

2009

Youthbuild Annual Report



Minnesota Department of Employment
and Economic Development

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Courtesy of Bi-County Community Action Program, Bemidji

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FUNDING

In PY 2009, \$1,075,000 in state funds supported eleven Youthbuild Programs serving 376 at-risk youth. Fifty-five units of affordable housing were newly constructed or renovated, benefiting over 100 low-income families, individuals, and community-based organizations.

Youthbuild provides disadvantaged youth with an integrated set of services leading to a high school diploma or GED and the opportunity for advanced training with appropriate certification.

GREEN BUILD CONSTRUCTION AND CERTIFICATION

Youthbuild has incorporated green building principles into the construction and renovation of affordable housing projects. These include green construction techniques, recycling and reuse of building materials, installation of energy-efficient appliances and weatherization materials, and the use of green architectural design. Many Youthbuild staff are trained in Minnesota Green Star, Habitat for Humanity Green Build, and National Green Build Council LEED-H building standards. Sample green building projects in 2009 included:

The AEOA crew has been planning for, and will soon begin working on the Foyer Project in Virginia, a 15-unit apartment building, was designed entirely green by LBH Engineers and Architects. During the year, Youthbuilders also job shadowed weatherization crews to learn energy efficiency techniques and were trained in the new Lead Abatement standards.

Rural MN CEP Youthbuild constructed a green home in the Perham Westwind Addition, using energy-efficient building techniques.

SBETC Youthbuild constructed four new Green Build homes in partnership with Habitat for Humanity. The projects emphasized environmentally safe construction practices with recycling of building site waste and materials, installation of compact fluorescent light-bulbs, low-flow showerheads, low volatile organic compound paints and solvents, advanced framing techniques to ensure minimal material use, and perennials on to reduce lawn maintenance and water use.



SBETC Youthbuilder laying bricks with instructor's supervision



GAP Youthbuilders renovating 19th century farmhouse for affordable housing in St. Paul



St. Cloud Youthbuilder, Blake, learns to lay bricks at the Bricklayers and Craftworkers Center in St. Paul. Each Youthbuilder is paired with an apprenticeship student for the hands-on experience.

Bi-CAP Youthbuild toured the RREAL Solar Panel Plant in Pine River to examine how solar power works. As follow up, they constructed model-scale solar, electric, straw, and stucco houses.

Bi-CAP offers all Youthbuilders nationally recognized certification in National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER) Training, which provides industry-driven standardized craft training and certification in construction carpentry and green building techniques. Youthbuilders received Energy Auditor training through Dunwoody Technical College.

Tree Trust Youthbuild provides green construction training for its young people through National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER) Training. In partnership with Urban Homeworks, Tree Trust Youthbuilders are incorporating green construction principles into the renovation of affordable housing in north Minneapolis.

City Academy Youthbuilders designed the grounds of Wilder Recreation Center using green landscaping concepts in the planting of rain gardens, perennials, and shade trees. They also constructed a five-car garage with a waterproof membrane, soil and vegetation on the roof. The green roof will increase the life-span of the roof, reduce storm run-off and the urban heat island effect, and filter pollutants and carbon dioxide out of the air. City Academy Youthbuild is expanding green jobs training and certification to include courses in Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy: Solar, Wind, and Biomass and Energy Auditing (through Dunwoody Technical College).

Guadalupe Alternative Programs (GAP) Youthbuild uses the NCCER curriculum to train its YouthLEAD participants in green building techniques. On their current housing project, the Youthbuild crew installed argon windows, green code insulation, and a metal roof anticipated to last one hundred years. They also reused most of the wood. In the summer, Youthbuilders constructed compost bins at the Youth Gardens in St. Paul.



Tree Trust Youthbuilder, Kareem, removes broken concrete in the basement of a home under renovation through Urban Homeworks in North Minneapolis



Wabasha Youthbuild, Don, applies trim to utility shed

**ARROWHEAD ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY AGENCY
VIRGINIA, MINNESOTA**

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

EDUCATION, CONSTRUCTION WORK EXPERIENCE, AND JOB READINESS

Youthbuilders learn basic construction skills through a mix of classroom activities and on-site training and work experience under the supervision of a journeyman carpenter. Youth receive a stipend for up to 40 hours per week with bonuses for one-hundred percent attendance. Participants are taught framing, sheet rocking, demolition, landscaping, siding, roofing, layout procedures, and cost estimating and blue print reading. Youth also have an opportunity to job shadow construction trades people and work with the AEOA weatherization crew. The participants attain their GED certificates through Adult Basic Education, which includes a specialized Construction Math curriculum. The ABE instructor also takes youth to the construction site or workshop, in order to highlight experiential learning opportunities and help youth to better grasp mathematical concepts.

LEADERSHIP AND SUPPORT SERVICES

Youth meet weekly with the case manager and attend independent living skills and leadership training. Topics include: budgeting and financial literacy, meal planning and preparation, renting or leasing an apartment or house, and banking services. All youth complete a full vocational evaluation and receive work readiness training at the local Workforce Center. For youth interested in post-secondary training, the case manager explores their options and assists with financial aid and college/tech school applications.



Albert installed trim boards along with new energy efficient windows in a renovated home in Chisholm



AEOA Youthbuilders demonstrate the proper use of power tools and safety procedures on the job

Contact Information	Service Area	Statistics		
		Youth Offenders	Receiving Public Assistance	Disability or Special Education Services
Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency 702 Third Avenue South Virginia, MN 55792 Gwen Grell, Program Coordinator	Saint Louis County (excluding City of Duluth)	100%	100%	78%

All Youthbuilders complete volunteer activities in the community. Participants build, market, and sell picnic tables and chairs; a skill especially helpful for new participants learning about tools and safety policies. The small profit from each sale is deposited back into the Youthbuild program. In the past year, Youthbuilders also completed a variety of community projects for area non-profits:

- Installing playground equipment for the Hermantown Head Start program
- Painting the toddler room for the Virginia Head Start program
- Installing new office cubicles at the Virginia Energy Assistance office
- Installing new doors and frames and fixing trim at the Hibbing Homeless Shelter
- Assisted in building the Field of Screams, an annual Halloween attraction for the Chisholm Area Chamber of Commerce (proceeds are given back to the community non-profits).

When asked his favorite project in Youthbuild so far, one young man said “It has to be the work we did at The Field of Screams. It was really interesting and we got lots of goodies (food) from the people over there.”

PARTICIPANT OUTCOMES

During Arrowhead Youthbuild’s thirteen year existence, the program has served approximately ninety-five youth and created affordable and safe housing for over 100 low-income family members in the area with the assistance of the AEOA Housing Department. During the past year, the program worked with nine youth, two of which entered post secondary training and three entered unsubsidized employment. Eight of the nine youth increased their reading or math skills by at least one grade level and four obtained their GED certificates.

All of the youth came from low-income backgrounds and were youth offenders who had been involved with the juvenile justice system. Seven out of the nine youth also had chemical dependency issues.

