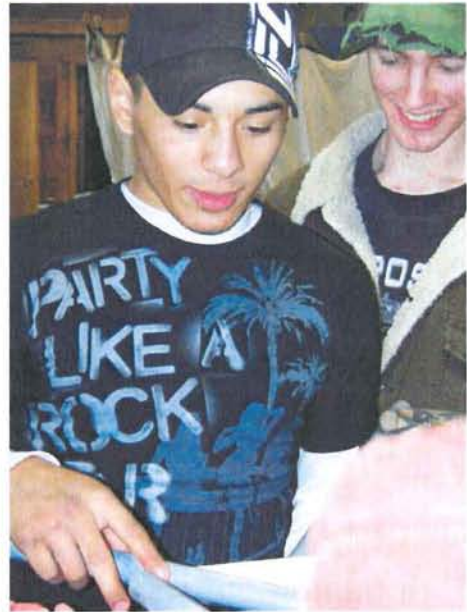


Miguel and Luis plant the tree as part of their landscaping of the Habitat for Humanity home in Pennock

SUCCESS STORY: MIGUEL BAZALDUA

Miguel Bazaldua is a 17-year old student at Willmar Alternative Learning Center. He was co-enrolled in Youthbuild and the Minnesota Youth Program (MYP) in Kandiyohi County through CMJTS. As part of the MYP and Youthbuild, Miguel worked with a construction manager, constructing sheds, carpet pool tables, cleaning and painting apartments, homes and local schools. Miguel would also work with CMJTS staff once per week on leadership projects, career and labor market information, and teambuilding exercises.

As part of the MYP/Youthbuild programs, Miguel participated in teambuilding exercises at Prairie Woods Environmental Learning Center in New London, MN. Miguel showed great leadership with the team, coming up with strategies to improve performance on the exercises. Miguel also made the transition from learning through Youthbuild to learning and growing in the classroom. He is working part-time in Willmar and continues to attend school, which he sets his sights on graduating in June 2009.



Miguel in a team building exercise at Prairie Woods Environmental Learning Center



Miguel and Luis Bazaldua participate in a high ropes exercise at Prairie Woods Environmental Learning Center

CITY ACADEMY ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA

City Academy Youthbuild continued its partnership with Two Rivers Land Trust located in Oakdale, Minnesota and returned to work with the Dayton's Bluff Housing Authority for the 2007-08 year. City Academy Youthbuild completed two residential housing projects both encompassing a variety of construction skills.

EDUCATION AND JOB READINESS

City Academy staff continues to work with the College of St. Catherine to develop holistic assessments to effectively inform students of their learning progress. A major focus for City Academy Youthbuild is preparing all graduates for post secondary participation, a goal that has been 100 percent achieved. The next goal is to formalize support for students participating in post secondary programs following graduation. City Academy has increased its course offerings leading to occupational certification.



Team in front of finished garage: Lor Vang, Noua Thao, Samantha Koumarn, Albert Gomez, Cynthia Hang, Janessa Phothisan

CONSTRUCTION WORK EXPERIENCE

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. New coursework leading to certification in the medical field was initiated in 2007-08. Students have the opportunity to take courses leading to certification in the fields of Nursing Assistant and Emergency Medical Technician.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

In August and January, students participated in Outward Bound Leadership activities in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area. Students also participated in the Jewish Community Relations Council Annual Holocaust Museum Trip. Students earned stipends based on attendance, safety and leadership, increasing skills and improving attendance. Students and staff worked together to organize the first ever statewide Youthbuild Conference in April at Camp Iduhapi.



Qushawna Smith-Pugh and Koua Thao in Boundary Waters Canoe Area

Contact Information	Service Area	Statistics		
City Academy 958 Jesse Street St. Paul, MN 55101 Milo Cutter, Director	Cities of St. Paul and Oakdale	Receiving Public Assistance	Youth Offenders	Drug/Chemical Dependency
		72%	62%	31%

HOUSING/CONSTRUCTION

This past year, City Academy Youthbuild completed renovations on a single family residence on the east side of St. Paul and the new construction of a residential garage in Oakdale. In addition to the housing construction, City Academy initiated a Youthbuild conservation crew charged with green landscaping. The first project was a partnership with the University of Minnesota Design Center to complete a Home and Garden TV project at Wilder Park. The students worked through the summer to establish rain gardens, complete workout stations, courts, and a one patio. There are plans to establish three more gardens and to offer green gardening services to the neighborhood.



Before



During: Belinda Lopez – Sanchez



After

SUCCESS STORIES: KOUA THAO

Koua Thao is a 2008 graduate of City Academy and is currently enrolled at Dunwoody Institute in Minneapolis pursuing a career in graphic design. "When I started school at City Academy I was an oppositional and defiant young man headed towards the wrong path, said Koua. "I made a lot of bad decisions early in life and I faced the consequences. I learned a lot since I've been here." Koua participated in all aspects of construction, of City Academy and the Youthbuild Program. He has become recognized as a leader by his peers and the staff.

Koua's favorite quote is by Booker T. Washington, "Success is to be measured not so much by the position that one has reached in life as by the obstacles which he has overcome."



High school graduate, Koua Thao, is currently pursuing a career in graphic design while enrolled at Dunwoody Institute

GUADALUPE ALTERNATIVE PROGRAMS ST. 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, and Argosy University. GAP also continues to build relationships with Best Buy and St. Joseph's Hospital to provide opportunities for Youthbuild participants in the fields of computer technology and allied health services. GAP will continue to keep close relationships with St. Paul College, Minneapolis Community technical College, Inver Hills Community College and Metropolitan University. In the past year, GAP has created partnerships with Institute of Production and Recording and Brown College. GAP is a YouthLEAD Workforce Investment Act (WIA) vendor and partner with Ramsey County Workforce Solutions.



The GAP Youthbuild crew posing on the porch of a recently renovated home in St. Paul

EDUCATION AND JOB READINESS SKILLS

GAP Youthbuild participants are enrolled in three academic classes daily: grade level courses in language arts, social studies, and mathematics. Additionally, they are involved in four week-long science units throughout the school year. Prior to enrollment in Youthbuild, participants take a quarter-long course in work and job readiness with an emphasis on job finding and keeping skills. A YouthLEAD case manager and college intern work with 11th and 12th grade participants on college and career awareness, post secondary planning, and support for students two or more years beyond graduation.

