

Annual Report

2008-2009

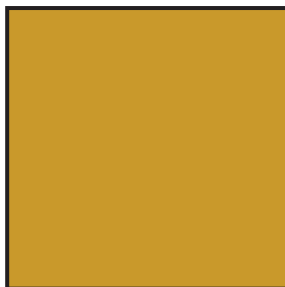


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YouthBuild Philadelphia Charter School

provides 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.

Our one-year program offers former high school dropouts the chance to earn their high school diplomas while learning **vital job skills** and providing valuable community service. We believe that any student, regardless of his or her past, can achieve anything by embracing our core values of **Excellence**, Respect, and Perseverance.

YouthBuild Philadelphia Charter School

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Philadelphia, PA 19122
(215) 627-8671
(215) 763-5774
info@youthbuildphilly.org
www.youthbuildphilly.org



Dear Friends and Supporters:

At YouthBuild Philadelphia, we provide a second chance for former high school dropouts to connect to their education and become leaders in their communities. However, the high school dropout crisis cannot be solved in silos. YouthBuild collaborates with a variety of colleges, employers and organizations that all work together to help students fulfill their full potential. Despite multiple academic failures and distressing life experiences, our students meet and exceed our high expectations, transform their lives, contribute to their community and begin to work toward accomplishing their life goals – thanks in part to our extensive network of partners. After one year at YouthBuild, students gain the self-assurance, knowledge, and skills they need to successfully transition into post-secondary or full-time employment.

We pride ourselves on our ability to adapt to local workforce trends in order to create meaningful opportunities for our students and graduates. We continue to expand our program to offer training and certifications in high demand industries and trades. In the 2008-09 school year, our Building Trades & Transportation program expanded to include new training opportunities on top of industry recognized certification in construction. These pilot vocational programs – such as automotive repair with Lincoln Technology Institute, commercial driver’s license with Smith & Solomon and heating and air conditioning with Orleans Tech - are opening immediate doors for our students and leading to exciting new career paths.

We have also created new partnerships that build bridges to new and exciting post-secondary education opportunities. This year, students visited dozens of two- and four-year colleges, technical schools, and training programs, and many started taking courses at Community College of Philadelphia and Thaddeus Stevens College of Technology while completing graduation requirements at YouthBuild. As we continue to support our recent graduates in college, we learn more and more about how to best prepare our current students for post-secondary education. By working hand-in-hand with our education partners, we are building a rigorous curriculum to ensure our graduates’ long-term success.

As we look toward the future, we will remain steadfast in our commitment to creating programs and partnerships that provide the greatest benefit to our students. At YouthBuild Philadelphia, we know that it takes a community to help at-risk young adults to see their potential. So, thank you. The success of our students is a result of your support. Your time, resources, and financial contributions allow us to continue to change lives and communities.

Sincerely,



Simran Sidhu
Executive Director



Cynthia J. Skinner
Board of Trustees Chairperson



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Executive Director

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The Late John B. Rosenthal, Founder and Chairman Emeritus
Pennrose Properties
Sadly, Mr. Rosenthal passed away on September 29, 2008.
He will be greatly missed.

James Schroder, MBA Student
Wharton School of Business
University of Pennsylvania

Karen Williams, Human Resources Director
Lutheran Children and Family Service

Committee Members

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Friends Neighborhood Guild

John Andrew Gallery, Executive Director
Preservation Alliance

Lamont Jackson, Owner
Lamont Jackson Construction

Curricula

YouthBuild Philadelphia students complete a one-year program that combines an intensive academic course load with hands-on vocational skills training and 900 hours of community service. Students alternate between academics and vocational training in six-week periods. The program culminates in both a high school diploma and an industry-recognized certification in a high demand occupation, such as construction, information technology, or healthcare.

Academics

Students spend half their time at YouthBuild moving through a rigorous set of academic courses aimed at fostering life-long learning skills. YouthBuild's effective and meaningful learning environment improves basic skills, develops self-esteem, expands critical thinking capacity, and promotes post-secondary readiness.



Core academic courses in math, language arts, science, and social studies, are combined with life skills discussion groups, career development courses, and academic support classes for a well-rounded academic experience.

YouthBuild Philadelphia administers the TABE (Test of Adult Basic Education) to all students as a standardized assessment tool to document and track students literacy and numeracy gains throughout the program year.



Enrollment

YouthBuild Philadelphia offers at-risk youth between the ages of 18 and 21 a second chance at success. For the 2008-2009 school year, YouthBuild Philadelphia received 770 applications and accepted 218 young people based on their demonstration of motivation and determination.