One young woman on the crew said to the program director, ***“I don’t know if I would even be alive if it wasn’t for this program. At best, I would probably be in jail.”***



Corey making cuts for the trim work at the house in Virginia



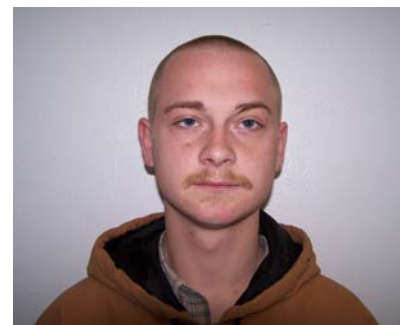
Dustin paints trim boards prior to installation during the home renovation in Chisholm

HOUSING CONSTRUCTION

During the past year, the crew completed renovation of two homes in Chisholm and began working on a third. The crew installed doors and repaired water damage to walls, including mudding and painting. They completed inside demolition, repaired loose siding, and installed handrails for basement stairways. This summer, the crew renovated a home in Virginia requiring lead abatement. Before beginning the project, all Youthbuilders and the supervisor completed specialized training on safe practices and removal of lead-based paint. The project also required the crew to do materials estimation, flooring, plastering walls, sheet-rocking, door installation, and trim work. One young man remarked “ I’ve done some construction work in the past, mainly roofing garages, but having the chance to work on so many different areas of a home has really opened up my eyes to how much is involved in actually making a place livable.”

SUCCESS STORY: ALBERT

“At the time in my life (when I first enrolled in Youthbuild) I was fresh out of jail and receiving treatment for chemical dependency. I couldn’t believe that this program was going to give me a chance! My son had just turned one year old and I knew that I really needed to work and further my education.



I heard about Arrowhead Youthbuild from a friend who was enrolled in the program and said that it was great. I filled out an application, interviewed and waited for a call. I was very excited when I was chosen to be one of the program’s participants, and I started work about two-weeks after my interview.

Through the Youthbuild program I have learned many new skills. Some of those in the construction field include: carpentry, dry walling, painting, and roofing. During the development of these skills I’ve learned how to safely use many power tools. The program has also helped me develop my independent living skills, like learning money management and understanding employer expectations. It took awhile for old habits to go away and make room for more productive living, but I now know the importance of such things as showing up on time for work.

During my time with Youthbuild, I made many positive steps forward. It’s true that there were also some missteps, but the staff at the program was always there to help me get back on the right track.

I now received my GED certificate, enrolled at Mesabi Range Community College, obtained my driver’s license and purchased a car. My plans include finishing college and becoming an auto mechanic. I also plan on buying my own house, and one day starting an auto shop on my own.”

**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, CONSTRUCTION WORK EXPERIENCE, AND JOB READINESS

On June 6, 2009, 15 participants received their high school diploma from Voyageurs Expeditionary High School. 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 class room 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.



Youthbuilders, Lois Usher, John Jay, and Tyler secure a ladder during new construction of home in the city of Bemidji to be sold as affordable housing

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. In addition, the youth participated in budgeting classes and other life skills classes such as; resume writing, career exploration, employment skills, cooking, and renting housing. All Youthbuilders actively participate in community service projects.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT AND SUPPORT SERVICES

All participants have or will complete Red Cross First Aid and CPR training and all are enrolled in a certification course developed by the National Center for Construction Education and Research or NCCER that focuses on all aspects of entry level carpentry.

Contact Information	Service Area	Statistics		
		Youth Offenders	Basic Skills Deficient	Receiving Public Assistance
Bi-County Community Action Programs, Inc. 2529 15 th Street NW Bemidji, MN 56601 Tina Sweatt, Youthbuild Coordinator	Beltrami and Cass Counties	76%	72%	62%

HOUSING CONSTRUCTION

In 2009, Construction began on a new affordable housing project in partnership with Red Lake Housing Authority. After completion of the home, Red Lake Housing Authority will sell the home to an enrolled Red Lake member who lives in Bemidji. Over the past ten years, Bemidji 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: GENE

Gene is a nineteen year old, Native American Youthbuilder. Before Gene came into the program, he had many goals and dreams but lacked the focus he needed to accomplish them. Since joining the program Gene has received his National Center for Construction Education and Research Certification, is attending a Certified Nurses Assistants course through North West Technical College, and is two credits away from receiving his High School Diploma. Gene has also taken a leadership role during the flood relief effort, and in visiting area nursing homes.

Gene learned about the Youthbuild program from his older brother who successfully completed the program. Gene is an outgoing, bright young man. He works at Youthbuild during the week, and holds a second job on the weekends in an effort to save money for his new baby. His child will have a good father and role model in Gene.



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

Carver-Scott Educational Cooperative (CSEC), an accredited alternative learning center, 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 through the Work Force 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.



Youthbuilders framing walls on a building located in the city of Chaska

EDUCATION, CONSTRUCTION WORK EXPERIENCE AND JOB READINESS

CSEC operates a school 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 program at the main campus. 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. 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, letters of recommendation, and sample job applications. Students often include photos of housing projects they have completed during the program.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT AND SUPPORT SERVICES

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. Students have access to a mental health worker and, in most sites, a chemical health worker.

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	Basic Skills Deficient	Disability or Special Education Services	Youth Offenders
		80%	63%	52%

Men's and Women's Groups, Smoking Cessation and Sober Support Groups, are just a few of the support options available to students. A Transition Plan is completed by each student outlining goals along the way. Youthbuild students spend every Friday afternoon with a CSEC staff member focusing on Leadership Development and Service-Learning. Topics 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 sometimes meeting with local leaders.



Youthbuilders installing siding on a large storage building newly constructed for Chanhassen High School

PARTICIPANT 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 overall 75 percent completion rate and an 87 percent attendance rate. All students earned academic credit in the program and all participated in service in the community, logging over 1,500 service hours.

HOUSING CONSTRUCTION

Students in Chaska constructed two 6' by 6' decks with stairs and one 8' by 10' storage building for low income families in local mobile home parks. They also provided exterior building work for Love, Inc. Students at the Spring Lake ALC constructed a basketball court and picnic area for their school building and a play area for a local child care facility. In the summer program, the students built a 25 by 50 storage facility at the new Chanhassen High School. In addition to working in local non-profits and schools, Youthbuild provides services to many local non-profit agencies, neighborhood families, retired teachers, and many low income families.

SUCCESS STORY: TONY

Tony has struggled with issues that have been roadblocks to his learning, but he has grown and matured to a level that now he is able to advocate for himself and work past adversities. Tony wanted to join the Youthbuild Program last year but the program was full. He patiently and periodically reminded his case manager to communicate with the Youthbuild Instructor so he could be considered for admission. After much persistence, he was accepted into the program. According to Tony's case manager, he demonstrated significant growth after the transition into Youthbuild.



Tony has been involved in many projects throughout the year, but the projects for low income or elderly neighbors are the ones that give him the most satisfaction. He says he feels good about being able to use the skills he learned in Youthbuild to give back to his community.

Tony takes pride in his work. He is eager to learn and committed to continuous growth and improvement. Tony applied for the summer Youthbuild Program with the specific purpose of earning required credits toward his diploma. Having earned those credits will allow him to participate in a variety of elective courses and graduate at the end of this school year.

**CENTRAL MINNESOTA JOBS AND TRAINING SERVICES
MONTICELLO, MINNESOTA**

Central Minnesota Jobs and Training Services (CMJTS) operated the Youthbuild Program in the Willmar community in collaboration with the Willmar School District, Habitat for Humanity of West Central Minnesota, and the Willmar Housing and Redevelopment Authority.