GAP Youthbuild is planning to include training leading to careers in computer technology and the medical field. GAP is interested in trainings that will produce certifications and credentials in these areas. In 2008-09, GAP Youthbuild will continue implementation of the Mental Toughness and Orientation program and the Youth@Work Talking Safety curriculum (<http://www.positivelyminnesota.com/youth/safety>)

Contact Information	Service Area	Statistics		
Guadalupe Alternative Programs 381 Robie Street Saint Paul, MN 55107 Allen Selinski, Director	City of St Paul	Youth Offenders	Receiving Public Assistance	Disabled or Special Education
		81%	57%	14%

CONSTRUCTION WORK EXPERIENCE

The average number of GAP Youthbuild participant training hours per week is fifteen and the supervisor to youth ratio on the worksite is 1-to-3. Participants train in worksite safety, housing vocabulary, basic measurement, and use of tools during Mental Toughness and Orientation month-long training.

On the worksite, participants learn how to frame, sheetrock, install windows, flooring, tiling, painting, basic home maintenance, and landscape. Currently, the Youthbuild crew is remodeling a single-family, low-income home in South St. Paul. Included in this plan are several small projects of debris removal, demolition, tiling and painting.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

GAP Youthbuild participants meet weekly to plan and implement one leadership activity and community service project per quarter or approximately 48 hours of involvement. In the past year, GAP Youthbuild participated in leadership development and community service activities with other programs throughout the state.

A GAP Youthbuilder participated in this year's Youth Leadership Conference in Washington, D.C. GAP's intent is to continue to create a recycling opportunity that will increase YB participant awareness of environmental issues.

COUNSELING/CASE MANAGEMENT AND SUPPORT SERVICES

A Youthbuild/YouthLEAD case manager/mentor provides daily support for participants on the worksite and in their classrooms. GAP's Youth and Family Services program provides mental health support (individual, group and family therapy) for all GAP students. Also, on-site health care, on-site child care, free breakfast/lunch and transportation are provided for all students.

JOB PLACEMENT AND FOLLOW-UP

GAP's Youth Employment and Training Program includes Youthbuild and YouthLEAD services for students, providing job placement assistance for all GAP students. Career and job fairs, weekly open position listings, access to computerized job search and application are just a few of the job placement opportunities provided GAP students.

All GAP seniors are required to create a transition plan and to apply to a post secondary institution of their choosing. GAP pays the application fee. A YouthLEAD case manager provides follow-up services for GAP graduates for 12 months.

SUCCESS STORY: ANTHONY LANKFARD

Anthony enrolled in Youthbuild in the winter of 2007. He had a quiet swagger about him and seemed just too cool to do construction work. It quickly became apparent that this was just a façade, and Anthony showed promise right from the beginning. He was able to take instruction well and work independently on his own after just a couple of months.

During the year, Anthony took on a leadership role in GAP's Youth Leadership Board. Always willing to offer input and to assist when others sat back, Anthony put in the work necessary to represent the Youth Leadership Board at the Youthbuild National Youth Leadership Conference this past April in Washington, D.C. He came back with some good ideas and plans for how to make the Board better.

Anthony graduated in June of 2008, and has begun fulfilling his apprenticeship with one of GAP's construction partners and working part-time in the construction industry. Anthony has completed all the necessary paperwork and forms to become a small business owner. He plans to work in construction and, with the assistance of Jim Grosso, the worksite instructor, use GAP Youthbuild graduates to complete jobs in the future. He plans to attend business management classes at St. Paul College winter quarter 2009.



Anthony Lankfard is currently a registered building trades apprentice in St. Paul and is taking business management classes at St. Paul College to own his own business

RURAL MINNESOTA CONCENTRATED EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS, INC. PERHAM, MINNESOTA

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

EDUCATION AND JOB READINESS SKILLS

Youthbuild requires that students attend school, progress academically, learn a life skill, and acquire team work skills that are crucial to future success. Youthbuild participants meet with Perham Alternative Learning Center (ALC) instructors individually each morning. Daily meetings have encouraged rapid academic success and more productive work crews.

Technical math and reading skills are discussed and used by students during home construction. Participants use measuring devices such as tape measures, transits and string lines to calculate angles, distances and lengths. They read blueprints, door and window installation directions and rafter and joist plans.

The Perham ALC and Youthbuild give non-typical students an opportunity to learn in a manner which best suits them. Not all students are successful in high school. However, all students may be successful if they are allowed to work at their own pace and exposed to unique programming. They are able to see the relevance of their work and have an opportunity to demonstrate leadership among peers.

WORK EXPERIENCE

In 2007-08 students built a house on school property and moved it onto a foundation at a city development area. The program participants also completed numerous concrete projects at local play areas, parks, and schools. Students are enrolled in core academic classes in mornings and in the construction program in afternoons. In order to stay involved in the work phase they must maintain full time student status and be making normal progress towards graduation.



Youthbuild crew working on the foundation of a new home in Perham



Youthbuilder inspecting the process of pouring cement between foundation forms

Contact Information	Service Area	Statistics		
Rural MN CEP, Inc. 803 Roosevelt Avenue Detroit Lakes, MN 56501 Huldy Sannes Program Coordinator	Becker, Otter Tail, and Wadena Counties	Disabled or Special Education	Receiving Public Assistance	Youth Offenders
		53%	33%	30%

Integral to the construction program is a strong relationship with the city of Perham and local HUD department. Youthbuild (YB) staff work hand-in-hand with these valued partners and incorporate their building code division in order to teach students the value of pre-planning and safe construction practices. For each hour worked, students received elective credit and were paid \$6.55 per hour with a weekly bonus of \$ 75 cents per hour if their attendance at the worksite and their academic progress in their school work was at acceptable levels.

LEADERSHIP AND LIFE SKILLS

Participants have the opportunity to obtain a Lead Worker position. The Lead Worker serves as an assistant to the instructor and works with some of the students. They also serve as a role model for the group and attend the Advisory Council meetings that are held with all the program partners. Currently one participant, who has been in YB for a year and struggled at a regular high school, has been promoted to Lead Worker at the Youthbuild site. As part of the leadership component, a participant who consistently performs at a high level of competency at the building site and in the classroom can obtain this promotion with an increase in pay.

