

PHILADELPHIA  
**YouthBuild**  
CHARTER SCHOOL



EXCELLENCE. RESPECT. PERSEVERANCE.



ANNUAL REPORT  
2009-2010



## YouthBuild Philadelphia Charter School

Our mission is to provide out-of-school youth in Philadelphia with the broadest range of tools, supports and opportunities available to become self-sufficient, responsible and contributing members and leaders in their community.

YouthBuild Philadelphia's program gives former high school dropouts a second chance to earn their diplomas while developing vital job skills. Our comprehensive curriculum combines rigorous academics, vocational training, community service, and counseling to help students establish and achieve post-secondary education and career goals.

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#### YouthBuild Philadelphia Charter School

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(215) 763-5774  
info@youthbuildphilly.org  
www.youthbuildphilly.org



## Dear Friends and Supporters:

In a city with more than 30,000 dropouts, it is sometimes hard to be optimistic about the future of Philadelphia's youth. But in the last year, 174 former high school dropouts took control of their future, joining more than 1500 other young Philadelphians who graduated from YouthBuild and moved on to colleges, trade schools and careers.

In the 2009-2010 program year, YouthBuild Philadelphia Charter School increased the rigor of its program, more closely aligning to post-secondary institutions and preparing students – academically, socially and emotionally – for the next step after YouthBuild. As we improved standards and quality, we also experienced the highest ever retention (82%), attendance and graduation (80%) rates in program history.

We are proud of our long-standing tradition of innovation and constant improvement of both outcomes and quality of experience. We will continue to make informed decisions that make our program stronger every year to ensure that our graduates are fully prepared for post-secondary environments and meaningful employment opportunities.

As we learn, we also teach. YouthBuild Philly was selected by YouthBuild USA to be one of three National Learning Sites for similar alternative education programs throughout the country. Our staff members are consistently recognized as innovators and experts in the field of integration, professional development, vocational training and transition services, and they are proud to share best practices with the field.

We are, at our core, a transition program, and as we move forward in the 2010-11 school year, we will continue our focus on refining and strengthening curriculum so that it becomes even more aligned with post-secondary requirements, industry standards and apprenticeship programs. Thank you for supporting our program and helping our young people fulfill their dreams.

Sincerely,



Simran Sidhu  
Executive Director



Cynthia J. Skinner  
Board of Trustees Chairperson



# 2009 - 2010 LEADERSHIP

## MANAGEMENT

Simran Sidhu  
**Executive Director**

Brian Leffler  
**Program Director**

Don Pinkney  
**Director of Construction and Business Development**

Emilia A. Gorbulsky, CPA, MBA  
**Director of Finance**

Meredith Molloy  
**Director of Development**

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

**Board Chair**  
Cynthia J. Skinner

### Board Vice Chair and Membership Committee Chair

Richard Gitlen, Executive Director  
Lutheran Children and Family Service

### Board Secretary

Anthony Fullard, Co-Founder  
Millennium 3 Management

### Board Treasurer/Finance Committee Chair

Patrick McKenna, CEO/Co-Founder  
DMi Partners, Inc.

### Board Development Committee Chair

Marty Brigham, Partner  
Raynes McCarty

### Board Program Committee Chair

Charles Esser, Director  
Philadelphia Community School

## MEMBERS

Adam Birnbaum, MBA Student Wharton School of  
Business University of Pennsylvania

Timothy Daniel, Executive Vice President  
International SOS, Inc.

Jahi Davis, Financial Management Consultant  
Operation HOPE

James E. Davis, Associate Professor  
Department of Education Leadership and Policy Studies  
Temple University

Alfred Essandoh,  
Director of Ministries & Strategic Planning  
New Covenant Church of Philadelphia

Jay Feldstein, CMO and Senior Vice President  
Keystone Mercy

Joanne Lewers, Partner  
Drinker Biddle & Reath, LLP

Shardell Martin, Alumni Representative  
Class of 2007

Todd Marzolf, Senior Project Consultant  
Towers Watson

Michael J. McPhilly, Vice President Human Resources  
Development  
Southco, Inc.

