

2005

ANNUAL REPORT

FOR

MINNESOTA YOUTHBUILD



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PERFORMANCE OUTCOMES AND PROGRAM CHARACTERISTICS

PARTICIPANT SUMMARY	
Total Number of Participants	259
Successfully Completed the Program	75%
Average Cost Per Participant	\$2,911
AGE	
Percent of Participants aged 16-17	42%
Percent of Participants aged 18-24	58%
RACE/Ethnicity	
African American	10%
Asian American	14%
Hispanic	16%
Native American	15%
White	45%
At-Risk Indicators	
Chemical Abuse or Drug Use Problems	22%
Emotional/Behavioral or Learning Disability	31%
Homeless	12%
Juvenile or Adult Offender	61%
Left Traditional High School, Dropped Out, or Expelled	100%
Pregnant or Parenting Teen	11%
Receiving Public Assistance or Living Below the Poverty Level	85%
PARTICIPANT OUTCOMES	
Completed High School or Obtained GED	83%
Entered Unsubsidized Employment or Post-Secondary Institution	82%
Entered Building Trades Profession or Related Field	21%
Average Wage of Unsubsidized Employment	\$10.35
Average Attendance Rate of Participants	81%
HOUSING OUTCOMES	
Total Number of Units Constructed or Renovated	31
Total Number of Low Income Homeowners or Tenants Affected	88
BUDGET SUMMARY	
Total State Appropriations	\$754,000

FUNDING

In 2005, \$754,000 in state funds supported Youthbuild Programs (see page 26 for current local contact information). In addition, local Youthbuild agencies leveraged over \$3 million in matching funds through their partnerships with local community services, housing, and educational agencies, faith-based organizations, law enforcement agencies, unions, technical schools, and court services.

YOUTHBUILD PROGRAM MODEL

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

A. Work-Based Learning Model

1. Provides advanced carpentry skills to effectively transition youth into formal building trades, employment, and building trades fields at technical colleges;
2. Provides comprehensive work-based services and acquisition of positive work habits to successfully transition from school to the real world of work or advanced post-secondary training for those who do not go into the building trades; and
3. Recognized for excellence as both a state and national work-based learning model.

B. Youth Community Service and Citizenship Model

1. Enhances citizenship skills, self-esteem and respect in youth; and
2. Provides opportunities to give back to the local community through meaningful and necessary community service.

C. Crime Prevention and Restorative Justice Model

1. Recognized as a model program for restorative justice for youth involved in gangs and the justice system;
2. Over 30 Youthbuild participants have provided restitution to crime victims in 2005; and
3. Of the 158 Youthbuilders with prior involvement, less than five percent (5%) re-offended in 2005.

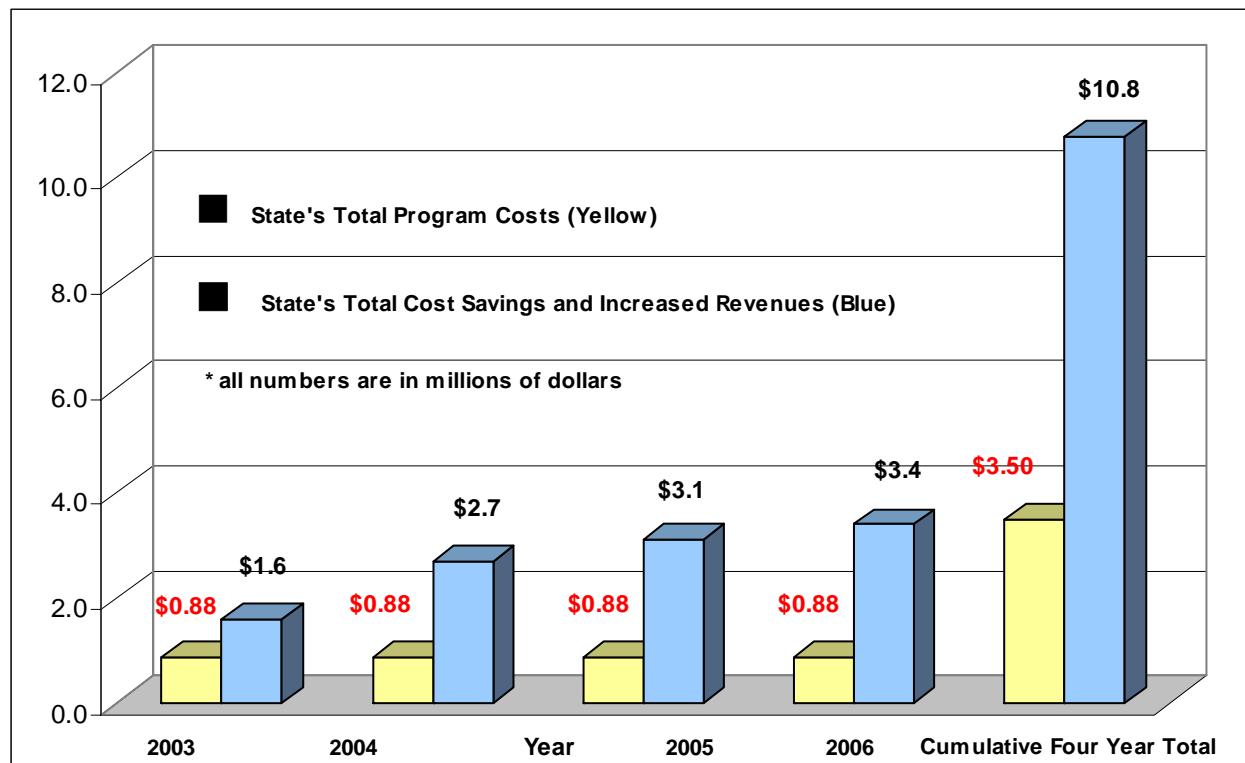
YOUTHBUILD PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