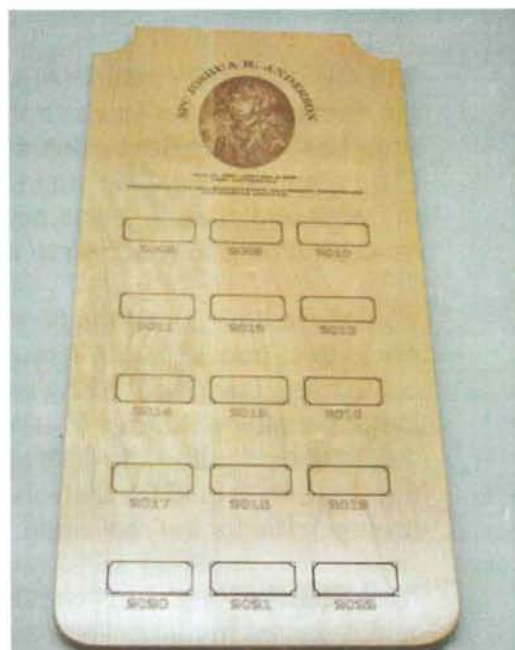
The Youthbuild program puts an emphasis on transitioning from high school to post secondary education. Students are exposed to area colleges and provided with the opportunity to take a college class of their choice.

All students enrolled in Youthbuild are involved in a three hour life skills class each week where they learn how to manage their finances, apply and interview for jobs, live on their own, communicate with others, understand contracts, rental and home ownership agreements.

This summer, participants planned and hosted an open house for school staff, parents, and partners involved in Youthbuild. The youth grilled hamburgers and hotdogs, prepared salads for the meal, designed and delivered a Power Point presentation, shared personal stories, and gave a tour of the home they built.



Youthbuilder overseeing cement finishing



The Josh Anderson Memorial designed and created by Perham Youthbuilders



Michael Maves and Scott Johnson cutting trim boards with a skill saw

CONSTRUCTION/ HOUSING

YB participants built a two-bedroom, one bath rambler with a main floor laundry. The building of the house was on school property. The Perham Housing Authority provided the lumber to build the house and the lot where the house was placed. YB participants installed the sheet rock on the inside and siding on the outside. They also installed some of the cabinetry and doors. In July the house was moved to its foundation in Perham.

Since the inception of the program 15 years ago, the Perham Youthbuild program has built or participated in the construction of nearly 32 homes and remodeled others. The students in the program have also produced many small buildings, park shelters, bench/table projects and numerous concrete projects for the community.

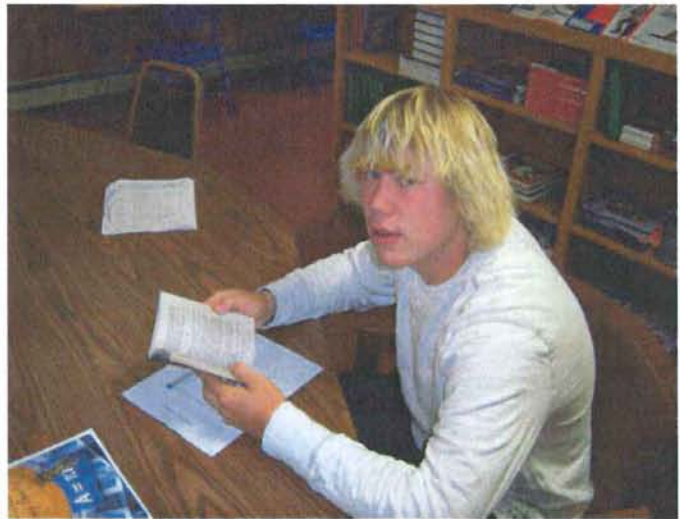
SUCCESS STORY: MICHAEL MAVES

My name is Michael Maves and I am a junior in high school. Before coming to the Perham Area Learning Center I didn't do very well in school. I couldn't focus and didn't turn in my work. I had a hard time getting along with my teachers and class mates. I was very far behind on all my work and classes. I was always thinking about hunting and how I was missing out on it so much, but here they allow me to come in a half hour later on some days so I can go hunting.

Youthbuild has helped me be a better person by giving me a stronger work ethic and allowing me to trust people better. It taught me to be prompt and improved my work skills. When I first came here, I didn't get along with people I didn't know. Now I can talk to more people and don't judge people right away. Youthbuild has taught me that I can actually do big things if I put the time and dedication into it. Also, if I do the work, I get paid for it which prepares me for the real world.

It also teaches me about construction and prepares me for college and will help me become something in life. It is a fun and great way to learn and become a better kid, student and worker. It's not a place just to go and slack off. I actually have to do the work and do it right, otherwise my project will not turn out. If I do not show up or if I'm always late, I can get fired just like any job. This prepares me and shows me what I have to do in the future.

After high school I plan on going to work right away. I am looking for a job in construction or maybe welding. Eventually I would like to go to college to become a conservation officer. I think YB has helped me decide I want to go to college and get a good job.



Michael Maves credits Youthbuild for improving his attitude toward school and motivation to be a conservation officer

STEARNS-BENTON EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING COUNCIL ST. CLOUD, MINNESOTA

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

EDUCATION AND CONSTRUCTION WORK EXPERIENCE

This past year, a full time ALC instructor provided Youthbuilders individualized instruction and planning to work toward high school graduation. ALC created a computer lab which provides instruction in engineering and drafting utilizing AutoCAD software. An Employability Skills Seminar class 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 their high school diploma and continue in post secondary education or building trades apprenticeship.

Worksite instructors provided training in the areas of safety, and 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. During the school year, Youthbuilders had the opportunity to work with ALC instructors at Habitat for Humanity sites on Saturdays. In the summer months, Youthbuilders participated in an eight week camp. The camp included building Habitat for Humanity housing projects, participating in leadership training at the Husky Challenge Course located on the campus of St. Cloud State University, and visiting labor union training facilities. Youthbuilders earned a stipend based on attendance, punctuality, work quality/ quantity and teamwork. Youthbuilders visited several trade apprentice programs including plumbers, electrical, carpentry, masons, laborers, and heavy machine operators.