EDUCATION, CONSTRUCTION WORK EXPERIENCE, AND WORK READINESS

Academic activities are integrated with work experience, job readiness, and leadership activities. The participants are required to take academic courses that apply 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 work 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 have the opportunity to participate in extensive occupational and career assessments by the school district’s school-to-work coordinator.

A certified carpenter supervises participants on the worksite. Participants spend 12 hours each week for 24 weeks 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.



Miguel, Luis, Zaida and Valerie assist in the reconstruction of a dock for the Prairie Woods Environmental Learning Center in Spicer.



Zaida, Valerie, Rickey, Luis and Miguel complete a teambuilding exercise at the Prairie Woods Environmental Learning Center in Spicer.

Contact Information	Service Area	Statistics		
Central Minnesota Jobs and Training Services 106 Pine Street 607 4 th Street, PO Box 720 Monticello, MN 553620-0720 Rita Borchert Program Coordinator	Kandiyohi County	Basic Skills Deficient	Migrant/Limited English Proficient	Youth Offenders
		100%	69%	62%

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT AND SUPPORT SERVICES

All youth received three and one-half hours per week of leadership training and community service activities. CMJTS staff facilitated these experiences during initial orientations, safety training, team building exercises, and field trips including a trip to the Prairie Woods Environmental Center in Spicer. Students participated in games relating to work situations, work ethics, and soft skills. They learned about high wage-high demand industries at their initial assessment, as part of WorkForce Center tours, and through individual career counseling.

Youthbuild students visited Dunwoody and Ridgewater Colleges, Minnesota West Community and Technical College - Granite Falls and Canby campuses, and Job Corps. The Minnesota West tours focused the youths' attention on the biodiesel and wind renewable energy programs. In the classroom, on the job site, and during field trips, instructors modeled and students practiced teamwork principles and problem-solving skills. The importance of being aware of local social issues and civic responsibility and leadership were interwoven in all activities.

HOUSING CONSTRUCTION

Youthbuilders completed twelve large projects and several small projects throughout the year.

Habitat for Humanity Projects

- Building two Habitat for Humanity Homes—one in Pennock and one in Willmar
- Seeding grass and planting trees

Heartland Community Action

- Painted basement office

CMJTS

- Constructed, stained, and varnished four octagon picnic tables
- Constructed two carpet ball tables and donated them to a local church

Willmar ALC Shop

- Built cabinets in the shop to store supplies and tools

Prairie Woods Environmental Learning Center

- Removed and reconstructed land bridges
- Moved docks for the Greenhouse/Solar house
- Cleaned up of the walking/cross-country ski trail

Willmar Public Schools, Community Education Department

- Designed and constructed storage shed for the Community Education Department

Willmar Treatment Center

- Assisted with major renovation of the Treatment Center

Kandiyohi County Highway Department

- Painted guard rails
- Trimmed tall grass around guard rails and other signage
- Constructed signage rack
- Demolished old road signage

- Assembled road block signs for use on public road construction
- Cleaned ceiling fans in the main office
- Repaired, painted, and cleaned garage doors for Minnesota Highway Department
- Constructed tongue & groove skirting using 2 x 6's around a 50 x 75 foot tin building: dug out dirt, and put in the boards for concrete preparation.

SUCCESS STORY: LUIS

At the age of 18, Luis is a single parent with two young children to care for. During his time in the program, Luis worked very hard on his education attending Youthbuild after school. Luis was also co-enrolled in the Federal WIA Youth Program. Because of his commitment and effort in Youthbuild, he received his High School Diploma this past spring and was hired through the Recovery Act to work at the Kandiyohi County Highway Department. Luis has shown strong leadership, guiding the group to finish large and small projects, as well as modeling appropriate behavior and initiative. Luis plans to attend college in January 2010, specializing in law enforcement and hopes to eventually become a police officer.



**CITY ACADEMY
ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA**

City Academy Youthbuild spent the year working on a single large construction project. In partnership with the City of St. Paul, the Youthbuild team completed landscaping and the building of a five-car garage with workshop at Wilder Recreation Center. The landscaping included a variety of rain gardens and plantings to reduce the amount of rainwater entering the city sewer system. Herbs and vegetables were planted for use in the school's meal program. Students also assembled and decorated rain barrels for use in the community and built a composting site for use by the school and the center.



Youthbuilders Tony and Jerome mixing mortar

EDUCATION CONSTRUCTION WORK EXPERIENCE AND JOB READINESS

City Academy staff work with the College of St. Catherine to develop holistic assessments to effectively inform students of their learning progress. City Academy is developing an academic curriculum to assist students with college-level math, reading, and other skills. Core Math and English courses at City Academy were redesigned to fit the individual Youthbuild participant's career area of interest. The courses are taught at the college level in order to prepare the student for the rigor of post-secondary coursework.



Youthbuilders, Xon and Lincoln, installing insulation

This year, City Academy also introduced an on-line math course, simulating on-line math courses currently taught at community and technical colleges in the area. The goal of the redesigned curriculum is to reduce the number of youth taking remedial coursework in post-secondary institutions and, ultimately, to complete their post-secondary education and become successful adults. To prepare for entry in post-secondary institutions, Youthbuild participants also study for and practice taking the Accuplacer test, an entrance exam required by many post-secondary schools in the state.



Sheet rock installation by Youthbuilders, Chantra and Fong

Contact Information	Service Area	Statistics		
City Academy 958 Jesse Street St. Paul, MN 55101 Milo Cutter, Director	Cities of St. Paul	Receiving Public Assistance	Basic Skills Deficient	Youth Offenders
		71%	67%	40%

A major focus for City Academy Youthbuild is preparing all graduates for Post-Secondary participation, a goal that has been 100% achieved. The next goal is to formalize support for Youthbuild graduates participating in post-secondary programs after high school. City Academy is working with the staff at Century College to insure a smooth transition from high school to college through the implementation of a "GPS LifePlan". The LifePlan consists of the following goals prior to college entrance: a CareerPlan to assess skills, interests, and values, and research career options and improve job readiness; an EducationPlan to evaluate education goals, improve study skills, and receive support and resources; a FinancePlan to plan and evaluate a budget, finances, and a savings plan, and manage debts and financial resources; a

LeadershipPlan to develop leadership skills and ways to get involved in community, and gain leadership experience; and a PersonalPlan to receive assistance in transition to college, managing relationships, balancing work, life, and college, and physical and mental health.

During the construction of the garage and workshop, students gained experience with all phases of new construction and environmentally friendly landscaping. Applied skills included: safety, basic tool skills, site preparation and maintenance, teamwork, framing, concrete, sheetrock, finishing, cabinet, door, window and, painting, tiling and masonry finishing, and landscaping. Upon graduation, Youthbuild participants also have the option to enter East-Metro OIC's Construction Trades Program, a 20 week hands-on program offered through Minneapolis Community and Technical College which results in entry-level carpentry certification. In addition, City Academy has formed several close partnerships with local building contractors who have offered ten Youthbuild participants employment in the construction trades. One participant has also applied for his General Contractors License.