- A. Increase education and basic skills of low-performing youth
 - 1. Improve basic academic performance and school attendance.
 - 2. Increase high school and GED graduation rates.
 - 3. Increase enrollment in post-secondary institutions.
- B. Increase the employability skills of jobless youth
 - 1. Increase job readiness and work maturity skills.
 - 2. Increase construction and building trades skills.
 - 3. Increase job placement in the building trades.
- C. Provide Leadership opportunities for at-risk youth
 - 1. Develop self-esteem, respect, and personal empowerment.
 - 2. Develop life skills: conflict resolution, time management, budgeting, communication, and attitude.
 - 3. Enhance citizenship, problem solving, and negotiating skills.
 - 4. Reduce crime, teen pregnancy, drug use, and other negative behaviors.
 - 5. Increase commitment to community service and responsibility to local community.
- D. Rebuild deteriorating communities and neighborhoods
 - 1. Increase affordable housing for homeless, battered, and poor families or individuals.
 - 2. Provide construction or renovation of various social service agencies, including learning centers, homeless shelters, family and mental health centers, Head Start facilities, handicapped accessible ramps for the disabled, and playgrounds for low-income day-care facilities.

CUSTOMERS

The Youthbuild Program served 259 young people in 2005. Thirty-one (31) units of affordable housing were constructed or renovated, benefiting over 88 low income and homeless persons during the past year. All youth participants were ages 16 to 24, economically disadvantaged or eligible for the High School Graduation Incentives program, and had previously dropped out or were at risk of dropping out of school. Over half of the participants were youth of color. Of the youth served in 2005, 100 percent had left or been expelled from traditional school, almost two-thirds had previous involvement with the juvenile or criminal justice system, nearly one quarter had drug or chemical abuse issues, one third had emotional/behavioral or learning disabled, 85 percent were receiving public assistance or were economically disadvantaged.

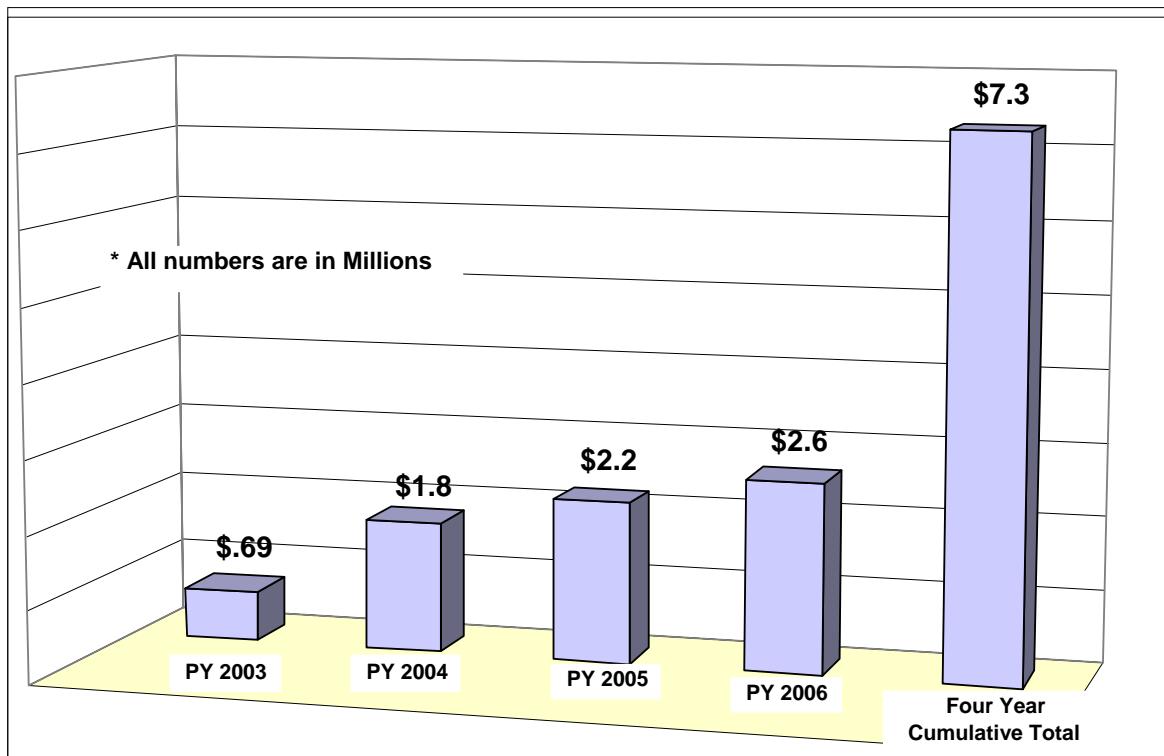
PROGRAM COST COMPARISONS



Program Costs Versus Revenues and Cost Savings to the State Attributable to the Youthbuild Program