Stearns-Benton Youthbuilders framing a new house in the city of St. Cloud

Contact Information	Service Area	Statistics		
Stearns-Benton Employment and Training Council (SBETC) MWFC – St. Cloud 1542 Northway Drive St. Cloud, MN 56303 Sally Brenden Program Coordinator	Benton and Stearns Counties	Youth Offenders	Disabled or Special Education	Teen Parenting
		40%	40%	30%

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT, SUPPORT SERVICES, AND FOLLOW UP

ALC instructors provided training in team building, self confidence and motivational activities, making good choices. As a result, students learn the value of community, and responsibility, cooperation, and self respect.

The Youthbuilders participated in the Husky Challenge Course which built trust, developed group communication skills, and improved conflict management skills.

"The Husky Challenge Course helped me bond with crew members and build confidence," said one Youthbuilder.

On-site counselors at the Alternative Learning Center (ALC) provided supportive services to address barriers to high school completion. Opportunities were available to job shadow, conduct informational interviews, hear guest speakers, take field trips, attend job fairs, perform service learning projects, and visit post secondary schools.

Those youth who successfully completed the program were assisted with post secondary schooling, and follow-up services. Also, successful YB candidates have the opportunity to apply for services under WIA youth programs to assist further with post secondary schooling and follow-up services.

PROGRAM PARTICIPANT OUTCOME

Youthbuilders have had many positive outcomes with their participation in Youthbuild, including giving back to the community so families can have affordable housing. Students have found they can utilize their hands-on-skill and motivation to complete their education and, through experience on-the-job, determine the construction field they want to pursue as a career.

"I have found a career and before I had no idea what I was going to do after high school," said one student.

HOUSING/CONSTRUCTION

Youthbuilders partnered with Central Minnesota Habitat for Humanity and assisted in the completion of five new single family homes in St. Cloud and Foley. Four of these affordable housing units have been completed and turned over to low income families. Youthbuilders assisted in forming up the foundation, building walls, setting insulated concrete forms, setting floor and roof trusses, installing heating and ventilation ductwork in the poured concrete floor, and landscaping.

Youthbuilders have participated in the completion of 16 homes in central Minnesota since 2006.

SUCCESS STORY: JAYDEE MOTZKO

Jaydee Motzko was not sure he was interested in Youthbuild at first. But after some coaching from a Youthbuild Instructor from St. Cloud Area Learning Center, the program gained his attention. Jaydee states, "It is a really good program. We got to build a house which was a great experience for me." Jaydee enjoyed the opportunity to work on a green build home. He increased his self-confidence while at the same time feeling great about helping out a very deserving family in need of a home. Jaydee was always eager to accept new tasks and did so with a positive attitude. His instructor comments, "Jaydee has an excellent work ethic. His attendance rate for the 8 week summer program was 98%. He often volunteers for the most difficult tasks on the job each day. His leadership ability is evident in the respect he has earned from peers and staff."

Prior to Youthbuild, Jaydee was unsure what he wanted to do with his life. But after his construction experience and visiting various union trade schools, he now knows he wants to work in the construction field.



Jaydee's work ethic earned him a 98% attendance rate this year in the summer Youthbuild program

THE CITY, INC. PRIDE IN THE CITY (PIC) MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

The City Inc. has offered a Youthbuild Program for the past 17 years. The program is based out of The City's two alternative high schools in north and south Minneapolis. In the past year the program has partnered with Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity at two sites and with Rebuilding Together at a site in north Minneapolis.

EDUCATION AND SUPPORT SERVICES

The Pride in the City (PIC) Youthbuild program enrolled 34 young people in 2008. All participants must have good standing in school, a C or better in every class, no unexcused absences, no write-ups for behavior or attitude, and a good work ethic on site. The site supervisors emphasize training. The Youthbuild participants were instructed on tool usage and on-the-job safety at the sites and in classroom instruction.

CONSTRUCTION WORK EXPERIENCE

PIC Youthbuild offers three distinct service aspects: on-the-job training, work experience and vocational instruction.

On-the-job training and work experience consist of carpentry and construction work at a Habitat housing site under the supervision of a certified journey-level carpenter. Construction skills learned by Youthbuild 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.



Pride in the City Youthbuilders working on a new Habitat for Humanity house for a low income family

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT, SUPPORT SERVICES, AND FOLLOW UP

Regular classroom trainings and career opportunities provide leadership and support for Youthbuild participants. Recruiters from Dunwoody Institute talk to students about the summer institutes and vocational opportunities and minority business owners discuss their experiences in building trades unions, how to get started, how to succeed in the construction field.

YB helps to create awareness in many of the young people that they can be successful in school and in work. Students in Youthbuild are all aware of their grades, attendance, and behavior, and the connection between success in the classroom and on the job. The program acts as a powerful incentive to start thinking ahead and to hopefully do well in all aspects of their lives.

Contact Information	Service Area	Statistics		
The City, Inc. 1315 – 12 th Avenue North Minneapolis, MN 55411 Michael Loud, Program Coordinator	City of Minneapolis	Receiving Public Assistance	Youth Offenders	Disabled or Special Education
		88%	65%	44%

HOUSING/CONSTRUCTION

Partnering with Habitat for Humanity, YB has worked at two multi-dwelling new construction sites and one existing house renovation for low-income homeowners.

YB participants were introduced to all phases of new home construction. The program takes eight young people to the site each time, along with a journeyman carpenter and youth site supervisor. The student to teacher ratio is 4 to 1 to allow instructors to teach in an experiential way.

SUCCESS STORY: KEVIN COLE

Kevin Cole came to The City School two years ago. At the time he was missing a lot of school, behind on credits, in trouble with the courts, and his mother was not happy with him. He was a somewhat angry young man, who was quick to argue and go against adults. He liked The City School program and started showing up every day. He asked what he had to do to get in the Youthbuild program.

He found out academics came first in Youthbuild, and he needed to show that he could pass all his classes, not have behavior problems with staff or other students, and be able keep up with regular classes while working one school day a week. He also knew he had to act right and be mature since Youthbuild is a job with high expectations.

Increased maturity and the Youthbuild experience helped Kevin to turn things around in his life. He is very close to graduation, off probation, and one of The City, Inc's best students. Additionally, he was Youthbuilder of the Year, and his mother is very proud of him.