These high school dropouts must overcome the challenges of poverty, homelessness, and inner-city surroundings to become confident, contributing members of our communities. This year, more than half of YouthBuild Philadelphia's students subsist well below living wage, approximately 40 percent support dependent children, and nearly 10 percent are homeless at any given time.

Enrollment by race:

85% African American
9% Hispanic
3% Caucasian
2% Multi-Racial
1% Asian/Pacific Islander

Enrollment by sex:

Female – 62%
Male – 38%

Vocational Training

Students spend the alternate six weeks learning hands-on vocational skills in high-demand industries.

Building Trades & Transportation

The majority of YouthBuild students develop construction skills as they rebuild homes for low-income families. In the 2008-2009 school year, students completed the full-gut rehabilitation of three homes in partnership with Nicetown Community Development Corporation and Resources for Human Development. Eighty-four students earned Home Builders Institute (HBI) certification in at least three modules of the nationally-recognized training program. Select students received additional vocational training with off-site partners to earn certification in commercial driving (Smith & Solomon), automotive repair (Lincoln Technical Institute) and heating/air conditioning (Orleans Technical Institute).

Information Technology

Students in our technology training program earn industry recognized certifications as they develop computer hardware and software skills. Students learn job skills by taking donated computers through a process that includes diagnosis, troubleshooting, repair, formatting and loading software. This year, 12 students earned Internet and Computing Core Certification (IC3) through YouthBuild's technology training program. The students donated 150 refurbished computers to eligible individual homes, schools and community organizations in underserved neighborhoods throughout Philadelphia.

Healthcare

Students in the healthcare training program earn qualifications to work in long-term care facilities and pursue further opportunities as nursing professionals. In the 2008-2009 school year, 23 students earned Certified Nurse Aide credentials in partnership with District 1199C Training and Upgrading Fund. Students developed hands-on skills and experience through more than 1400 hours of volunteer care to residents at long-term care facilities.



Student Message

Deleita Hopson, Class of 2009

The day I turned 17, I realized there was no way I was going to graduate high school, and I dropped out. I was absent over 60% of my 9th grade year, and it only went downhill from there. If I wasn't at home taking care of my mom (who was very sick), I was walking the hallways and cutting classes. I did a lot of things I shouldn't have been doing because I didn't want to be in class.

Although I didn't want to be in class, I did want to learn. I decided to apply to YouthBuild because I heard that there are teachers and people here to help you learn. Getting into the program was the best thing that ever happened to me because the support at YouthBuild changes everything. It made school a place I wanted to be, and the staff opened my eyes to things I never thought I would want to do.

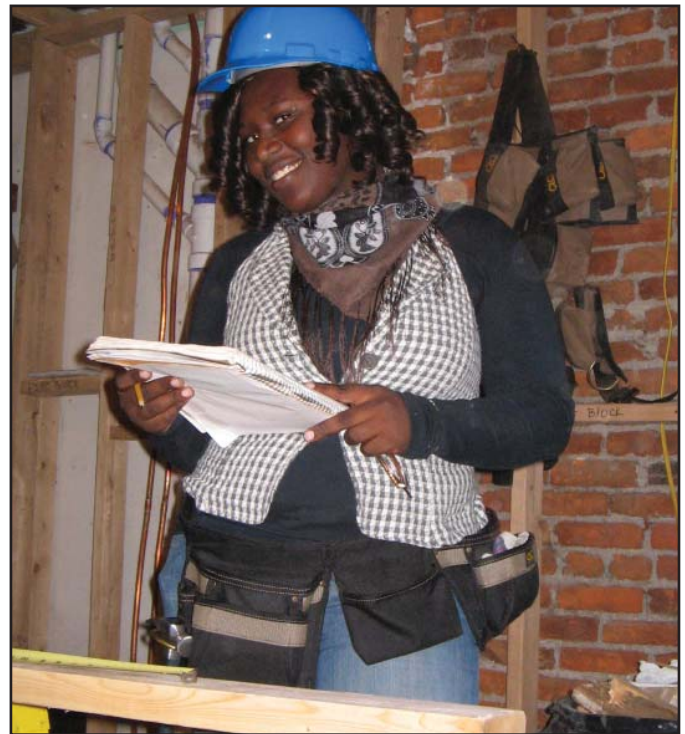
I celebrated my 19th birthday in Guatemala, along with 19 other students and 7 members of the YouthBuild staff. The experience changed the way I look at the world. It made me appreciate the opportunity I've been given to have a free education when there are children with no money who have to pay to go to school.