From 2000-2003, DEED conducted a cost-benefit study of the Youthbuild Program to examine the benefits and cost savings to the state of Minnesota generated by training at-risk youth and offenders in the Youthbuild Program. This analysis, requested by the Youthbuild Advisory Committee, suggests that in the first year after exiting the program and securing unsubsidized employment, each group of youth trained in the program generates approximately \$350,000 per year in additional state tax revenues (based on their higher wages and salaries upon exit from the program versus a comparison group of minimum wage workers) and \$1.2 million in state prison cost savings (based on their lower recidivism rates versus a comparison group of Minnesota youth offenders). After subtracting out costs and benefits attributable to comparison groups in the absence of training, the analysis suggests that the benefits and cost savings generated from Youthbuild Program training outweigh the state's cost of providing training within the program (see chart above).

State's Total Net Benefits Attributable to the Youthbuild Program



The state's investment in Youthbuild participants appears to pay off the first year immediately following participants' graduation from the program. "Net" revenues and cost savings to the state of Minnesota are calculated to be approximately \$700,000 in the first year, \$1.8 million in the second year, \$2.2 million in the third year, and \$2.6 million in the fourth year. Over a four year period, this total cumulative pay off exceeds \$7 million. These results are summarized in the chart above (for the full text and analysis of the study please go to: <http://www.deed.state.mn.us/ybuild.htm>).

ARROWHEAD ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY AGENCY (AEOA), INC. VIRGINIA, MINNESOTA

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

Education

Arrowhead Youthbuild academic activities assist students to earn their GED or High School Diploma. These activities combine experiential education with traditional classroom settings in order to provide the most effective learning environment for each student. In addition to the core curriculum, students attend seminars on job readiness, job search, career development, and Independent Living Skills.

Work Experience

A journeyman carpenter provides skills training to youth at the work sites. Participants are taught techniques in areas such as framing, sheet rocking, demolition, landscaping, siding, roofing, layout procedures, and blue print reading. The program offers youth a chance to "job shadow" construction trades to get a first-hand look at the field as a profession. AEOA also offered youth the opportunity to work alongside the AEOA Weatherization Crew. Youth receive a stipend for up to 32 hours per week: 100 percent attendance during a 2-week period is rewarded with incentives.

Leadership

Youthbuild participants who demonstrate responsible and conscientious work habits are put in charge of specific tasks at job sites as appropriate. Lessons of accountability and quality assurance are demonstrated through inspections by the crew supervisor. Youth are also involved with several volunteer community service projects each year. During the past year, the youth assisted in setting-up and implementing the Annual Senior Picnic. The youth also spent time delivering meals to seniors and shut-ins through the Meals-On-Wheels Program.

During the past year, Arrowhead Youthbuilders had an opportunity to participate in area focus groups. These groups gathered information help identify effective solutions and opportunities for the area's disadvantaged population.

Housing/Construction

In the past year, the Youthbuild crew worked on four houses, two apartments, two transitional/homeless shelters, and assisted seven non-profit agencies with construction projects.



Youthbuilders remodeled a two-story group home owned by Range Mental Health, located in the City of Virginia. The crew learned how to sheetrock, mud, paint, hang doors, install carpet, and complete trim-work. The Youthbuilders also partnered with Range Mental Health to complete the rehabilitation of a house located in Virginia, dedicated to low-income, single family residency. The crew's main duty during this project was completing the basement, including all painting. The youth applied their construction math learning to all of the projects they worked on.

The Arrowhead Youthbuilders also worked with AEOA's Housing Department to finish a garage located in Eveleth, where the crew was responsible for the soffit and siding work. The

housing located at this address was also designated for low-income, single-family residency. The crew also assisted with a myriad of projects for AEOA's Head Start Program, including the creation of a playground fence and building lockers and storage shelves for the children. Projects were also completed for the Senior Dining Program, Bill's House (a housing unit/shelter for low-income and homeless), and the Single Room Occupancy (SRO) building owned and operated through AEOA's Housing Department.

Approximately 40 low-income/disadvantaged individuals were housed through the projects that the Arrowhead Youthbuild crew participated in. Ten (10) adults and eight (8) children gained stable housing through the homes and group home that our Youthbuilders worked on, and 22 other adults benefited from the work completed at Bill's House and the AEOA SRO building.

Success Story: Jeremy Emery

My name is Jeremy Emery. I am 20 years old. Before I started with Youthbuild I really had no plan on where my life was headed. I dropped out of school in tenth grade, moved out of my parent's house the same day and pretty much just "couch-hopped" around town. I was staying with friends and sometimes people I really didn't even know. Drugs, drinking, and never sleeping in the same house two nights in a row became normal.



I heard about Youthbuild and I knew some of the crew, so I put in an application. The crew supervisor took the time to make sure that all of us knew what we were doing, even me, the new man. We were putting the trusses on the roof for a garage. The crew had put the walls up before I started working, but other than that, in my first six months I learned about sheathing, siding, and roofing, and watched it all come together to make someone's new garage.