"I made a decision to change my attitude and behavior," said Kevin. He is still a work in progress, but now when things happen, which they do in life, he figures out a method of handling it in a manner that works for him and keeps him moving in a positive direction. Kevin got a job early in the summer, and he still has it. He is strongly considering a career in the construction trades.



With the motivation of Youthbuild, Kevin changed both his school and home life for the better and is now a role model for other Minneapolis youth

TREE TRUST MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

Tree Trust is a private, nonprofit organization that provides employment and training and environmental programming in the greater Twin Cities metro area. Tree Trust operates the Youthbuild program in Minneapolis and Hennepin County. Youthbuild is a collaboration with Urban Homeworks, a faith-based nonprofit creating affordable housing for low-income families in Minneapolis, the Minnesota Internship Center Charter School and the Robbinsdale Transitions Center.

EDUCATION AND CONSTRUCTION WORK EXPERIENCE

Throughout the school year, students are split into two groups that alternate weeks between school and the construction site, allowing students to apply learned academic skills directly to the worksite. During the work week, students are trained in both classroom and onsite settings. OSHA 10 and the National Center for Construction and Education Research (NCCER) Introductory Craft Curriculum are provided for students to earn entry-level construction certifications. The NCCER training teaches Youthbuilders about hand and power tools, reading blueprints, construction math, safety, communication, and transferable employment skills. Students are paid a starting wage of \$7 per hour for their construction week hours and are able to work and train 32 hours during their construction weeks. During the 2008 program year, seven Youthbuild graduates and four staff members traveled to Bay St. Louis, Mississippi to participate in the Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter Work Project with Habitat for Humanity International. Along with over 300 volunteers, Youthbuild graduates and staff built two single family homes from the foundation up. Students were directly involved in framing, staining, painting, and installing drywall, flooring, siding, doors, and windows.



Tree Trust Youthbuild's first project was the construction of a new single-family home in north Minneapolis

Contact Information	Service Area	Statistics		
Tree Trust 2350 Wycliff Street – Suite 200 St. Paul, MN 55114 Stephanie Lund Youthbuild Coordinator	City of Minneapolis	Youth Offenders	Basic Skills Deficient	Disabled or Special Education
		68%	71%	39%

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT, SUPPORT SERVICES, AND FOLLOW-UP

In class and onsite training is provided in employment, leadership and citizenship skills during the student's work week. Also during the work week, one-on-one counseling occurs to assist students with processing what is being learned in Youthbuild, and improving social-relational and critical thinking skills. Common support services provided include assistance with applying for health insurance, obtaining a valid driver's license, and completing probationary requirements. Youth working to pay off a fine or complete probation requirements are given time off of work, and transportation and support as needed to move beyond these barriers. Youthbuild staff work with special education teachers to facilitate increased learning from school to the construction site, with special emphasis placed on transitional skills.

PROGRAM PARTICIPANT OUTCOMES

Tree Trust Youthbuilders have experienced a wide-range of success. At a minimum, all students are able to demonstrate improvement in academic, employability, and citizenship skills. A main outcome is that upon completion, students have a much more realistic idea of their skills and how these can be applied to future employment, education, and interaction with society.

During the 2008 program year, 23 received a certificate for achieving standardized employment skills and/or NCCER Certification. In addition, 13 students completed their high school diploma, and ten are employed.

HOUSING OUTCOMES

During the 2008 program year, Tree Trust Youthbuilders completed work on four single-family homes. Youthbuilders constructed one new home and remodeled three existing homes. Each of these homes will be sold through City of Lakes Community Land Trust, which maintains these properties as affordable housing over time, ensuring affordable homeownership for years to come.

Three of the homes, all in north Minneapolis, were sold to families with low-incomes, two of them families with young children. Since its inception, Tree Trust Youthbuild has also worked on two remodel projects of multi-family properties.



Youthbuild students Marlon Williams and Allen Freeman work on constructing the first wall of this home, which is being rebuilt from the foundation up after being destroyed by arson

SUCCESS STORY: PATRICK QUIGLEY

Patrick came to Tree Trust Youthbuild through Robbinsdale Transitions Center. His overall goal at school was to demonstrate his ability to transition from school to independent work and living. A large part of this goal was improving skills in interacting with his peers. His interest in Youthbuild was to gain as many carpentry skills as possible to eventually become a carpenter.

Initially, Patrick had a hard time taking directions and fitting in with the rest of his crew, he often had arguments with his supervisor and co-workers. Over time, Patrick became much better at thinking through his reactions and began to take pride in the development of his improved social and construction skills.

In May, Patrick participated in a blitz build for Habitat for Humanity in Bay St. Louis, Mississippi. Patrick earned his high school diploma and graduated from Youthbuild in June. Patrick feels that he now has something to share with others.

"I can show others in my community that I can help them, with things in their yard and odds and ends," said Patrick.

Patrick's future plans are to continue improving his math skills in order to pass the entrance exam for the carpenter's union. In the meantime, he is helping out at home and is even assisting Tree Trust as a recruiter for new Youthbuild students.



Patrick Quigley sands cabinets in preparation for varnish during the 2008 Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter Work Project in Bay St. Louis, Mississippi.



Tree Trust Youthbuilders Earlmound Rashiek Jones, Patrick Quigley, Marlon Williams and Crew Leader Nate Banker stand in the kitchen they recently helped to build in north Minneapolis

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

The Wabasha County Youthbuild Program is implemented by Workforce Development, Inc. staff in partnership with the River Valley Academy and Olmsted County Habitat for Humanity Housing Program. Each year youth gain skills to prepare them to enter the world of work and many times in the fields of construction and trades.

EDUCATION AND JOB READINESS

The Youthbuild process begins by connecting youth who are either out of school or at risk of dropping out of school with one of the local education programs to establish goals for completing a high school diploma or GED. Youth are required to keep acceptable attendance and performance in their education program to enter or remain in the Youthbuild Program. Participants work with staff to address educational issues and to develop transition plans that include career assessment and exploration as well as to identify and build marketable work skills needed to secure those jobs. Students prepare themselves not only to search for employment in their field of interest but also to understand the expectations of employers and how to be successful at keeping their new job.