Samuel Olshin, Principal  
Atkin Olshin Schade Architects

Howard Steinberg, Owner/Principal  
Onion Flats, LLC

Karen Williams, Human Resources Director  
Lutheran Children and Family Service

## COMMITTEE MEMBERS

### Board Development Committee:

Susan Gallagher, Vice President  
Wachovia Securities

Laura Rowley, Vice President of Corporate Banking  
National City Bank

Larry (Buzz) Wood, Jr., Partner  
Pepper Hamilton, LLP

### Board Finance Committee:

Patricia Lynch-DiFiore  
Pew Charitable Trust

### Board Program Committee:

Craig Towns (YouthBuild Alumnus)  
Class of 1996

Edward Hillis, President  
Domus, Inc.

## FRIENDS OF YOUTHBUILD PHILADELPHIA BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Felicia Coward, Executive Director  
Friends Neighborhood Guild

John Andrew Gallery, Executive Director  
Preservation Alliance

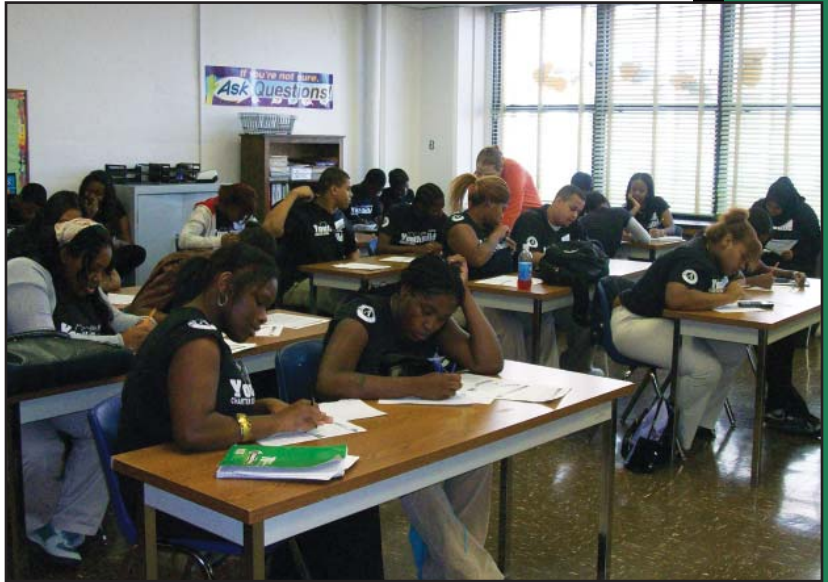
Lamont Jackson, Owner  
Lamont Jackson Construction

Edward Hillis, President  
Domus, Inc.

Peter Moor

YouthBuild Philadelphia offers at-risk youth between the ages of 18 and 21 the opportunity to reconnect with their education and earn a high school diploma.

For the 2009-2010 school year, YouthBuild Philadelphia received more than 900 applications and accepted 219 young people based on their demonstration of motivation and determination.



Students come from communities where unemployment, dropout and poverty rates are four times national averages. YouthBuild assesses and addresses the compounding risk factors that disconnected our students from traditional schools, including:

- 88% qualify for public assistance
- 52% are young parents
- 52% have prior involvement with the criminal justice system
- 21% have diagnosed learning, emotional, and behavioral disabilities
- 5% are homeless at any given time

## Enrollment demographics

### Sex:

- 58% female
- 42% male

### Race:

- 92% Black/African American
- 3% Hispanic American
- 3% Multi-Racial
- 1% Caucasian American
- 1% Asian American/Pacific Islander