One of the things I liked about the job was you had to get your diploma or G.E.D. Another crew member and I then enrolled in an entrepreneurship class and we are now working on starting a business in the area. We hope to get it going within the next two years. We plan on building our business's structure ourselves. I've always liked computers and electronics, and AEOA helped me expand my abilities in that field. When old computers were going to be thrown away, sometimes I would get to take them so I could work on them. I also had the opportunity to help the head of the computer network wire some cables through the building.

When my child was born I realized I was going to need another job, and that we needed a bigger place to live. With what I had learned in the Youthbuild Program, I started job searching for extra work. I got a job at a local Village Inn restaurant as a cook. I plan on working there until our business gets going. My family and I now live in a house that we've been renting for a year, and I'm constantly looking for a house to buy, which is something I never thought I'd be doing at 20 years old.

BI-COUNTY COMMUNITY ACTION PROGAMS (BI-CAP) 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 Cass Lake Area Learning Center.

Education

Bi-CAP Youthbuild has two, full-time teachers out-posted at the Youthbuild Program site from the Cass-Lake/Bena school district. The curriculum uses the Expeditionary Learning Outward Bound (ELOB) education model. 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.

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. Two certified instructors supervise crews of youth. Participants are paid approximately \$6.00 an hour for 32 hours a week.

Leadership

Youthbuild workshops this year included a field trip to Itasca State Park where Youthbuilders combined a biology class with an orienteering-GPS class, and then capped off their trip with a service learning project in conjunction with the DNR. Youthbuilders also completed several job skill classes and Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR), and First Aid Training. Community service projects this year included weekly mentoring of youngsters at the Head Start Center, highway clean-up, and helping at the local Humane Society. In addition, Youthbuilders produced a line of wooden toys during the winter holidays, donating ten percent (10%) of the proceeds to the community. They also received local television coverage for a spaghetti lunch fundraiser they hosted for victims of the Red Lake tragedy in 2005.

Housing/Construction

Youthbuilders completed one single family home for a low-income homebuyer in Blackduck, Minnesota. They have also rehabilitated two transitional housing units in Cass Lake and Walker and made repairs to transitional units in Blackduck and Bemidji.

Success Story: Kristine Norwick

Kristine Norwick came into Bi-CAP Youthbuild in February 2005. Before she came into the program Kristine says she felt like giving up. Kristine had been in trouble since the ninth grade. She had been to drug and alcohol treatment twice, and Northwest Juvenile Detention Center many times. She had tried the traditional High School, an ALC, a Charter School and a Sober School, but she felt she didn't fit into any of them. Then a friend convinced her to try Youthbuild. During orientation Kristine knew Youthbuild was what she had been looking for and was excited to be invited to join. Since then, Kristine has never looked back to her old life. She found friends and learned commitment and self-esteem. Kristine feels a part of the Youthbuild family and has taken advantage of every opportunity. She is looked to as a leader by the other youth. By staff, she is seen as a hard worker who doesn't complain. The teachers appreciated her dedication as a student. Her commitment to her education enabled her to walk the line at Cass Lake High School at graduation in May 2005. She entered Bemidji State University this fall and has received all A's thus far. She continues to be a role model and often takes other Youthbuilders to class with her so they can experience what college life is like and to inspire them to follow in her footsteps.



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

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

Education

Academic activities are integrated with work experience, job readiness, and leadership activities. The participants are required to take academic courses that would apply to the building projects, including Applied Math and World of Work. These courses teach math skills necessary for construction trades and skills necessary to be employed in any job. The participants also work on career development during the school year and work readiness skills such as getting to work promptly, completing time sheets and logs, proper dress, language, attitude and teamwork.

Work Experience

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

Leadership

In the classroom and on the job site, participants are taught teamwork principles, awareness of local social issues, problem solving skills, and civic responsibility. The participants experienced team-building activities during the year and at the start of the Habitat for Humanity construction. They were divided into teams and given problem solving activities to develop strategies to work together more effectively with one another. These activities were designed to improve assertiveness and communication skills within the group. Youthbuilders also attended colleges and career fairs in the Willmar area and worked with the High School Counselor on career planning and goals. When the construction at the site was completed an open house was held. Individuals that worked on the home were recognized and the Youthbuilders received certificates from Habitat for Humanity organization.

The programs' leadership success was built on a real life work project that was of benefit to a family in need. Our participants felt, what they were involved in, was significant and important to the community. Seeing the plans become reality had a real impact on the participants and their confidence to accomplish a sizeable project. For



leadership activities both programs attend the local Environmental Learning Centers to develop leadership and teamwork skills.

Housing/Construction

Youthbuilders at the Spicer-New London ALP completed two homes for low income families. The Spicer-New London Youthbuilders worked on single family units and a twin home. This coming year, New London-Spicer Habitat for Humanity is starting a store. The participants will be able to help in the store by refurbishing donated woodwork and furniture.

Success Story: Jeremy Meis



Jeremy Meis is an example of a participant who benefited from the Youthbuild Program. His parents divorced when he was in Junior High School and he fell behind in credits and dropped out of school after the 9th grade. He enrolled at the Alternative School one year later and was a part of the Youthbuild Program for the next three years. He spoke at the local county commissioner meetings indicating that he would not have stayed in school if it wasn't for Youthbuild. Because Jeremy was in the program for three years, he took on a leadership role and assisted newcomers to the program. The program also taught him skills that he has put to use when helping family members that are remodeling. The last semester of his senior year he returned to the high school to finish the year. He graduated and is now employed in the New London area.