City Academy continues to increase its course offerings leading to occupational certification. City Academy is currently developing or has on-going working relationships and articulation agreements with St. Paul College, Century College, Dakota County Technical Center, and East Metro OIC. These post-secondary partnerships provide high-schoolers with the opportunity to gain PSEO credit, certification, and college credentials in Solar, Wind, and Biomass Renewable Energy Technology, Medical Terminology, Phlebotomy, and Certified Nursing Assistant. In the next year, Youthbuilders will also have the opportunity to gain training and certification as Emergency Medical Technician and First Responder (EMT) from City Academy instructor, Terry Kraabel, who has received advanced training through Hamline University as certified Emergency Medical Technician and First Responder (EMT).



City Academy instructor Barron Chapman with Youthbuilders, Samantha and Mary, on a plane to Washington DC



Finished garage, workshop, and compost area

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT AND SUPPORT SERVICES

All students participate in a variety of leadership activities including self designed community improvement projects, public art, programming for neighborhood youth, and public gardens and leadership activities on the St. Croix River. Students also participated in the Jewish Community Relations Council Annual Holocaust Museum Trip to Washington DC. Students earned stipends in \$100 increments based on attendance, safety and leadership. The majority of participants increased leadership skills and improved attendance. Students also participated in the statewide Youthbuild Conference in April at Camp Iduhapi.

HOUSING CONSTRUCTION

This past year, City Academy Youthbuild completed the construction of a five-car garage and workshop on the site of Wilder Recreation Center. In addition to the normal construction, City Academy continued its work as the Youthbuild Conservation crew charged with green landscaping. The crew completed the work on the Rain Gardens located on the Wilder site. There are plans to establish three more gardens and to offer green gardening services to the neighborhood.

SUCCESS STORY: SAMANTHA

Samantha will be a 2010 graduate of City Academy. According to Sam, “The word success to me means to finish something that you worked hard for. I want to go to college and work towards my engineering career, and live a life I have always wanted.” Sam has participated in all aspects of City Academy and the Youthbuild Program, including construction. In addition to Youthbuild and class work, Samantha was the leader of the afterschool program for neighborhood youth. She also served on a community committee to improve youth opportunities on the East Side of St. Paul. Samantha regularly attended community meetings and made presentations at the University of Minnesota. Without a doubt, Sam represents the best of Youthbuild. Samantha has been a role model and leader for her peers and the local community. She will graduate from high school this year and plans to attend college in the fall.



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

Guadalupe Alternative Programs (GAP) is a social service agency providing comprehensive services in alternative education, youth and family services, and enrichment programs. GAP Youthbuild, a national YouthBuild Affiliate, partners with YouthBuild AmeriCorps, Ramsey County Workforce Solutions (YouthLEAD), the Youth Apprenticeship Programs (YAP) and Youth Farm, an agency that teaches elementary students the value of the environment and farming.

EDUCATION, CONSTRUCTION WORK EXPERIENCE AND JOB READINESS

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 at least (3) three-week long Science Units throughout the academic school year. Prior to enrollment in Youthbuild, participants take quarter-long course work in job readiness with an emphasis on job finding/keeping skills. A YouthLEAD case manager/mentor works with grade 11 and 12 participants on college/career awareness and post-secondary planning as well as support for students one year beyond graduation. This past year, carpenter/instructor, Jim Grosso, received training to become a certified NCCER instructor, and GAP Youthbuild is now a certified NCCER training facility. NCCER is a national construction certification component that will afford our participants the opportunity to become certified pre-apprentices that will lead to apprenticeships in the construction trades upon graduation. GAP Youthbuild carpenter instructors have also participated in Green Star training and will be training in the LEED certification process this year. In addition to NCCER construction certification, GAP Youthbuild has added C-TECH (telecommunications, copper and fiber optics wiring) and WorkKeys (occupational level) curricula that provide participants with credentials and a step up toward employment options.



Youthbuilders hauling metal sheaths to be installed on the rooftop of 415 Robie Street in St. Paul



GAP Youthbuilders and YB Coordinator, Lynnette Landry (far right), during their day on the set of "Extreme Makeover" in St. Paul

Contact Information	Service Area	Statistics		
Guadalupe Alternative Programs 381 Robie Street Saint Paul, MN 55107 Allen Selinski, Director	City of St Paul	Basic Skills Deficient	Youth Offender	Disability or Special Education Services
		71%	25%	21%

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT, SUPPORT SERVICES AND FOLLOW-UP

GAP Youthbuild participants meet bi-weekly to plan and implement leadership and teambuilding activities through quarterly community service projects. All participants were required (during Mental Toughness Training) to propose and complete an individual 8 hour

service project by the end of the year. Over three-quarters of participants have already successfully completed their hours.

PARTICIPANT OUTCOMES

During the past summer, Youthbuild Alumni returned as mentors to work closely with our younger students on projects, including a bird house, tool box, victory garden, bookcases, and retaining wall landscaping on our campus. One of our graduates obtained long-term employment on a hotel construction site in North Dakota. Two GAP Youthbuild graduates started post-secondary academics this summer and are continuing into this fall.

HOUSING CONSTRUCTION

During the past year, Youthbuilders poured a concrete slab, constructed one, three-car garage with a steel roof and aluminum siding, and demolished and re-built a partial home foundation. They have also reframed and floored a home and installed 18 new, energy-efficient windows. With the assistance of licensed union contractors, participants also learned how to wire all electrical components of a home and install an HVAC system.



GAP Youthbuilders renovating a 19th century farm house for affordable homeownership on St. Paul's west-side

SUCCESS STORY: JON



Jon enrolled in Youthbuild in the fall of 2008. At age 18 and with least two more years to High School to complete, Jon was leaning toward quitting school. At the insistence of his school counselor, Jon enrolled in Youthbuild and staff has seen nothing but the best of this young man ever since. Jon's attendance got much better and by the spring of the school year, he had excellent attendance. Jon was chosen to participate in the summer Youthbuild program that allows participants to work all day on the construction site, Monday through Thursday. Jon did not skip a beat and took on this challenge as he has so many others. GAP Youthbuild staff are looking forward to Jon graduating from high school with a diploma, AmeriCorps Segal Education Award, and NCCER training certification in the spring of 2010 and seeing him move into post-secondary training and employment. Jon's attitude toward school

changed dramatically with Youthbuild. Now he has excellent attendance and plans to graduate this year with an AmeriCorps Segal Education Award and NCCER construction certification.

**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, CONSTRUCTION WORK EXPERIENCE, AND JOB READINESS

Students are enrolled in core academic classes in mornings and in the construction program in afternoons. To stay active in the work phase they must maintain full-time Alternative Learning Center (ALC) student status and be making normal progress towards graduation. 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 ALC instructors individually each morning. Daily meetings encouraged rapid academic success and more productive work crews. Technical math and reading skills are discussed by participants who use them while measuring and calculating angles, distances and lengths on the work site with the help of tape measures, transits and string lines. They read blueprints, door and window installation directions and rafter and joist plans. Youthbuild gives non-typical students an opportunity to learn in a manner which best suits them by allowing them to work at their own pace and exposing them to unique programming. Through Youthbuild, they are able to see the relevance of their work and have an opportunity to demonstrate leadership among peers.