Now, I'm taking full advantage of that opportunity. My YouthBuild transition services counselor helped me apply to college, get financial aid, and took me on tours of campuses. I'm in my first semester at Community College of Philadelphia, and I plan to go to a four-year school to study veterinary science. I never thought about going to college before YouthBuild, but the staff made me believe it was possible.

Service Learning

Community service is a core program component, as a method for students to reconnect with their communities through direct action. In this year's weekly service learning class, students explored and addressed issues they identified as important to their community, and led service projects connected to class discussions.

As part-time AmeriCorps members, every member of the 2008-2009 graduating class contributed at least 900 hours of community service. Students provided community service while learning hands-on skills in vocational training, and YouthBuild led city-wide service projects in honor of Make a Difference Day, Martin Luther King Day of Service, and Global Youth Service Day.



Student Engagement & Leadership

Student voice is an integral part of the YouthBuild Philadelphia culture, and it contributes directly to the warm, family atmosphere. The 20 members of this year's Youth Congress led student assemblies, represented fellow classmates at local and national events, and met with the Executive Director to discuss school policies.

The climate of YouthBuild Philadelphia encourages student participation in extracurricular activities, clubs, and leadership groups. This year, 12 students acted as Peer Mediators to help resolve student conflicts and build meaningful peer-to-peer connections.



Attendance & Retention

The multi-layered support system at YouthBuild Philadelphia ensures that every student can stay on track to graduate with the help of at least two positive adult role models. Staff members call students regularly and hold progress meetings to make sure that students are maintaining high academic and attendance standards. This year, the average attendance of all students was 82 percent.

The 2008-09 school year:

- 77% of enrollees completed the program
- 84% of retained students earned a high school diploma



Transition & Placement

In the 2008-2009 school year, YouthBuild's Transition Services team formally partnered with over 25 employers and 17 post-secondary institutions to provide students with opportunities in continuing education, employment, and life pursuits.

Class of 2009 Highlights

- 33 students took the SATs
- 95 students completed other post-secondary assessment tests
- 119 students submitted college applications
- 47 students completed internships

Class of 2009 Graduate Placement

- Post-Secondary Education: 45%
- Employment: 35%
- Service Program: 2%

Graduate Services

The Transition team continues to support alumni as they pursue post-secondary credentials and meaningful employment. This year, two dedicated, full-time staff members worked with employers and education partners to establish career opportunities and post-secondary support to graduates.

Philadelphia Mayor Michael A. Nutter Joins the YouthBuild Family

On September 5, 2008, Philadelphia Mayor Michael Nutter joined YouthBuild Philadelphia Charter School to formally welcome 218 new students to the program in a special ceremony at the Doubletree Hotel.

YouthBuild USA President and Founder Dorothy Stoneman kicked off the ceremony by informing the students of their official acceptance, and Mayor Nutter was the keynote speaker at the event. 2008 graduate Joshua "Suhayl" Ward also addressed the crowd, explaining his transformation from a life of drug dealing to eventual rehabilitation and amazing success at YouthBuild. "Ultimately, YouthBuild saved my life," said Ward.



"There isn't a person in this room, including me, who hasn't needed a second chance at some point in life; some people dropped out, you decided to drop back in," Mayor Nutter said. "Wherever there are young people trying to get themselves together, that's where I belong and that's where I'm going to be."

He followed through on this pledge by delivering an inspiring keynote address at the YouthBuild Philadelphia commencement ceremony on August 28, 2009. Over 1200 family members and friends of graduates joined YouthBuild staff and partners at the Pennsylvania Convention Center to celebrate the special occasion with the Class of 2009.



Make a Difference Day

Students and staff worked together to give back to multiple communities across the city on October 24, 2008 in honor of the nation's 18th annual Make a Difference Day. The national celebration of neighbors helping neighbors is part of YouthBuild's legacy - adopting areas of the city in an effort to reconnect youth to their communities through active service. This year's projects included cleaning vacant lots and streets in North Philadelphia, revitalizing Lewis Elkins Elementary School in partnership with City Year of Philadelphia, and renovating Enon Baptist Church in Northwest Philadelphia.



National Healthcare Initiative

YouthBuild Philadelphia's successful healthcare training track has inspired other YouthBuild programs to offer this alternative vocational training to students. This year, YouthBuild Philadelphia published a manual for YouthBuild programs across the country to launch or refine their healthcare training and exploration tracks.



Over the last three years, dozens of YouthBuild Philadelphia students have earned Nurse Aide certifications and provided hundreds of hours of nursing care in our community.