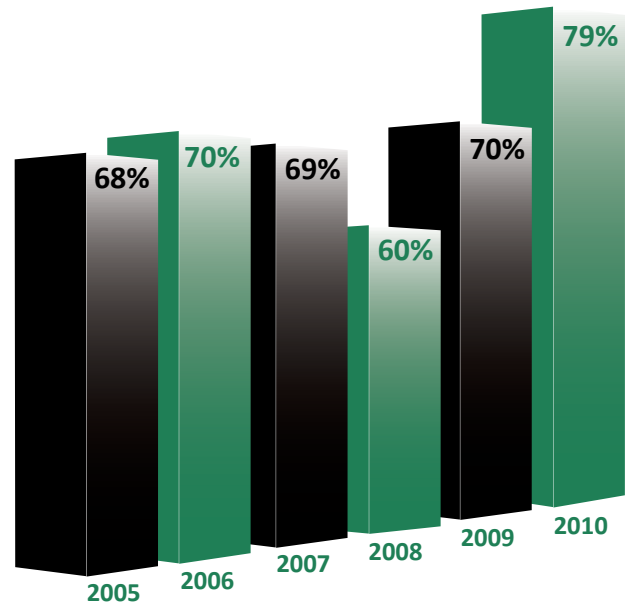


## OUR PROGRAM

Students complete a 12-18 month program that combines intensive academics with hands-on vocational training and 675 hours of community service and culminates with a high school diploma.



## DIPLOMA ATTAINMENT RATE



**174 FORMER DROPOUTS EARNED DIPLOMAS IN 2010...**



**...BY MAINTAINING 70% ATTENDANCE**

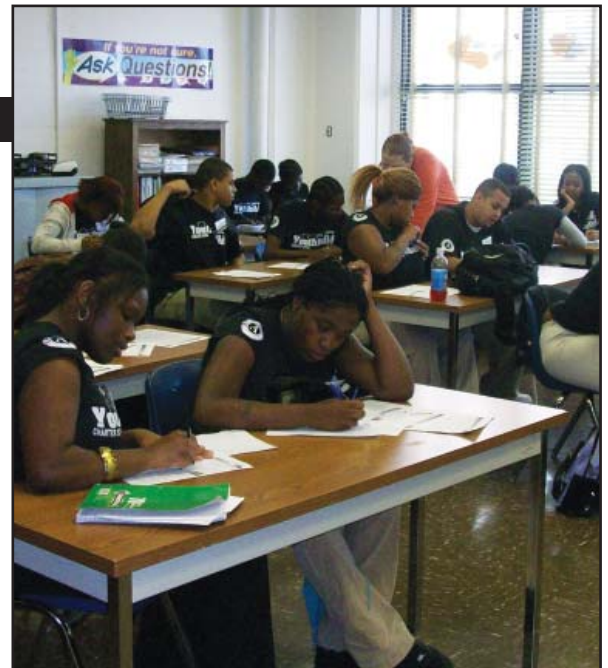
During the 2009-10 school year, YouthBuild management evaluated historical and current data to drive an increase in student attendance and maintain high enrollment.

## Academics

Students benefit from individualized attention and an average 13:1 student to staff ratio in academic courses, including math, language arts, science, and social studies. While reengaging in academics, students benefit from the support of peer discussion groups and academic support classes.

The curriculum is designed to prepare students for post-secondary education by developing life skills, expanding critical thinking, and improving basic academic skills.

In the 2009-10 school year, on average, students demonstrated gains in literacy and numeracy on the TABE (Test of Adult Basic Education) standardized assessment tool.



**...BY EARNING AT LEAST 70% AVERAGE IN EACH COURSE**

## ...BY EARNING AN INDUSTRY RECOGNIZED CERTIFICATION

Students prepare for jobs in high-demand trades through a vocational training program that integrates hands-on training, applied mathematics, and career development courses. All vocational training culminates with an industry-recognized certification. This year, YouthBuild management focused on developing the vocational curriculum to best prepare students for employment and trades schools, as well as improving instructional practices to increase student engagement in the hands-on learning.