Perham Youthbuilders working on the foundation of the new housing construction site in the Perham Westwind Addition



The new house built by Perham Youthbuilders to be sold as affordable housing for a low-income family

This past year, a welding class was added to the Youthbuild curriculum. This opportunity was made available through a partnership with MSCTC-Detroit Lakes mobile learning campus. Participants who completed this 48 hour course received 2 college welding credits, academic credit through the Perham ALC and were paid for their hours in training. The Mobile Lab was parked on school property so the students could easily get to the training. Seven

Contact Information	Service Area	Statistics		
		Disabled or Special Education	Basic Skills Deficient	Youth Offender
Rural MN CEP, Inc. 803 Roosevelt Avenue Detroit Lakes, MN 56501 Kelley Nowell Program Coordinator	Becker, Otter Tail, and Wadena Counties	51%	37%	31%

Youthbuild participants successfully completed this training. As a realistic application to the classroom learning, welding class participants took a tour to Case International Harvester in Fargo, North Dakota and BT&D (Bismarck Tool and Die) in Detroit Lakes to see how welding is used in the production of the actual products.

In the past year, Youthbuilders built a house on site in a city development area in Perham. The Youthbuild participants also built a theatre musical set and poured sidewalks on school property. Integral to the construction program is a strong relationship with the city of Perham and local HUD Department. Perham Youthbuild staff work hand-in-hand with these valued partners and incorporate their building code division in order to teach youth the value of pre-planning and safe construction practices. For each hour worked, students received elective credit and were paid \$7.25 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.



Youthbuilder inspecting plumbing during the new construction of the Perham home

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT AND SUPPORT SERVICES

As part of the leadership component, participants have the opportunity to earn the position of Lead Worker, assisting the instructor and working with students in need of more guidance. They also serve as a role model for the group and attend the Advisory Council meetings that are held with all the program partners. Youthbuilders who consistently perform at a high level of competency at the building site and in the classroom can obtain this promotion with an increase in pay.

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. 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.

HOUSING CONSTRUCTION

Youthbuilders built a two-bedroom, one bath rambler with a main floor laundry and attached double garage. The house was built on a lot in the Perham Westwind Addition. The Perham Housing Authority provided the lumber to build the house and the lot to build it on. Participants started by framing the wood basement then framed the entire house and garage. They finished the roof to the point of pre-shingling. The crew installed the windows and hung the exterior doors. Insulation was completed in the basement and main housing structure. Sheet rocking was completed in the upstairs of the



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

house. To provide a learning opportunity for the participants to hang siding, one side of the house was done by the crew with the contractor who was hired to side the house. The shingling was also contracted out for the house this year.

Since its inception fifteen years ago, the Perham Youthbuild program has built or participated in the construction of 33 homes and the remodeling of several more. Landscaping has also been done on multiple houses that the crew has built. Youthbuilders in the program have also produced many small buildings, park shelters, school theatre stage creation, bench/table and numerous concrete projects for the community and school.

SUCCESS STORY: MICHAEL

My name is Michael 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 Youthbuild has helped me decide I want to go to college and get a good job.

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

Stearns-Benton Employment and Training Council (SBETC) operates the Youthbuild program in collaboration with St. Cloud Area School District 742 Area Learning Center (ALC) – West and Central Minnesota Habitat for Humanity.



Youthbuilder Jameo, lays out an external wall at a Central Minnesota Habitat for Humanity twin home in the city of St. Cloud

**EDUCATION AND CONSTRUCTION
WORK EXPERIENCE, AND JOB READINESS**

This past year, full time ALC instructor, Dave Masters, provided Youthbuilders individualized instruction and planning to work toward high school graduation. Youthbuild has an onsite workshop, which provided youth the opportunity to work on construction projects throughout the year. 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 Youthbuilders educational objective was to receive their high school diploma and continue in post secondary education or building trade’s apprenticeship. Worksite instructors provided training in the areas of safety and the use of tools and equipment. Construction training included site preparation, excavation and footings block work, framing, roofing, mechanical, insulation, drywall, siding, windows, finish trim, flooring, blueprint reading and landscaping. “Better Built Homes” curriculum was used to teach the components of construction. During the school year, Youthbuilders had the opportunity to work with ALC instructors on Saturdays at Habitat for Humanity sites. During the past summer, Youthbuilders participated in an eight week program. The program included Habitat for Humanity housing projects and participating in leadership training at the Husky Challenge Course located on the campus of St. Cloud State University. Youthbuilders earned a stipend based on attendance, punctuality, work quality, quantity and teamwork. They also visited several trade apprentice programs including plumbers, electrical, carpentry, masons, laborers, plasterers, and heavy machine operators.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT AND SUPPORT SERVICES

Youthbuilders received training in team building, self confidence and motivational activities. As a result, they learn the value of community, responsibility, cooperation, and self respect. The Youthbuilders participated in the Husky Challenge Course which built Trust, developed group

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	Disabled or Special Education	Basic Skills Deficient	Youth Offenders
		50%	31%	31%

communication skills, and improved conflict management skills. On-site counselors at the 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, talk to legislators, 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 Youthbuild candidates have the opportunity to apply for services under WIA youth programs to further assist with post secondary schooling and follow-up services. This year, Grainger (a private employer based in St. Cloud) donated \$12,000 to provide scholarships for Youthbuilders who are interested in a construction trade program at St. Cloud Technical College.

PROGRAM PARTICIPANT OUTCOME

Youthbuilders have many positive outcomes with their participation in St. Cloud Youthbuild, including giving back to the community so low-income families can have affordable housing. Students have found they can utilize their hands-on skill and motivation to complete their education and, through on-the-job experience, determine the construction field they want to pursue as a career. "I have found a career. 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 family homes in St. Cloud. Four of these affordable housing units have been completed and turned over to low-income families. Youthbuilders assisted in forming up the foundation, building and framing walls, insulating, setting floor and roof trusses, and landscaping. There is also an emphasis on Greenbuild.

SUCCESS STORY: FRANKIE

After enrolling in the Youthbuild Program three years ago, the Youthbuild Instructor from St. Cloud Area Learning Center started to see Frankie's attendance improve at school. Youthbuild helped motivate Frankie to attend school on a regular basis. "Over the course of three years, Frankie has shown leadership abilities and his interest in construction masonry will help him in making a viable career choice", said the Youthbuild Instructor. Frankie takes on a leadership role by being punctual, acting more responsible, and coming prepared to work when participating in Youthbuild activities.



Prior to Youthbuild, Frankie was interested in construction, but admitted that he did not know a lot about the field. After participating in the Youthbuild program and visiting various union trade schools, Frankie has expressed interest in cement and masonry work. Frankie said, "I would recommend Youthbuild to everyone. It is a nice program to teach students about what you can do after graduation. I have learned a lot during my 3 years in Youthbuild."

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

“Pride in the City” (PIC) Youthbuild program in Minneapolis is a collaboration between The City, Inc., a nonprofit agency, and Habitat for Humanity.

EDUCATION, WORK EXPERIENCE, AND JOB READINESS



The City, Inc., an accredited alternative learning center with school sites located in North, and South Minneapolis, provides classroom academic instruction to Youthbuilders four days a week. Teacher student ratios of 1 to 10 allow for individualized instruction year round. The curriculum emphasizes basic skill acquisition, English, problem solving, leadership development, and a community-building mission. Job search skills, college and career planning are emphasized through the post secondary options classes. Field trips to Dunwoody Institute, the University of Minnesota, St. Thomas University, and others encourage interest in the building trades and retention in the Youthbuild program.