CONSTRUCTION WORK EXPERIENCE

Youthbuild participants learn the basics of wood working skills, tool handling, and safety skills in a classroom setting with practical projects before going on to larger housing projects. The vocational instructor coordinates construction skill development and supervises youth on the construction site. The competency based nature of the program is motivating for youth and applying their construction skills builds confidence and a personal feeling of accomplishment. Youth receive a training stipend and may also earn bonuses and scholarships based on their performance and attendance.



Wabasha Youthbuilders roofing a utility shed

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Leadership skill development is embedded in and recognized throughout the program. Youth are recognized for this skill when they are allowed to be in a Team Leader role which includes increased pay and responsibility. In addition, youth who demonstrate this skill are allowed to participate in a Leadership Day at Camp Iduhapi or the Leadership Summit held in the fall. Both of these activities bring together youth from Youthbuild programs across the state. Youth benefit from building relationships and receiving affirmation outside of their immediate peer group and community.

Contact Information	Service Area	Statistics		
Workforce Development, Inc. 1302 – 7 th Street, N.W. Rochester, MN 55901 Marge Kuethe Program Coordinator	Cities of Red Wing and Wabasha	Disabled or Special Education	Youth Offenders	Drug/Chemical Dependency
		53%	21%	21%

PROGRAM AND PARTICIPANT OUTCOME

Of the 19 youth enrolled in this program year, 17 earned an academic credit, 6 have obtained a high school diploma or GED, 9 have met literacy goals and the average attendance rate for the youth in this program this year was 88 percent. Eight youth are currently employed at an average rate of \$9.45 per hour.

Youth participated in building two Habitat for Humanity Homes and one shed this program year and participating in numerous leadership activities. Building sheds is a great initial learning activity for the youth participants. Sheds are sold to cover the cost of construction materials and supplies.

SUCCESS STORY: MICHAEL ROBERTSON

Youthbuild participation was not actively pursued by Michael when he was recommended by the alternative school faculty. Michael did not have the advantage of high expectations or support when he joined Youthbuild. He grasped the basic concepts quickly and quietly took on the responsibility of helping others develop the same skills.

When Michael was exposed to hands-on learning he surprised himself and others and began to perform at a higher level in the classroom. His post-test for math revealed that he had college level math ability. Michael was creative and soon became adept at using problem solving techniques and analytical thinking to help other students learn. His vocational instructor says he is a natural at teaching others. Michael is a senior this year and exploring math and science opportunities in post secondary education. It is obvious that the positive learning environment of Youthbuild was just what Michael needed and it is great to hear his peers speak so highly of him. But even better is to see how Michael sees himself.



Through Youthbuild's hand-on learning model, Michael Robertson was able to excel in math and problem solving, boosting his self- confidence and motivation to pursue a career in math or science

YOUTHBUILD LOCAL CONTACTS

Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency, Inc.

702 Third Avenue South

Virginia, MN 55792

Gwen Grell, Youthbuild Program Coordinator

Ph: (218) 749-2912, ext. 220 Fax: (218) 749-2944

E-mail: ggregell@aeoa.org

Ph: (218) 327-6749 (Grand Rapids - Tue., Wed., Fri.)

Service area: *St Louis County (excluding City of Duluth)*

Bi-County Community Action Programs, Inc.

2529 15th ST NW

Bemidji, MN 56601

Anne McGill, Assistant Director of Operations and Youthbuild Director

Ph: (218) 333-9828 Fax: (218) 751-8452

E-mail: amcgill@paulbunyan.net

Tina Sweatt, Youthbuild Program Coordinator

Ph: (218) 333-9869

E-mail: tina@youthbuildbemidji.org

Service area: *Beltrami and Cass Counties*

Carver-Scott Educational Cooperative

Crosby Park Manufacturing/Technology Center

309 Lake Hazeltine Drive, Chaska, MN 55318

Joyce Eissinger, Youthbuild Program Coordinator

Ph: (952) 368-8126 Fax: (952) 368-8888

E-mail: jeissinger@cseced.org

Service area: *Carver and Scott counties*

Central Minnesota Jobs and Training Services

406 7th Street, PO Box 720

Monticello, MN 55362-0720

Rita Borchert, Youth Program Manager

Phone: (763) 271-3706 Cell Ph: (320) 444-1059

Fax: (763) 271-3701

E-mail: rborchert@cmjts.org

Service area: *Kandiyohi County*

City Academy

958 Jesse Street

Saint Paul, MN 55101

Ph: (651) 298-4624 Fax: (651) 292-6511

Milo Cutter, Director

E-mail: miloc@cityacademy.org

Terry Kraabel, Youthbuild Program Coordinator

E-mail: terryk@cityacademy.org

Service area: *Cities of Saint Paul and Oakdale*

Guadalupe Alternative Programs

381 East Robie Street

Saint Paul, MN 55107

Ph: (651) 222-0758 Fax: (651) 290-2703

Allen Selinski, Director

E-mail: aselinski@gapschool.org, ext. 305

Lynnette Landry, Youthbuild Program Coordinator

E-mail: llandry@gapschool.org, ext. 318

Service area: *City of Saint Paul*

Rural Minnesota Concentrated Employment Programs

803 Roosevelt Avenue

Detroit Lakes, MN 56502

Huldy Sannes, Youthbuild Program Coordinator

E-mail: huldys@rmcep.com

Arlyce Cucich, Youthbuild Case Manager

E-mail: acucich@rmcep.com

Ph: (218) 846-7377 Fax: (218) 846-0773

Service area: *Becker, Otter Tail, and Wadena Counties*

Stearns-Benton Employment & Training Council (SBETC)

MN Workforce Center

1542 Northway Drive, Door 2

Saint Cloud, MN 56303

Ph: (320) 308-5708 Fax: (320) 654-5173

Sally Brenden, Director

E-mail: sbrenden@sbetc.org

Ashley Thissen, Youthbuild Program Coordinator

E-mail: athissen@sbetc.org Ph: (320) 308-5708

Dave Masters, Youthbuild Worksite Instructor

E-mail: dmasters@isd742.org Ph: (320) 203-8470

Service area: *Benton and Stearns Counties*

The City, Inc.