### Building Trades

While rebuilding homes for low-income families, 128 students in the Class of 2010 earned core certifications from the National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER). The Green Building training program launched in the 2009-10 school year and used sustainable practices to improve the affordability, quality, and environmental impact of home construction and renovation.



### Healthcare

Students in the Healthcare training program learn nurse aide skills and prepare for career opportunities in the healthcare industry. During the 2009-10 school year, 26 students earned Certified Nurse Aide credentials through a partnership with Leahy Caregivers. The students acquired hands-on experience by providing care to at-risk populations, and they contributed over 2000 hours of care through volunteer internships at long-term care facilities.



### Information Technology & Business Administration

The IT and Business Administration program provides hands-on training to prepare students for career opportunities in the technology and computer fields. During the 2009-10 school year, 20 students earned Microsoft Office Specialist (MOS) certification in Word, PowerPoint, and Excel. They also learned computer hardware and software skills as they refurbished donated computers. Students distributed the refurbished computers to schools, community centers and low-income neighborhood projects across the city in an effort to help bridge Philadelphia's digital divide.



## Service Learning

*...BY CONTRIBUTING AT LEAST 675 HOURS OF COMMUNITY SERVICE*

Service learning is a core component of the YouthBuild Philadelphia curriculum. Students contribute valuable service to the community while learning hands-on skills in vocational training.

In the 2009-10 school year,  
YouthBuild Philadelphia:

- Worked to rebuild 4 homes for low income families
- Refurbished 217 computers for community centers and schools
- Contributed over 2000 hours of volunteer healthcare to vulnerable citizens



## CLASS OF 2010 STUDENT MESSAGE

### Ayesha Hayes, age 19

I applied to YouthBuild soon after turning 18 because I wanted to be more and do more with my life. I needed to earn a diploma because I dropped out of school at 16 after failing many of my classes. I learned that YouthBuild has a healthcare program, and I wanted to pursue a career in nursing, so it was a great opportunity for me.

In healthcare training at YouthBuild, I became more patient and social with people. Those are very important skills in the healthcare field. You have to be able to communicate in any job, and I learned that at YouthBuild.

Most importantly, YouthBuild teaches you to give back. We spent a lot of time in nursing homes caring for people who need help. As AmeriCorps members, we also had park and street cleanings, visited Philabundance to package food, and prepared meals for HIV/AIDS patients. The time I spent doing service makes me want to continue giving back to my community, and my career will give me the chance to do that.

In one year, I earned my high school diploma and became a Certified Nurse Aide, and this allowed me to get a part-time job with Bayada Nurses while continuing my education. After I finish my externship this spring, I will graduate with a Medical Assistant certification from the Pennsylvania Institute of Technology, and plan to enter an accelerated program for a Bachelor of Science in Nursing.



## Summer Bridge to Success

In the 2009-10 school year, YouthBuild Philadelphia expanded the full-year program to better support students as they transitioned into the next phase of their lives. The traditional YouthBuild schedule of alternating academic and vocational instruction concluded prior to the summer session, when students had an array of exciting opportunities.

Students stayed connected with the YouthBuild support system while participating in an individualized, meaningful experience to prepare them for post-secondary goals, including:

- A residential program at Thaddeus Stevens College of Technology in Lancaster, PA, where students earned college credits while living on campus
- Six-week internships in the student's field of interest in partnership with the Urban Affairs Coalition
- Courses at the Community College of Philadelphia to earn college credits and gain a sense of college-level work
- Tomorrow's Promise, a pre-apprenticeship construction program leading to job placement after successful completion of the eight week training
- A six-week Home Health Aide certification program



## One Year After Graduation

**74% OF THE CLASS OF 2009 GAINED EMPLOYMENT OR ENROLLED IN POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION**

Five staff members of YouthBuild Philadelphia are dedicated to supporting students and graduates as they continue their education, advance in the workplace, and make plans for their future.