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

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

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT AND SUPPORT SERVICES

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

HOUSING CONSTRUCTION

Youthbuilders worked on the construction of several Habitat for Humanity home sites in the Minneapolis/St. Paul area. They also constructed interior/exterior pre-fabricated walls, and various framing at the Habitat for Humanity panel facility.

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	Disability or Special Education Services
		75%	23%	13%

**TREE TRUST
MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA**

Tree Trust is a private, nonprofit organization that provides employment training and environmental programming in the Twin Cities metro area. Tree Trust operates Youthbuild in Hennepin County in partnership with Urban Homeworks, a faith-based nonprofit creating affordable housing for low-income families. Tree Trust’s school partners include the Minnesota Internship Center Charter School, Northside Adult Basic Education and Robbinsdale Transitions Center.



Nakinski and Dwight remove trees and brush at a home in north Minneapolis to prepare the property for construction

EDUCATION, CONSTRUCTION WORK EXPERIENCE, AND JOB READINESS

Tree Trust Youthbuild participants attend school and work part-time, approximately 30 hours each. Every other week, students attend their home school to work towards completion of their educational goals. On weeks off from school, they attend Youthbuild to put their schooling into practice on a housing construction site.



Youthbuild construction supervisor and Crew Leader, Nate Banker, and Youthbuilders, Jose, Curtis and Kareem during a weekly leadership meeting

In addition to formal schooling, Youthbuild students also work on math, reading, speaking and writing skills during their classroom training day each work week. In preparation for the worksite, every Youthbuild student completes safety training provided through OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health Administration’s 10 Hour Safety training). Throughout Youthbuild, students work to demonstrate proficiency in safety, hand and power tools, construction math, blueprints, employability and communication to obtain certification in the National Center for Construction Education and Research’s (NCCER) Introductory Craft Curriculum to be used in future employment search.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT AND SUPPORT SERVICES

Each day, Youthbuild students are encouraged and challenged to develop employability and leadership skills and gradually take on more responsibility and leadership in the program. Through classroom training and informal group conversations, staff and students discuss and formulate guidelines on topics ranging from professionalism and initiative to ethics and purpose.

Contact Information	Service Area	Statistics		
Tree Trust 2350 Wycliff Street – Suite 200 St. Paul, MN 55114 Stephanie Lund Youthbuild Coordinator	Hennepin County	Communities of Color	Basic Skills Deficient	Disability or Special Education Services
		89%	89%	44%

Through one-on-one case management and counseling, Youthbuild students are assisted in meeting mutually agreed upon employability, education and social-relational goals. In order to graduate from Youthbuild, students must accomplish a set number of benchmarks, such as having 90% attendance throughout Youthbuild, graduating from high school or obtaining a valid driver's license. After graduation, Youthbuild staff maintains contact with and support of students for at least a year. Follow-up services are provided to assist past students in continuation of goal attainment.

PROGRAM PARTICIPANT OUTCOMES

Of the nine participants in Youthbuild in the 2009 program year, eight students obtained OSHA 10 certification and a variety of employability and construction skills. Two students graduated high school; four students expect to graduate in spring of 2010, and one is continuing work on his GED. Five students obtained employment after completing Youthbuild, four of which are industries in which the students are interested. Since Tree Trust's Youthbuild inception in 2006, five students have enrolled in higher education or job training, 18 have obtained employment, 21 have obtained their high school diploma and 29 have earned a certification of OSHA 10 hour training, first aid/CPR or NCCER.

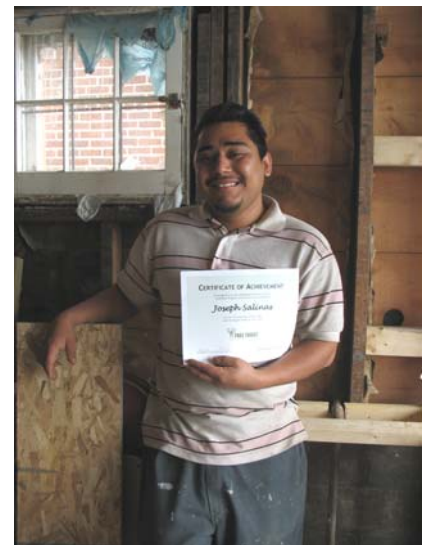
HOUSING CONSTRUCTION

This year, Youthbuild students assisted in the completion of three single-family homes in north Minneapolis. Each property was remodeled and sold to low-income families that are first-time home buyers, totaling five parents and seven children that now have homes to call their own. Youthbuild also worked on two other homes that are still in the remodeling process. From 2006 through the present, Tree Trust Youthbuild students have worked on 12 properties, creating one remodeled apartment complex, one new and eight remodeled single-family homes.

SUCCESS STORY: JOSE

Tree Trust staff met Jose in May of 2008 when he joined Youthbuild students as a volunteer for the Jimmie and Rosalynn Carter Work Project with Habitat for Humanity International in Bay St. Louis, Mississippi. Jose officially joined Youthbuild in December of 2008. While still working on his English speaking skills, Jose participated whole-heartedly in all trainings and work projects. He quickly became a leader on his team, often starting work before his supervisor was ready.

During his six months in Youthbuild, Jose attended nightly ELL classes in preparation for his GED and also worked on the Youthbuild site each day. Even with this busy schedule, Jose greatly improved his communication and teamwork skills. So much so, that he was eventually hired by a construction company that was a subcontractor on one of the Youthbuild sites. The owner of the company easily noticed his initiative and strong work ethic. Jose has now been working with the construction company as a laborer for five months and is thoroughly enjoying the demolition and remodel work he has been doing. He is still working on his GED and plans on getting his driver's license this winter.



**WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT, INC.
WABASHA MINNESOTA**

The Wabash County Youthbuild Program is implemented by Workforce Development, Inc. (WDI) staff in partnership with the River Valley Academy and the Southeastern Minnesota Multi-County Housing and Redevelopment Authority (SEMMCHRA), the local Housing and Redevelopment Authority. Each year youth gain skills to prepare them to enter the world of work and the construction trades.

EDUCATION, CONSTRUCTION WORK EXPERIENCE, 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 in order to establish goals for completing a high school diploma or GED. Youth are required to have 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. Students prepare 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 a new job. A number of factors impacted projects this year including a severe downturn in the general economy and housing market and the significant decline in the number of new starts in home building as well as the dramatic increase in unemployment. Projects were focused on supporting and reclaiming existing buildings instead of building new.

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. Construction projects included:

- Repair and painting of six recycling sheds owned by Wabasha County
- Building a 12' x 20' utility building with overhead door for SEMMCHRA for low income housing in Lake City
- Initiating a major utility cabinetry project (28 units) for SEMMCHRA
- Repairing a building to prepare for addition at River Valley Academy
- Remodeling room for Youthbuild computer lab at River Valley Academy
- Relocating and repairing two 10' x 12' storage units at River Valley Academy
- Completing WDI Office expansion, including framing, hanging sheet rock, texture and painting.

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	Low Income	Disability or Special Education Services	Basic Skills Deficient
		77%	64%	14%

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT AND SUPPORT SERVICES

Leadership skill development is embedded and recognized throughout all program components. Youth are recognized for their leadership 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 Twin Cities in the fall. Both of these activities bring youth together from Youthbuild programs across the state. Youthbuilders benefit from building relationships and receiving affirmation from youth outside of their immediate peer group and community. New leadership activities this year included Mental Toughness Training (a National YouthBuild Curriculum), participation on the Student Council at River Valley Academy, and participation in “YMCA Camp Leadership” training and team building.