CITY ACADEMY SAINT PAUL, MINNESOTA

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

Education

City Academy students spend 30 hours a week in the classroom with teacher-student ratios of 1 to 8. Internships with the community and participation in post secondary programs provide students with bridges to the world beyond high school. The curriculum includes all facets of the construction industry: market research, site selection, negotiations and planning with city agencies, financing, mortgage underwriting, marketing processes and property management techniques. Courses include: Blueprint Reading, Drafting for the Homeowner, Architectural History, Neighborhood Design, Business and Community Law, Architectural Math, Computer Drafting, and Woodshop.

Work Experience



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

Leadership

As advisory board members, participants are involved in the actual planning and evaluation of the construction projects, including making public presentations to the city council, selecting project sites, and petitioning city offices to obtain site approval and control. This year and last, they also participated in the Michigan Youth Leadership

Camp and planned and implemented a field trip to Chicago. Youthbuilders also do yard work and shovel walks for elderly neighbors.

Housing/Construction

Youthbuild participants completed rehabilitation on a two bedroom home in Oakdale for a low-income family and construction of a maintenance building for Wilder Recreation Center. Youthbuilders learned masonry skills from a master mason to successfully complete the Wilder project. In the past five years, Youthbuild participants have completed approximately 100 single family homes and rehabbed five homes for low-income families in the east and west side neighborhoods of St. Paul.

Success Story: Joanna Hageman

One of the success stories this year is Joanna Hageman, a single mother who completed all graduation requirements and is currently attending St. Paul College to prepare for a career in the Construction Trades. She has proven to be an articulate spokesperson for Youthbuild and City Academy. Joanna worked on the Oakdale site from beginning to end and was an excellent guide at the Open House.



DISTRICT 930, THE CARVER-SCOTT EDUCATIONAL COOPERATIVE CHASKA, MINNESOTA

School District #930, the Carver-Scott Educational Cooperative, (CSEC) operates the Youthbuild Program in three primary locations: the CSEC main campus in Chaska, the Alternative Learning Center (ALC) in Norwood-Young America, and the CSEC Spring Lake ALC located in Lydia. It has a long history of collaborative projects with the Scott County HRA, Carver County HRA, Scott-Carver-Dakota Community Action Agency, Youth Employment and Training programs in both counties and the Carver-Scott Housing Coalition.

Education

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

Work Experience

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

Leadership

CSEC has been designated a National and State Leader School for Service-Learning. The Corporation for National and Community Service and the Minnesota Department of Education recognized CSEC for dedication to combining meaningful service and classroom studies in a way that strengthens communities and improves student learning. CSEC also was inducted into the Service-Learning Hall of Fame, a designation awarded by the National Youth Leadership Council to only eight schools located in Minnesota. This past year, one of the Youthbuilders presented at the 5th Annual Youth Development Symposium in Chicago, conducting a workshop: 'Realizing Youth Voice, Action, and Leadership in Your Community'.

Youthbuild participants assist in the interview process, serve as peer mentors, participate in a school-wide leadership class, serve on the service learning committee, and are called upon to testify at legislative hearings. This year, Youthbuilders were involved in the following community service projects: Tsunami Relief, an Art fundraiser,

and the production of over 400 greeting cards for military personnel in Iraq to contact friends and family.

Housing/Construction

In 2005, the Youthbuilders built a single family home in Chaska, and completed major remodeling of the West Carver Area Learning Center. In Norwood, Youthbuilders made major repairs to a home for a low income family in the community and completed all code compliance upgrades for the School District #108 and the Area Learning Center Building. In addition, they built a storage shed for the district, installed a roll-up garage door on the field storage building, and participated in restoration of the Norwood Young America Pavilion- a major community undertaking to preserve a local landmark (nyapavilion.org).

GUADALUPE ALTERNATIVE PROGRAMS (GAP) SAINT PAUL, MINNESOTA

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

Education

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

Work Experience

A neighborhood building contractor and long-time Youthbuild partner, Jim Grosso, provides specific construction skills training to young people on the work site. Participants spend approximately fifteen hours a week in work experience training, which includes work maturity skills, safety training, teamwork development, and carpentry skills. Specific skills gained this year include framing, sheet rocking, roofing, painting, installation of doors and windows, and landscaping. Participants earn a stipend of approximately \$6 an hour if attendance and safety participation are excellent.

Leadership

Youthbuild participants serve on the Student Leadership Board and Peer Educators. The Student Board is involved in all levels of school governance, including mediating student disciplinary matters and hiring teachers. Youthbuild participants also serve as crew leaders on the work-site. This year, one Youthbuilder was captain of the girls' volleyball team and several Youthbuilders assisted in the Dias de los Muertos and Cinco de Mayo celebrations in the local community.

Housing/Construction

During 2005, Youthbuilders renovated two single-family homes on St. Paul's West side.