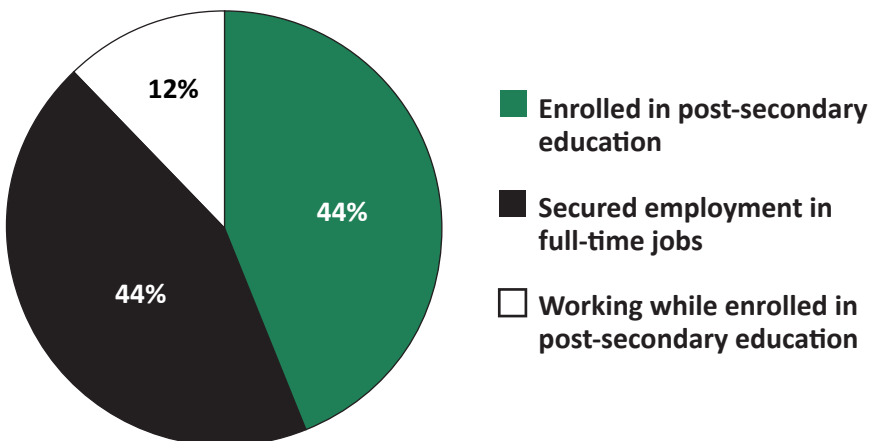
Every student works with a career counselor to develop an Individualized Transition Plan (ITP) prior to graduation and complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) prior to applying for post-secondary education.



### Once in YouthBuild Always in YouthBuild

Graduates stay connected to YouthBuild Philadelphia for assistance with job searches and referrals, financial aid, and college applications. YouthBuild staff engages alumni through one-on-one support and stay connected through social networking. Facebook acts as a platform for staff to regularly share events, resources, and job opportunities, as well as receive updates from graduates. Alumni regularly visit YouthBuild for resume assistance, networking events, counseling, and computer and internet access.

### CLASS OF 2009 PLACED GRADUATES





## Make A Difference Day

In honor of the nation's 18th annual Make a Difference Day, YouthBuild Philadelphia partnered with the Kensington Area Neighborhood Advisory Committee for a mile-long street and lot clean-up on Friday, October 23.

Over 200 students and staff collected more than two tons of trash and debris along Frankford Avenue and painted a bridge at a busy intersection in the neighborhood.



## MLK Day of Service

YouthBuild Philadelphia joined over 70,000 volunteers throughout the greater Philadelphia area on Monday, January 18, 2010 for the 15th Annual Greater Philadelphia Martin Luther King Day of Service.

Students and staff provided volunteer services for various individuals and organizations, including the renovation of Penrose Community Center, a recreation facility in a low-income neighborhood in North Philadelphia.

The project, in partnership with the University Community Collaborative of Philadelphia and Temple University, included the installation of new bookshelves and French doors for a library, painting walls, and installing plumbing for a kitchen.



## Global Youth Service Day

YouthBuild Philadelphia's Youth Foundation, a new student organization responsible for planning service projects and allocating the school's resources to support the community, led three environmentally friendly service projects in honor of Global Youth Service Day on April 23, 2010.

The beautification projects included tree-planting along the streets of Francisville, a park clean-up in the North Fifth Street Latino neighborhood, and urban gardening at the Village of Arts and Humanities.

## Spring Break Service Trip

This year, twenty students travelled to Costa Rica for our 2nd annual International Service Learning Trip. The week long travel experience exposed students — most of whom have never traveled outside of Philadelphia — to new wildlife, culture, and language.

Building on our green initiative, YouthBuild partnered with a wildlife protection organization, Parismina Turtles, to help protect an endangered species. Students helped a small town in Costa Rica rally around its sea turtle population and contributed to the growth of a relatively new grassroots conservation project.

This unique opportunity immersed YouthBuild students in the local community through cultural exchange activities, Spanish language classes, and beach clean-up projects.