Northside Campus: 1315 - 12th Avenue North

Minneapolis, MN 55411

Ph: (612) 377-7559 Fax: (612) 377-1036

Southside Campus: 920 East 34th Street, Door #8

Minneapolis, MN 55407

Southside: (612) 877-6720 Fax: (612) 877-6755

Mike Loud, Youthbuild Program Coordinator

E-mail: michael_loud@thecityinc.org

Ph: (612) 877-6724 Cell: 612-718-4488

Colnese Hendon, Development Coordinator

E-mail: chendon@thecityinc.org

Service area: *City of Minneapolis*

Tree Trust

2350 Wycliff Street - Suite 200

St. Paul, MN 55114

Ph: (651) 644-5800 Fax: (651) 644-1469

Norm Champ, Director

E-mail: normc@treetrust.org

Stephanie Lund, Youthbuild Coordinator

E-mail: stephanie@treetrust.org

(612) 590-6222 Fax: (612) 521-8939

Service area: *City of Minneapolis*

Workforce Development, Inc.

1302 - 7th Street, N.W.

Rochester, MN 55901

Ph: (507) 292-5182 Fax: (507) 292-5173 or

Marge Kuethe, Youthbuild Program Coordinator

Albert Lea Office: (507) 379-3409 Cell: (507) 259-

3906

E-mail: mkuethe@wfdi.ws

Jinny Rietmann, Wabasha Youthbuild Case Manager

Red Wing Office: (651) 385-6372 Cell: (651) 380-

1575 E-mail: jrietmann@wfdi.ws

Service area: *Cities of Red Wing and Wabasha*

FEDERAL FUNDED YOUTHBUILD LOCAL CONTACTS

Bi-County Community Action Programs, Inc.

2529 15th Street NW

Bemidji, MN 56601

Anne McGill, Assistant Director of Operations and Youthbuild Director

Ph: (218) 751-4631 ext. 104 Fax: (218) 751-8452

E-mail: amcgill@paulbunyan.net

Tina Sweatt, Youthbuild Program Coordinator

Ph: (218) 751-4631 ext. 145 Fax: (218) 751-8452

E-mail: tina@youthbuildbemidji.org

Service area: Beltrami and Cass Counties

Vikki Howard

Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe

115 6th St. NW, Suite E

Cass Lake, MN 56633

E-mail: vickki.howard@leechlakeojibwe.com

Ph: (218) 335-8361

Service Area: Leech Lake Reservation

Mary Ring Hand

Red Lake Nation College

23750 Hwy 1 East

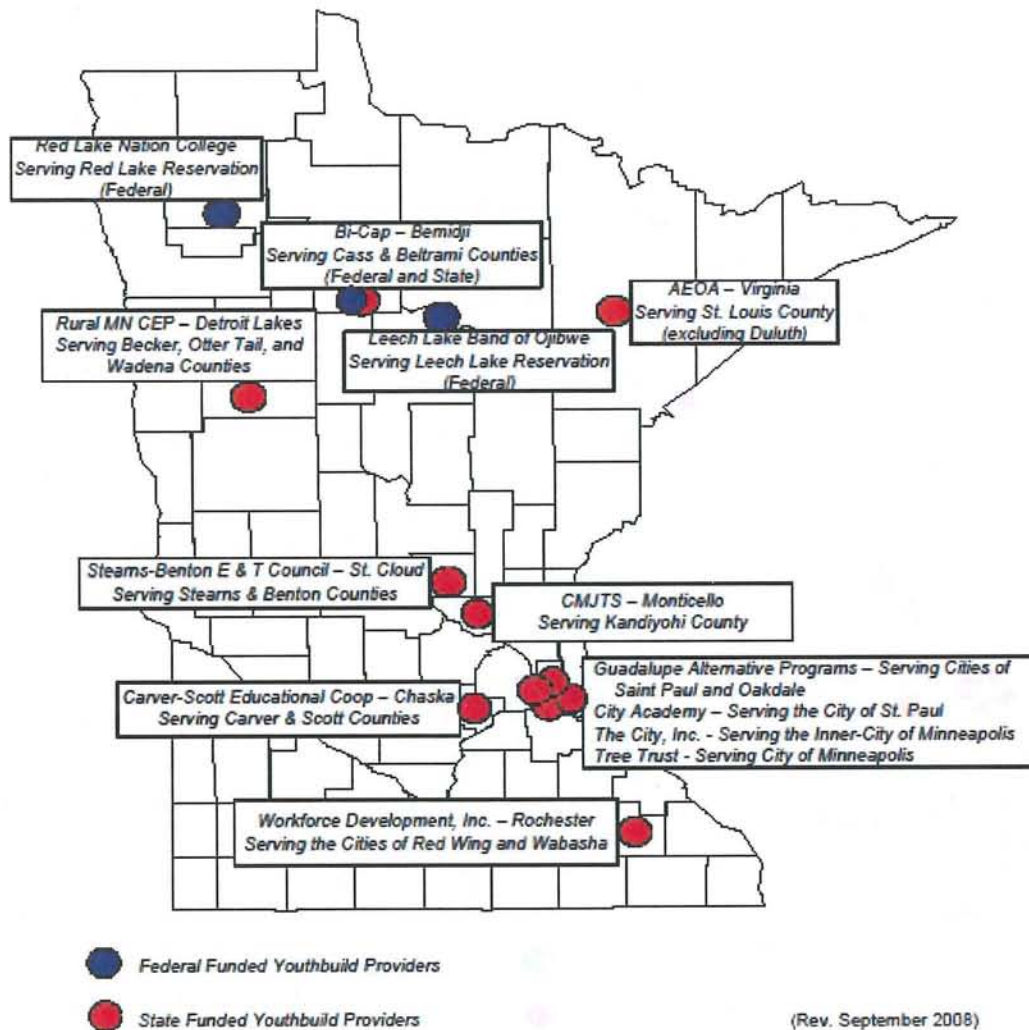
Red Lake, MN 56671

E-mail: mrighthand@redlakenationcollege.org

Ph: (218) 679-2860

Service Area: Red Lake Reservation

YOUTHBUILD SERVICE PROVIDERS IN MINNESOTA



YOUTHBUILD DATA SUMMARY – STATE FISCAL YEAR 2008
(July 1, 2007 – June 30, 2008)