GAP Success Story: Raul Calkins

As a Hispanic teen living with his young adult sister, Raul Calkins, lived a “street life”- encounters with police and juvenile justice, drugs and gang involvement, doing what he pleased, whenever he wanted. He showed up for school if he woke up on time, did minimal work when forced, and consistently rebelled against structure. He felt hopeless about his life, moving from relative to relative, failing school, and was never able to envision high school graduation or career goals. Things got worse instead of better for him. The only thing in his life that was constant was showing up for school at GAP, if only to socialize. Then something stuck. He started observing other student’s successes. The one thing this young man had was confidence! With all the seriousness he could muster, he approached our Youthbuild instructor and asked to join Youthbuild because he had tried everything else to stay in school and he also wanted to learn to build houses for “his” people in the community. After a few months with Youthbuild, his attendance really picked up, his attitude completely changed and he started earning school credit. He realized graduation was attainable. He graduated in June in hopes of joining the Marines and then becoming a carpenter.



Raul Calkins: Far Right with goggles

RURAL MINNESOTA CEP, INC.

DETROIT LAKES, MN

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

Education and Work Experience

Students work toward a high school diploma through the Perham-Dent Alternative Learning Center. A certified construction trades instructor trains and supervises youth for an average of 15 hours per week during the school year and 30 to 40 hours per week during the summer months.

Leadership

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



Recently, Perham Youthbuild began a series of 21 three-hour Life Skills Workshops provided to participants by the Human Achievement and Performance Academy. Speakers and field trips have included: (1) the Perham Chief of Police who spoke about careers in law enforcement and the importance of respect; (2) a Bremer Bank representative spoke about applying for credit, maintaining good financial credit, and keeping one's checking account in good standing; (3) Schmitz Ford field trip to learn about purchasing and maintaining a vehicle; and (4) Fergus Falls Community College field trip to learn about college admissions and student support services at the college. Other topics that were highly rated by Youthbuilders were workshops on relationships, citizenship and character education, open house events, and budgeting.

Housing/Construction

The crew has completed the construction of one bi-level stress panel single family dwelling in Perham. Completed work included plastic waterproofing around the outside of the wooden basement, putting the floor joists on, sheeting the sub-floor, putting up walls, and putting up the rafters with the roof sheeting.

During the summer, the Youthbuild crew built a storage shed and landscaped homes in the Perham and Pelican Rapids area. This included designing the landscaping for each

house, researching appropriate greenery, creating rock beds, seeding and sodding the lawns and planting the shrubbery/trees at each house.

Success Story: Adam Tyge



Adam Tvae: Right. working on computer

My name is Adam Tyge and I recently graduated from the Perham ALC. I dropped out of school when I was 10 and that was the dumbest things I had ever done. But some of my friends told me about the Perham ALC and the Youthbuild Program. The best part of the Perham Youthbuild Program is that, at the school, you can take as many classes as you need to take to graduate- whether it is 2 classes or five classes a day. Every day I went to Youthbuild, I got extra credit points towards my classes and I got paid for doing

it. Youthbuild gave me the tools, clothing, and boots so I didn't need to worry about getting my own stuff. When I completed the program, I also got to keep them as my own. But the main thing was to stay in school and my diploma. The teachers that teach at the Perham ALC are very nice and helped me with anything that I didn't understand or if I was just having a problem in my life. They are always there for you. I'm glad I went back to school. If I hadn't gotten my diploma I wouldn't have gotten a good paying job or be able to go to college. After graduation, I got a job as a carpenter. The training at Youthbuild has helped me greatly in getting into construction. Since I had been in Youthbuild for two years, my employer hired me just by looking at my Youthbuild experience.

In short, if you've dropped out of school, I strongly encourage you to take a look at the Youthbuild Program and give it a chance because I know that you will like it. The school classes are small and teachers work one-on-one with you so no big classes.

Success Story: Amy Brandborg



Youthbuild helped me in many ways. By joining Youthbuild I was able to learn many things about carpentry and business ethics that I will never forget. When I started at the Perham ALC, my grades skyrocketed from D's and F's to A's and B's. I never knew how to properly build anything. I didn't know what went into the process of building a house. Now, I know how to read squares, put up walls, and sheetrock walls and ceilings. Every day at Youthbuild was interesting and fun. We got a lot done in the five months that I was there. When I started, the house was just outer walls and window holes and a floor. When I left, we were finishing sheet-rocking the walls and siding the house exterior. Jon Skow, our instructor, was a wonderful teacher. He had many stories to tell us and when we were doing something wrong, he would let us know and help us fix it. He told me a story of one of my friends that was also in the building trades now, who stapled Skow's hand to the wall. Needless to say, I was careful with the stapler. If I had a chance to go back to Youthbuild, I would go back in a heartbeat. I now know things that I didn't know a year ago and will remember them for a long time.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT, INC. WABASHA, MN

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

Education

The Wabasha Youthbuild Program is operated in partnership with the River Valley Academy located in Kellogg, Minnesota. Academic classes are held in the first half of the day and construction classes and activities are held in the remainder of the day. Students must meet all academic requirements before they are allowed to attend the Youthbuild activities. Youth staff workers develop team building skills in the youth through a variety of activities including a day long trip to a "high ropes challenge course" where they work on team building, problem solving and trust.