PARTICIPANT OUTCOMES

Of the 22 youth enrolled in the Wabasha Youthbuild program this year, 20 earned academic credit, 12 have obtained a high school diploma or GED, 12 have met literacy goals and the average attendance rate for the youth in this program this year was 87%. Eight youth are currently employed at an average rate of \$9.45 per hour.

HOUSING CONSTRUCTION

Youth participated in building a 12' x 20' utility shed, repair and painting of six recycling sheds, relocation and repair of two large storage sheds. The sheds are great initial learning activities for the youth participants and are necessary to prepare them to move into more advanced projects in the future.

SUCCESS STORY: ANDREW



Andrew adapted to living as a transient guest in someone else's place, homeless after his parent left town without him. Before Youthbuild, Andrew had little hope of graduation from High School, let alone going on to college. No reason to show up, nobody cares anyway? Adults were not to be trusted, so it seemed. Andrew would not make eye contact with an adult or anyone else with assumed authority, until several weeks had passed in Youthbuild. Having completed Mental Toughness training and establishing positive peer relationships, Andy slowly came to trust certain adults.

AutoCAD training was like magic for Andy, he found enjoyment in discovering the technical detail of the program and creating plans for others to build. This eagerness established a new level of self-esteem and self confidence, reinforced by Youthbuild program staff who cared. After the first two weeks of Youthbuild, his attendance was 100% for the remainder of the first year and continued for the entire second year.

The temporary home where Andy resided burned down this year, forcing him to relocate. He now lives with his sister and is completing his diploma in the Rochester school system. He plans to enter a post-secondary school to study computer assisted design.

SUCCESS STORY: MICHAEL

Michael fit the classic profile of a Youthbuild recruit; his family of origin in poverty, having ownership of typical gaps in opportunity, education, and confidence. Michael was not recommended for participation in Youthbuild by River Valley Academy (RVA) staff because of concerns for his classroom motivation and slow academic progress in the fall of 2007. Staff reluctantly agreed to provisionally allow Michael to participate in Youthbuild if he made a commitment to improve his school work and attendance. He came to Youthbuild with the common, pervasive lack of confidence in himself and “the system”, believing he was not worth anybody’s attention.



Changes in Mike began almost immediately. He began to dig in after completing Youthbuild Mental Toughness Training during the first weeks. He set goals and challenged himself in team building activities and after safety and small tool training turned out a very nice individual project. Mike’s work ethic and social skills steadily matured over the course of the year.

Michael was selected to return to Youthbuild this past year with the strong recommendation of RVA staff. He was assigned a leadership role with the new Youthbuild group and proved, by initiative and ability to encourage others to join in the work of the day, that his selection for a second year was sound. Michael’s new-found confidence allowed him to tryout and be selected to play varsity level basketball at Wabasha-Kellogg High School. He finished his senior year on time and graduated with the class of 2009. When ribbed about going to an alternative school, Michael responded with “That’s ok, I’ll bet my ACT score is higher than any of you”, and he was correct. Michael is now a full-time student at the Rochester Community and Technical College.

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: gwen.grell@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
Tina Sweatt, Youthbuild Program Coordinator
Ph: (218) 333-9869
E-mail: tina@youthbuildbemidji.org
Service area: Beltrami and Cass Counties

Carver-Scott Educational Cooperative

401 4th Street
Chaska, MN 55314
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Joyce Eissinger, Youthbuild Program Coordinator
CSEC Main Campus
401 East 4th Street, Chaska, MN 55318
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

607 4th 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
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Chia Yang, Youthbuild Program Coordinator
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Service area: City of Saint Paul

Rural Minnesota Concentrated Employment Programs

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Sandy Torgusson, Youthbuild Case Manager
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Service area: Becker, Otter Tail, and Wadena Counties

Stearns-Benton Employment & Training Council (SBETC)

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Sally Brenden, Director
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Ashley Thissen, Youthbuild Program Coordinator
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Dave Masters, Youthbuild Worksite Instructor
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Service area: Benton and Stearns Counties

The City, Inc.

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Southside Campus: 920 East 34th Street, Door #8
Minneapolis, MN 55407
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Mike Loud, Youthbuild Program Coordinator
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Colnese Hendon, Development Coordinator
E-mail: chendon@thecityinc.org
Service area: City of Minneapolis

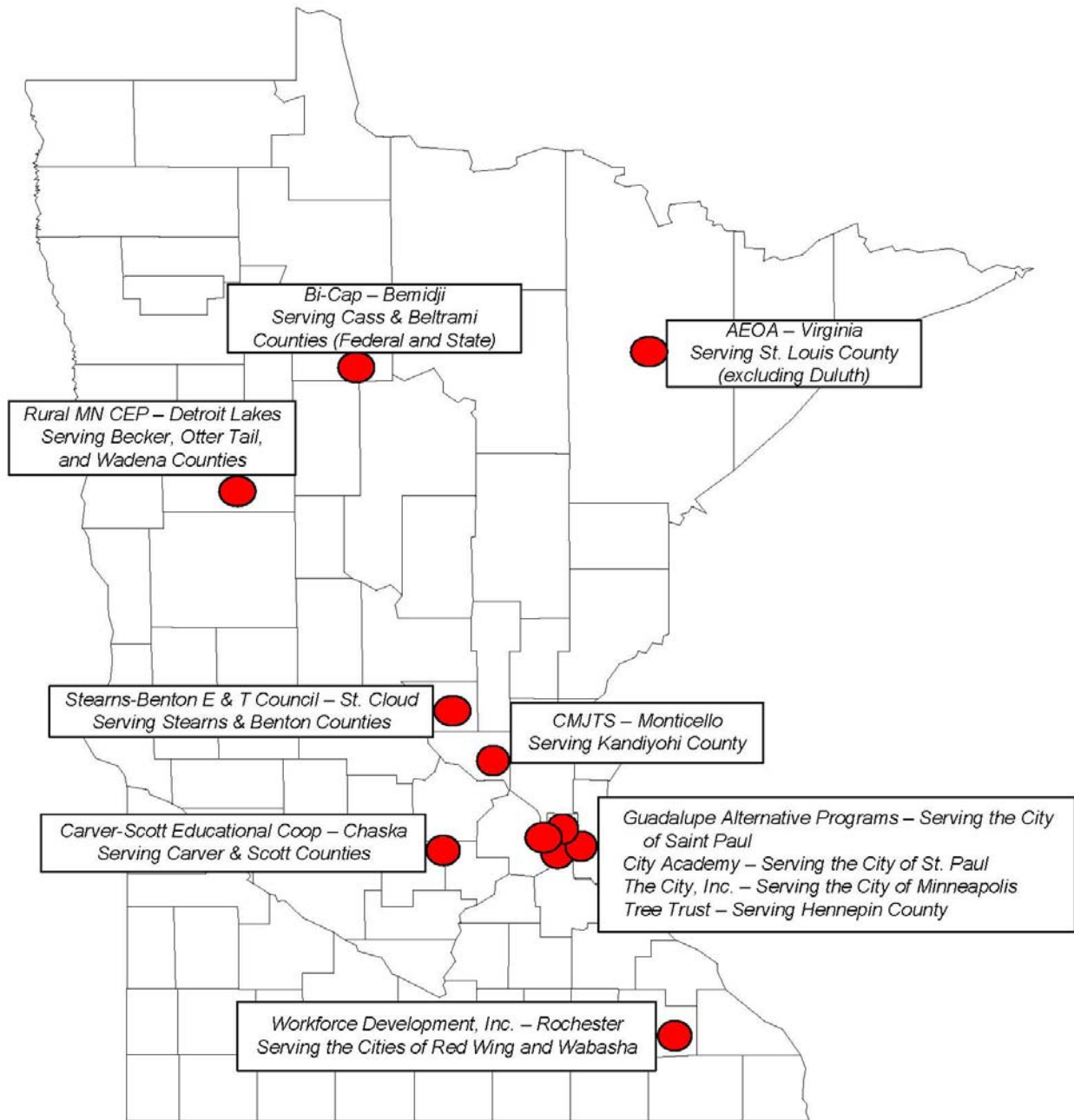
Tree Trust

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Service area: Hennepin County