COMBINED YOUTHBUILD TOTALS		TOTAL	Percent	AEOA	Bi-CAP	City Academy	CMJTS	GAP
1. Total Participants Served		341		10	41	58	11	21
2. Total Exiters		167	49.0%	7	33	47	2	11
PARTICIPANT SUMMARY INFORMATION								
Gender	3a. Male	264	77.4%	9	25	37	10	12
	3b. Female	77	22.6%	1	16	21	1	9
Age	4a. 16 - 18 Years of Age	242	71.0%	5	23	32	11	19
	4b. 19 -20 Years of Age	86	25.2%	4	15	23	0	2
	4c. 21 - 24 Years of Age	10	2.9%	1	3	3	0	0
Ethnicity / Race	5a. Hispanic/Latino	30	8.8%	0	0	8	7	4
	5b. American Indian or Alaska Native	45	13.2%	3	25	12	0	1
	5c. Asian	34	10.0%	0	0	30	0	1
	5d. Black or African American	87	25.5%	0	3	7	0	10
	5e. White	144	42.2%	7	13	1	4	5
Demographics	6. High School Dropout	339	99.4%	10	41	58	11	21
	7. Low Income	233	68.3%	10	32	58	11	21
	8. Foster Youth	23	6.7%	1	1	2	1	2
	9. Migrant Youth/Limited English Proficient	13	3.8%	0	0	3	5	2
	10. Youth Offender	183	53.7%	9	36	41	3	17
	11. Basic Skills Deficient	220	64.5%	10	32	40	11	19
	12. Person with a Disability or Receiving Special Education Services	116	34.0%	3	9	11	5	3
	13. Chemical Dependency	79	23.2%	6	7	23	0	3
	14. Pregnant or Parenting Youth	57	16.7%	2	15	15	0	2
	15. Homeless or Runaway Youth	27	7.9%	1	6	9	0	0
	16. Youth from Families Receiving Public Assistance	142	41.6%	4	12	52	1	12
INDICATORS OF PERFORMANCE AT EXIT								
1. Obtained High School Diploma or GED		137	82.0%	3	25	47	2	11
2. Entered Employment		107	64.1%	3	15	45	7	2
3. Average Hourly Wage at Placement		\$9.48		\$9.25	\$7.63	\$11.75	\$7.43	\$9.50
4. Entered Post-Secondary, Entered Apprenticeship, or Entered Military		92	55.1%	2	25	47	1	6
5. Obtained a Certificate		78	46.7%	0	37	14	0	0
6. Average Rate of Increase in Literacy and Numeracy Attainment		1.8		1.4	2.0	2.7	3	2
7. Recidivism Rate of Youth Offenders		18	10.1%	28.0%	7.0%	1.0%	0.0%	0.0%
8. Average Worksite Attendance Rate		83.9%		78%	89.90%	95%	82%	79.10%
9. Number of Participants who Received Academic Credit or Service Learning Credit		321	94.1%	GED only	40	58	11	21
10. Total Community Service Hours Logged		4,924		144	130	460	530	504

YOUTHBUILD DATA SUMMARY – STATE FISCAL YEAR 2008
(July 1, 2007 – June 30, 2008) – continued

COMBINED YOUTHBUILD TOTALS		TOTAL	Percent	Rural CEP	CSEC	SBETC	The City, Inc.	Tree Trust	WOI
1. Total Participants Served		341		30	69	20	34	28	19
2. Total Exiters		167	49.0%	4	16	4	17	20	6
PARTICIPANT SUMMARY INFORMATION									
Gender	3a. Male	264	77.4%	27	58	13	29	28	18
	3b. Female	77	22.6%	3	11	7	5	2	1
Age	4a. 16 - 18 Years of Age	242	71.0%	27	53	12	27	19	14
	4b. 19 -20 Years of Age	86	25.2%	3	14	8	6	7	4
	4c. 21 - 24 Years of Age	10	2.9%	0	0	0	0	2	1
Ethnicity / Race	5a. Hispanic/Latino	30	8.8%	1	6	2	0	2	0
	5b. American Indian or Alaska Native	45	13.2%	2	0	2	0	0	0
	5c. Asian	34	10.0%	0	0	0	2	0	1
	5d. Black or African American	87	25.5%	0	9	5	30	23	0
	5e. White	144	42.2%	27	54	11	1	3	18
Demographics	6. High School Dropout	339	99.4%	30	69	20	34	28	19
	7. Low Income	233	68.3%	16	9	8	30	24	14
	8. Foster Youth	23	6.7%	1	11	0	3	1	0
	9. Migrant Youth/Limited English Proficient	13	3.8%	0	0	2	1	0	0
	10. Youth Offender	183	53.7%	9	14	8	22	20	4
	11. Basic Skills Deficient	220	64.5%	27	55	7	0	19	0
	12. Person with a Disability or Receiving Special Education Services	116	34.0%	16	25	8	15	11	10
	13. Chemical Dependency	79	23.2%	5	15	3	10	3	4
	14. Pregnant or Parenting Youth	57	16.7%	2	4	6	7	3	1
	15. Homeless or Runaway Youth	27	7.9%	0	4	1	5	1	0
	16. Youth from Families Receiving Public Assistance	142	41.6%	10	11	5	30	5	0
INDICATORS OF PERFORMANCE AT EXIT									
1. Obtained High School Diploma or GED		137	82.0%	4	12	4	10	13	6
2. Entered Employment		107	64.1%	1	5	7	4	10	8
3. Average Hourly Wage at Placement		\$9.48		\$8.00	\$10.75	\$6.81	\$8.50	\$7.50	\$9.45
4. Entered Post-Secondary, Entered Apprenticeship, or Entered Military		92	55.1%	1	4	2	2	1	1
5. Obtained a Certificate		78	46.7%	0	0	0	0	21	6
6. Average Rate of Increase in Literacy and Numeracy Attainment		1.8		1	1	1.5	1.5	2	2
7. Recidivism Rate of Youth Offenders		18	10.1%	11.0%	28.6%	12.5%	9.1%	26.70%	11%
8. Average Worksite Attendance Rate		83.9%		82%	88%	89.50%	80%	71.50%	88%
9. Number of Participants who Received Academic Credit or Service Learning Credit		321	94.1%	30	69	20	29	26	17
10. Total Community Service Hours Logged		4,924		120	1500	1,146	0	390	0



Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development