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

Work Experience

A licensed vocational instructor coordinates the work experience component and supervises the Youthbuild participants. The program provides an environment in which the youth can apply the skills as they learn them. This gives youth a stronger self-concept and a personal feeling of accomplishment because they can see that their efforts improve the lives of others. Youth receive a training stipend and may also earn bonuses and scholarships based on performance and attendance. The competency-based nature of this program requires that participants learn tool use and safety procedures before being allowed to use those tools on projects. Youth work in teams to insure that safety rules are being followed.

Leadership

This program provides many opportunities for the development of leadership and teamwork skills through training, field experiences, service learning, and career exploration opportunities. The youth enjoy challenging activities like "climbing walls" and "high ropes courses" to gain team-building skills. Youth participate in all aspects of

planning and implementation of the construction projects to help them develop problem-solving skills and become familiar with the resources in their community.

Throughout the program, participants learned the basics of job search, including completion of job applications, resumes, interview skills, work ethics and much more. These units were covered throughout the year in both class time and practical experience. Youth came away with the knowledge and resources to enable them to find employment. Field trips to colleges, technical colleges and businesses in the trades provided them with the opportunity to learn about the various careers in the field and how to access them in the future.

Housing/Construction

Initial projects this year included chairs and benches for low income housing units. Youth were part of the planning and development of these projects and learned 'attention to detail' finishing skills as well. Youth participants had the opportunity to develop business experience and skills as they were expected to budget for and market their individual projects. Youth visited several housing units to determine which work projects would be available. The largest project was in partnership with Habitat for Humanity. Youth participated in the building of a new house and learned the skills of framing, sheet rocking, mudding and much more. Youth found it highly rewarding to participate in the building of the house, and were proud to show off to family and friends.

Success Story: Kevin Hoffmeyer (from the Case Manager)

Kevin Hoffmeyer has overcome great adversity in his life. I met Kevin approximately three years ago at River Valley Academy Alternative School. I thought he was going to be very difficult to work with. After meeting him for the first time and simply trying to get to know him, I realized that he is one of the kindest youth I have had the privilege to work with.

Kevin enrolled into our Real World Independent Living Skills course. This program was designed for youth who are in foster care, or who are aging out of foster care. Kevin was currently in foster care. Throughout the 12 weeks Kevin had perfect attendance. I then invited him to the "Tomorrow's Leaders Today Conference For Youth."



Kevin: Second from Right with jacket

In the Fall of 2004, Kevin was chosen for our Youthbuild Program. By December, he had the best attendance, the most credit, and had worked the most hours out of the other Youthbuild participants. He loved Youthbuild and continually showed us how self-motivated he was. In the Spring of 2005, I invited him back to the Real World Program as a mentor. He again did a wonderful job at helping the other participants through the program. He was again chosen to attend the leadership conference.

Kevin has worked through some pretty tough issues in his life, much more than anyone his age should have to. He is currently working on earning his diploma at River Valley Academy and is interested in pursuing carpentry. Whatever he chooses as a career, we know that he will be an excellent employee and valued member of his community.

MINNESOTA YOUTHBUILD SERVICE PROVIDERS (As of March 2006)

[Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency, Inc. \(AEOA\)](#)

702 Third Avenue South
Virginia, MN 55792
Gwen Grell, Youthbuild Program Coordinator
Ph: (218) 749-2912 ext. 220 Fax: (218) 749-2944 or
Ph: (218) 327-6749 (Grand Rapids - Tue., Wed., Fri.)
Tawnya Maras, Youthbuild Case Manager
Ph: (218) 327-1138
E-mail: grell@aeoa.org or tmaras@aeoa.org

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

[Bi-County Community Action Programs, Inc.](#)

Post Office Box 579
Bemidji, MN 56601
Ann McGill, Assistant Director of Operations
Ph: (218) 751-4631 ext. 104 Fax: (218) 751-8452
Tina Sweatt, Youthbuild Program Coordinator
Ph: (218) 751-4631 ext. 145 Fax: (218) 751-8452
E-mail: amcgill@paulbunyan.net or
Tina@youthbuild_bemidji.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 \(CMJTS\)](#)

106 Pine Street
Monticello, MN 55362
Natalie Hare, Youthbuild Program Coordinator
Ph: (763) 271-3706 Fax: (763) 271-3701
Leslie Wojtowicz, Youthbuild Case Manager
Ph: (320) 693-2859 Fax: (763) 271-3701
Diana Ristamaki, Youthbuild Case manager
Ph: (320) 629-7571
E-mail: nhare@cmjts.org or
lwojtowi@cmjts.org or
dristamaki@cmjts.org

Service area: Kandiyohi and Pine Counties

[City Academy](#)

958 Jesse Street
Saint Paul, MN 55101
Ph: (651) 298-4624 Fax: (651) 292-6511
Milo Cutter, Director or
Terry Kraabel, Youthbuild Program Coordinator
E-mail: miloc@cityacademy.net or
terryk@cityacademy.net

Service area: City of Saint Paul

[Guadalupe Alternative Programs \(GAP\)](#)

381 East Robie Street
Saint Paul, MN 55107
Allen Selinski, Director
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Lynnette Landry, Youthbuild Program Coordinator
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llandry@gapschool.org