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
Kari Pelton, Wabasha Youthbuild Case Manager
Red Wing Office Ph: (651) 385-6372
Wabasha Office Ph: (651) 565-2635
E-mail: kpelton@wfdi.ws
Service area: Cities of Red Wing and Wabasha

MAP OF STATE YOUTHBUILD SERVICE PROVIDERS



● State Funded Youthbuild Providers

(Rev. January 2010)

YOUTHBUILD DATA SUMMARY – STATE FISCAL YEAR 2009
(July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2009)

COMBINED TOTALS		Statewide	Percent	AEOA	Bi-CAP	City Academy	CMJTS	CSEC	GAP
1. Total Participants Served		376	100%	9	29	92	13	64	24
2. Total Exited		211	56%	6	23	92	4	23	6
Gender	3a. Male	278	74%	6	22	54	9	61	15
	3b. Female	98	26%	3	7	38	4	3	9
Age	4a. 16 to 18 Years of Age	240	64%	1	11	22	13	48	23
	4b. 19 to 20 Years of Age	121	32%	6	13	66	0	16	1
	4c. 21 to 24 Years of Age	15	4%	2	5	4	0	0	0
Ethnicity / Race	5a. Hispanic/Latino	38	10%	0	1	5	12	4	6
	5b. American Indian or Alaska Native	39	10%	1	18	5	0	0	1
	5c. Asian	68	18%	0	0	58	0	2	3
	5d. Black or African American	80	21%	0	1	14	0	8	10
	5e. White	151	40%	8	9	11	1	49	4
Demographics	6. High School Dropout	376	100%	9	29	92	13	64	24
	7. Low Income	303	81%	9	27	89	10	52	21
	8. Foster Youth	26	7%	2	0	2	0	12	2
	9. Migrant Youth/Limited English Proficient	22	6%	0	0	7	9	0	4
	10. Youth Offender	151	40%	9	22	37	8	33	6
	11. Basic Skills Deficient	205	55%	6	21	62	13	51	17
	12. Person with a Disability or Receiving Special Education Services	148	39%	7	11	27	2	40	5
	13. Chemical Dependency	67	18%	7	14	14	1	24	0
	14. Pregnant or Parenting Youth	74	20%	4	11	30	4	7	2
	15. Homeless or Runaway Youth	34	9%	2	12	6	0	4	2
16. Youth From Families Receiving Public Assistance	185	49%	9	18	65	8	24	3	
INDICATORS OF PERFORMANCE AT EXIT									
1. Number Obtained High School Diploma, GED		186	88%	4	21	92	4	16	6
2. Entered Employment		120	57%	3	9	71	3	4	6
3. Average Hourly Wage at Placement		\$9.11		\$8.10	\$8.50	\$9.50	\$7.25	\$7.80	\$9.00
4. Entered Post-Secondary Education, Entered Apprenticeship, or Entered Military		135	64%	2	6	93	0	5	6
5. Obtained a Certificate		128	61%	0	9	92	0	2	0
6. Grade Level Increase in Math or English		185	88%	6	23	92	4	13	6
7. Recidivism Rate of Youth Offenders		13	6%	5	4	1	0	0	0
8. Average Worksite Attendance Rate		84%		70%	85%	92%	67%	87%	95%
9. Number of Participants who Received Academic Credit or Service Credit		203	96%	0	23	92	4	23	6
10. Number of Community Service Hours logged		7,796		168	3,005	920	246	1,325	720

**YOUTHBUILD DATA SUMMARY – STATE FISCAL YEAR 2009
(July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2009) -- Continued**

COMBINED TOTALS		Statewide	Percent	Rural CEP	SBETC	The City, Inc.	Tree Trust	WDI
1. Total Participants Served		376	100%	35	26	53	9	22
2. Total Exited		211	56%	15	7	12	9	14
Gender	3a. Male	278	74%	31	19	34	7	20
	3b. Female	98	26%	4	7	19	2	2
Age	4a. 16 to 18 Years of Age	240	64%	33	20	51	4	14
	4b. 19 to 20 Years of Age	121	32%	2	6	2	2	7
	4c. 21 to 24 Years of Age	15	4%	0	0	0	3	1
Ethnicity / Race	5a. Hispanic/Latino	38	10%	2	1	5	2	0
	5b. American Indian or Alaska Native	39	10%	3	1	10	0	0
	5c. Asian	68	18%	0	0	4	0	1
	5d. Black or African American	80	21%	0	9	32	6	0
	5e. White	151	40%	30	15	2	1	21
Demographics	6. High School Dropout	376	100%	35	26	53	9	22
	7. Low Income	303	81%	16	5	50	7	17
	8. Foster Youth	26	7%	1	2	5	0	0
	9. Migrant Youth/Limited English Proficient	22	6%	0	1	0	1	0
	10. Youth Offender	151	40%	11	8	12	3	2
	11. Basic Skills Deficient	205	55%	13	8	3	8	3
	12. Person with a Disability or Receiving Special Education Services	148	39%	18	13	7	4	14
	13. Chemical Dependency	67	18%	6	1	0	0	0
	14. Pregnant or Parenting Youth	74	20%	0	6	6	3	1
	15. Homeless or Runaway Youth	34	9%	0	1	6	1	0
16. Youth From Families Receiving Public Assistance	185	49%	9	6	40	3	0	
INDICATORS OF PERFORMANCE AT EXIT								
1. Number Obtained High School Diploma, GED		186	88%	10	7	12	2	12
2. Entered Employment		120	57%	2	3	5	5	9
3. Average Hourly Wage at Placement		\$9.11		\$11.25	\$10.16	\$12.00	\$7.70	\$8.97
4. Entered Post-Secondary Education, Entered Apprenticeship, or Entered Military		135	64%	2	1	16	0	4
5. Obtained a Certificate		128	61%	7	2	8	8	0
6. Grade Level Increase in Math or English		185	88%	11	0	12	6	12
7. Recidivism Rate of Youth Offenders		13	6%	0	1	2	0	0
8. Average Worksite Attendance Rate		84%		75%	97%	100%	74%	87%
9. Number of Participants who Received Academic Credit or Service Credit		203	96%	15	7	12	7	14
10. Number of Community Service Hours logged		7,796		0	1,345	0	67	0



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and Economic Development
Minnesota