**“ I’m so grateful for the trip and the people of Parismina. I learned a lot about the Costa Rican culture, and how they care for their environment. They gave me a different point of view about life. I’m grateful for them taking our group in as one of their own. ”**

– Eben Purcell, YouthBuild Class of 2010, and student at Community College of Philadelphia

## A Partner in Citywide Service

In January 2010, Philadelphia was awarded the Cities of Service Leadership Grant to establish the Office of Civic Engagement and Volunteer Service. Mayor Michael A. Nutter appointed Catherine C. Wolfgang as Chief Service Officer, and Wolfgang immediately engaged Philadelphia’s leaders in service, including YouthBuild Philadelphia Charter School, to develop SERVE Philadelphia, the City’s strategic blueprint for service. YouthBuild Philadelphia participated in kick-off events, including the launch of the city’s first summer service challenge, Let’s Read. Let’s Move. Philadelphia.

**“ Without a doubt, we consider YouthBuild Philadelphia Charter School as one of the foremost models of youth civic engagement in the city. The students have had a measurable impact on the communities that they serve while simultaneously overcoming a wide range of challenges to achieve their goal of high school graduation. ”**

– Catherine C. Wolfgang,  
Chief Service Officer

# 2009- 2010 FUNDING PARTNERS



## Corporate and Foundation Support

Atkin Olshin Schade Architects  
 Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation  
 (via YouthBuild USA)  
 Charles Stewart Mott Foundation  
 (via YouthBuild USA)  
 Claneil Foundation, Inc.  
 DMi Partners, Inc.

JP Morgan Chase  
 The Lenfest Foundation  
 Raynes McCarty  
 Sovereign Bank  
 The Walmart Foundation (via YouthBuild USA)  
 Wells Fargo Foundation  
 White and Richardson Trust



## >\$1000

Martin Brigham and  
Harriet Rubenstein  
Regina Austin  
Mike McPhilly\*  
Ravi Acharya\*  
Edward Hillis  
Alma Kristina Rodriguez  
Amy Dorfmeister\*  
Jay Feldstein  
Shane Kent  
Thomas Kriner\*  
James and Laura Rowley\*

## \$500 +

Todd and Jennifer  
Sweet Marzolf\*  
Timothy Daniel  
John Andrew Gallery  
Bradley Remick\*  
Boyd and Myra  
Asplundh  
Susan Gallagher  
Vince Gallagher  
Joanne Lewers\*  
Irene Rosen Marks  
Michael and Cindy  
Skinner

## \$250+

Anthony Braxton  
Charles Demaio\*  
J. Manly Parks\*  
A.R. Raymond\*  
Sathana Semonsky\*  
Monique Perry\*  
Ann Baruch  
James Bryson  
Richard Coe\*  
Richard Gitlen  
James and Pamela Hill  
Bill and Julie Skinner

## \$100+

Laure Leffler  
John and Karen Kelly  
Mike Corwin  
Patrick McKenna  
John Navarro  
David Rudovsky  
Elizabeth Brosky\*  
Adam Birnbaum  
Alfred Essandoh  
Anthony Fullard  
Joshua Meyer  
Samuel Olshin  
Lee Sargrad

Susan Smith  
Domenic D'Ginto\*  
Allison McCool\*  
Allison Gordon  
Downs Laddell  
Ann Ricksecker  
Bodo and Mary Baltycki  
Andrew and Marie  
Bommentre  
Paul Boymel  
Glenn and Jill Bronson  
James and Patricia Devine  
Charles Esser