Service area: City of Saint Paul

[Rural Minnesota Concentrated Employment Programs \(Rural MN-CEP\)](#)

803 Roosevelt Avenue
Detroit Lakes, MN 56501
Huldy Sannes, Youthbuild Program Coordinator
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cnathan@wfc.des.state.mn.us

Service area: Otter Tail County

[Stearns-Benton Employment & Training Council \(SBETC\)](#)

3333 West Division Street, Suite 212
Saint Cloud, MN 56301
Ph: (320) 229-5713 Fax: (320) 654-5173
Eric Grindland, Youthbuild Program Coordinator
E-mail: egrindland@sbetc.des.state.mn.us

Service area: Benton and Stearns Counties

[The City, Inc.](#)

1315 - 12th Avenue North
Minneapolis, MN 55411
Southside: (612) 724-3689 Fax: (612) 724-0692
Northside: (612) 377-7559 Fax: (612) 381-9156
LeRoy Harmon, Youthbuild Program Coordinator
E-mail: leroy.harmon@thecityinc.org

Service area: City of Minneapolis

[Workforce Development, Inc.](#)

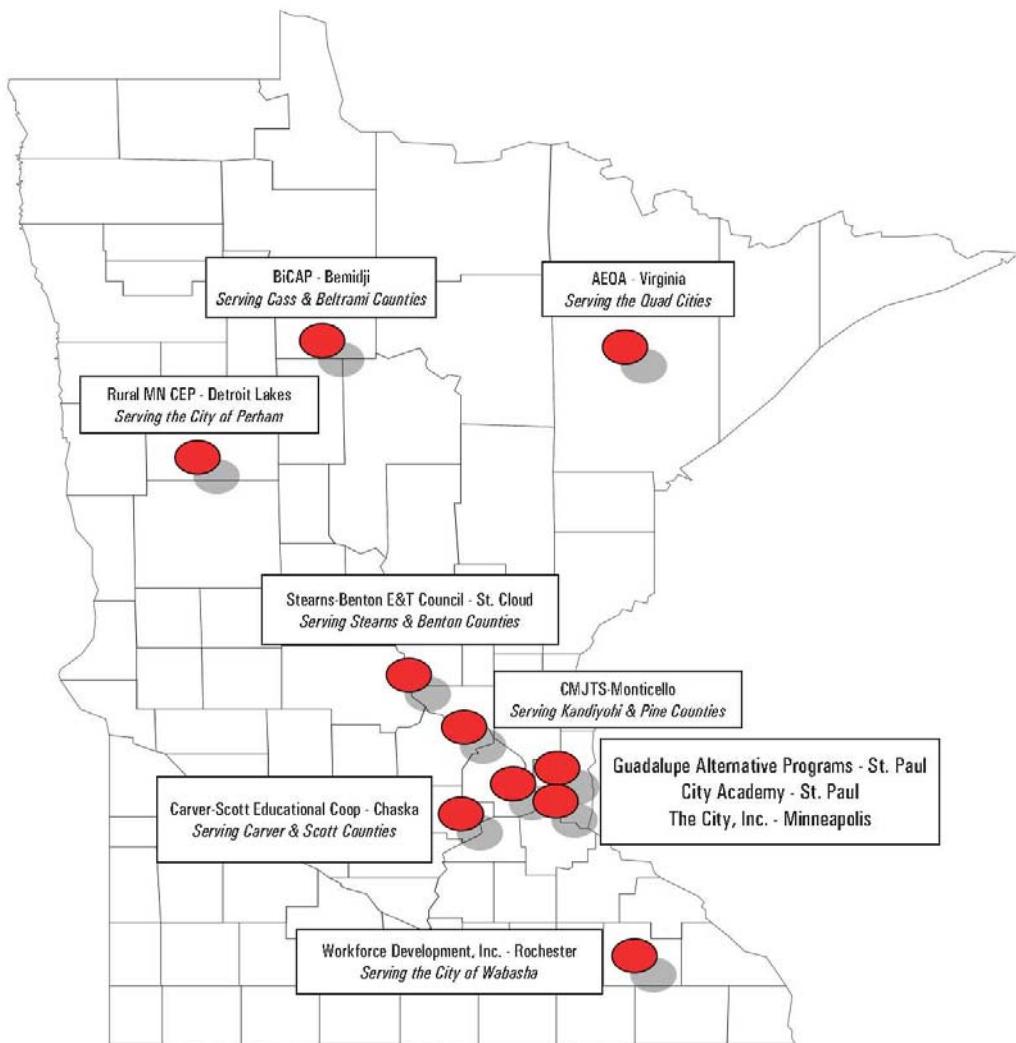
1302 - 7th Street, N.W.
Rochester, MN 55901
Ph: (507) 292-5180 Fax: (507) 292-5173 or
Wabasha Office: (651) 565-2635
Marge Kuethe, Youthbuild Program Coordinator
Jinny Rietmann, Wabasha Youthbuild Case Manager
Ph: (651) 565-2635
E-mail: mkuethe@wfdi.ws or jrietmann@wfdi.ws

Service area: Wabasha County

Please contact: Nancy Waisanen, State (DEED)
Youthbuild Program Coordinator at (651) 296-7243
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March 2006

2005 Youthbuild Program Locations





positively
Minnesota