## <\$100

Paul and Lois Daniel  
Caitlin Murphy\*  
Zane Memeger  
James Davis  
Allison Buehler  
Heather Cox  
Jim and Jacki Delaney  
Samuel and Annette  
Lareau Freeman  
Frank Hollick  
Chi Lam  
Susan Langmuir  
David and Eva Lexie  
Wayne and Cynthia  
Middendorf  
Martin and Meredith Molloy  
Floyd and Lanetta Parks  
Lisa Reddy  
Joanne Ritchie  
Maggie Rosen  
Sonja Sherwood\*  
Natasha Towles\*  
Adam and Dawn Weil  
Cheryl Williams\*  
Yoruba Rose\*  
F. Scott Beadenkopf  
Deborah White\*  
Amy Kapp  
Arlacey Chambers\*  
Deborah Courter  
Eileen Gallagher  
Thomas and Karen Getzen  
Thomas Harper  
Jonathan Levin  
Mike and Dawn Marshall  
Michael Mayo  
Nicole Mazzotta\*  
Moirra Moody  
Sarah Norris  
Thomas Powell  
Edwin and Gail Quigley  
Shannon Shifflett  
Kristin Sladen  
Elizabeth Stark-Cloud  
Michael and Eileen Stauffer  
Richard and Phyllis Taylor  
Allen and Martha Todd  
Deb Vanderbilt  
Eugene and Diane Zavacki  
Terri Murph\*  
William and Jennifer Sparks  
Elizabeth Cohen  
Rachel Robbins  
Cammela Teel  
Carlton Whitting  
\*United Way gift

**“ YouthBuild gave me a lot more than what I came for. Two years ago I didn't know which way I was going. This was my chance for a new beginning. I didn't think about all my past failures, I focused on my future. I knew it would pay off at the end of the year. Now I have a set career.**

**- Andrew Johnson, YouthBuild Class of 2010 and apprentice at Caddick Construction Company**

Nancy Forbriger  
Tim Forbriger  
William Forbriger  
Barbara Gunther  
Erin Horvat  
Hans Bruno Kersten  
Michael Lewers  
Thomas Lussenhop  
Anthony and Barbara Mayo  
Tony and Kay Mayo  
Rob and Linda Meredith  
Rob and Robin Meredith  
Donald Miller  
Brian Murray\*  
Alan and Denise Parsons  
Celestine Richardson\*  
Kevin Stauffer  
Dorothy Stoneman  
Mark Turbiville  
Eugenie Vitale  
Paul and Catherine Westhead  
Lloyd and Jay Willey  
James and Susan Wolfe

# 2009-10 FINANCIALS

## Financial Statement : July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2010

### Supports and Revenues

Public Sources (Local, State, Federal)	\$4,198,187
Private Foundations, Corporation, Individuals and Other	\$571,354
Fee-for-Service Income	\$225,782
<b>Total Supports and Revenues</b>	<b>\$4,995,323</b>

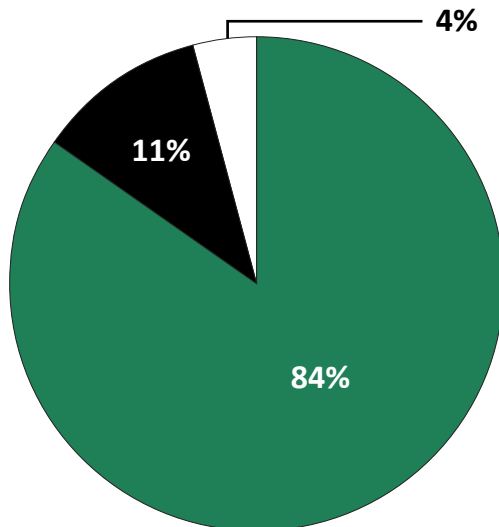
### Expenditures

General Program Expenses	\$1,459,378
Staff Salaries, Benefits, and Training	\$3,400,334
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$4,859,712</b>

<b>Excess of Revenues over Expenditures</b>	<b>\$135,611</b>
<b>Fund Balance/Net Assets (Beginning)</b>	<b>\$893,962</b>
<b>Net Assets (End of Year)</b>	<b>\$1,029,573</b>

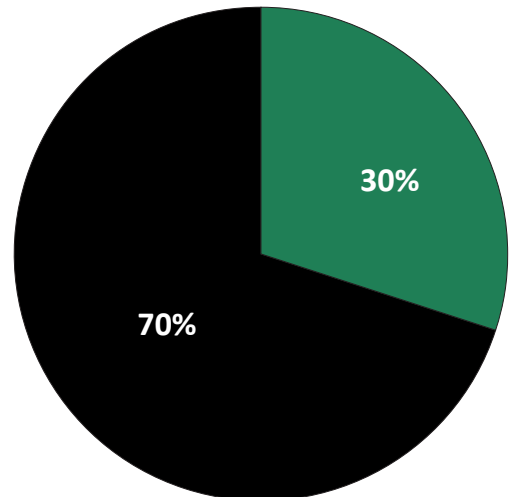
### Supports and Revenues

- Public Sources (Local, State, Federal)
- Private Foundations, Corporation, Individuals and Other
- Fee-for-Service Income



### Expenditures

- General Program Expenses
- Staff Salaries, Benefits, and Training



# 2009-10 KEY PARTNERSHIPS

## GENERAL PROGRAM

African American Chamber of Commerce  
Aker Philadelphia Shipyard  
Boys and Girls Club  
Career Wardrobe  
CareerLink  
Center for Literacy  
City of Philadelphia,  
Office of Mayor Michael A. Nutter  
Deloitte LLP  
Enon Tabernacle Baptist Church  
EverFi  
Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce  
Greater Philadelphia Hispanic Chamber of  
Commerce  
Jobs for the Future  
LIFT Philadelphia  
PA State Representative Shirley Kitchen  
PA State Representative Tony Payton  
Philadelphia Education Fund  
Philadelphia OIC  
Philadelphia Youth Network  
Public/Private Ventures  
The Big Picture Company  
The Campaign for Working Families  
United Way of Southeastern Pennsylvania  
YouthBuild USA

## HOME REHABILITATION

CM Electrical  
Curtis Perry Drywall  
Diamond Tool  
Duron Paints  
East River Bank  
George F. Kempf Supply Co.  
KAJ General Contractor  
Kramer Marks Architects  
New Deal Lumber  
Nictown CDC  
Northeast Building Products  
Philadelphia Housing Development Corporation  
Redevelopment Authority  
Roy Sims Plumbing & Heating  
Universal Community Homes  
Universal Rehab  
West Supply Center

## POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION

Community College of Philadelphia  
Harcum College  
Lincoln Technical Institute  
Metropolitan Career Center

Orleans Technical Institute  
Temple University  
Thaddeus Stevens College of Technology  
The Art Institute of Philadelphia

## COMMUNITY SERVICE

Charles L. Blockson Afro-American Collection at  
Temple University  
City Year of Greater Philadelphia  
Diversified Community Services  
Francisville NDC  
Global Citizen  
Keep Philadelphia Beautiful  
Mayor's Office of Civic Engagement  
and Volunteer Service  
Mothers in Charge  
Mural Arts Program  
New Kensington CDC  
Parismina Turtle Rescue  
PennSERVE  
University Community Collaborative of Philadelphia  
Village of Arts and Humanities

## SUPPORT SERVICES

11th St. Family Services of Drexel University  
Child Care Information Services  
Covenant House Crisis Center  
Educating Communities on Parenting  
Eliza Shirley House  
Greater Philadelphia Health Action  
International Institute for Restorative Practices  
Mazzoni Center  
Philadelphia Committee to End Homelessness  
Shalom  
Young Legends

## VOCATIONAL TRAINING

ACE Mentor Program  
Bryn Mawr College  
District 1199C Training and Upgrading Fund  
Edu Care  
Leahy Caregivers, Inc.  
Mercy Hospital  
Mercy Life  
National Center for Construction  
Education and Research  
Smith & Solomon  
Tomorrow's Promise

## ANNUAL REPORT DESIGN BY

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[www.jackrabbitdesign.net](http://www.jackrabbitdesign.net)



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