Martin Luther King Day of Service

YouthBuild Philadelphia students honored the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. during the Greater Philadelphia MLK Day of Service on January 19, 2009. Students and staff led 150 community volunteers in the day's signature project - the construction of a green playground structure and picnic tables, using recycled materials and lumber from sustainable woodlands.

YouthBuild also joined volunteers from fellow programs housed in the Philadelphia OIC Building to clean and paint 20,000 sq.ft. of the RHD Ridge Avenue Shelter. In the West Oak Lane area of Philadelphia, we provided weatherization services for low-income, elderly homeowners. Lastly, we designed and supervised the painting of a mural to commemorate MLK Day 2009.

Spring Break in Guatemala

Twenty YouthBuild students and seven staff traveled to Guatemala for YouthBuild Philadelphia's first international service trip during the week of April 1-8, 2009. The group volunteered services through a partnership with San Lucas Toliman Mission, building homes and potable water systems.

The students and staff members worked alongside villagers and joined community activities to immerse in the local culture. The experience exposed students - most of whom had never traveled outside of Philadelphia - to the extreme levels of poverty in a developing nation, and it allowed them to contribute their skills to a community in need.



Green Building in the Nation's Capitol

YouthBuild Philadelphia led a "green" home building initiative at the National Mall in Washington, D.C. in celebration of YouthBuild USA's 30th anniversary on March 17, 2009. Roughly 20 students and instructors joined more than 100 other young leaders from YouthBuild programs across the country and public officials, to frame the walls of an energy-efficient, affordable home for a low-income family in Brownsville, Texas. First Lady Michelle Obama addressed the crowd, commending the students on their commitment to green initiatives and community service.

Students also learned about green collar jobs, energy responsibility and environmental awareness at the event. YouthBuild Philadelphia incorporates many green practices into our rehabilitation projects, such as the use of Energy Star Appliances, high efficiency heating systems, and energy efficient insulation and windows. The project exposed students to new green techniques and enhanced our stake in green initiatives in the Philadelphia community.

Global Youth Service Day



In honor of Global Youth Service Day, YouthBuild Philadelphia launched the full-gut rehabilitation of a home in the Nicetown area of Philadelphia in partnership with Nicetown Community Development Corporation (CDC). Students and staff began the demolition phase of the severely damaged property that YouthBuild's Class of 2010 will transform into a fully "green" and energy-efficient home.

Students and staff also led other exciting projects across the city of Philadelphia to celebrate the national day of service, including domestic abuse awareness and anti-violence advocacy in North Philadelphia, Kensington, and Germantown; mural painting for Winchester Recreation Center; repairing a garden near MLK High school in partnership with Keep America Beautiful; and serving a lunch in honor of the Holocaust Museum in Northeast Philadelphia in partnership with the Jewish Community Center.

Funding and Donors [2008-2009]

Public Sources

AmeriCorps National
(via YouthBuild USA)
AmeriCorps VISTA
(via YouthBuild USA)
E-Rate (via FCC - Universal Service
Administrative Co. Schools
and Libraries Program)
IDA Student Savings Plans
(via YouthBuild USA)
Pennsylvania Department of Education
U.S. Department of Housing
and Urban Development
Office of Housing and Community Development
City of Philadelphia School District
Philadelphia Youth Network
AmeriCorps State Direct via PennSERVE
U.S. Department of Labor
(via YouthBuild USA)
United Way of Southeastern Pennsylvania

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A.J.D. Construction Co., Inc.*
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Trust and Foundation Support

Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
(via YouthBuild USA)
Chestnut Hill Friends - College Scholarships
Charles Stewart Mott Foundation
(via YouthBuild USA)
Children Can Shape the Future
Claneil Foundation, Inc.
St. Martin's Parish - Life Coach Program
The Lenfest Foundation
The Saturday Club
The Target Foundation - Field Trip Program
The Wal-Mart Foundation
(via YouthBuild USA)

**In memory of John B. Rosenthal*

Individuals

[\$2,500+]
Martin Brigham and Harriet Rubenstein
Alma Kristina Rodriguez

[\$1,000+]
Ravi Acharya (United Way gift)
Regina Austin
Amy J. Dorfmeister (United Way gift)
James and Pamela Hill
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[\$1-\$99]
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Kathy and Steve Cerami
Yohann D'Oliveira (United Way gift)
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Gilbert Stein*
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James M. and Susan M. Wolfe
Eugene and Diane Zavacki

Financial Information [2008-2009]

Financial Statement - July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009

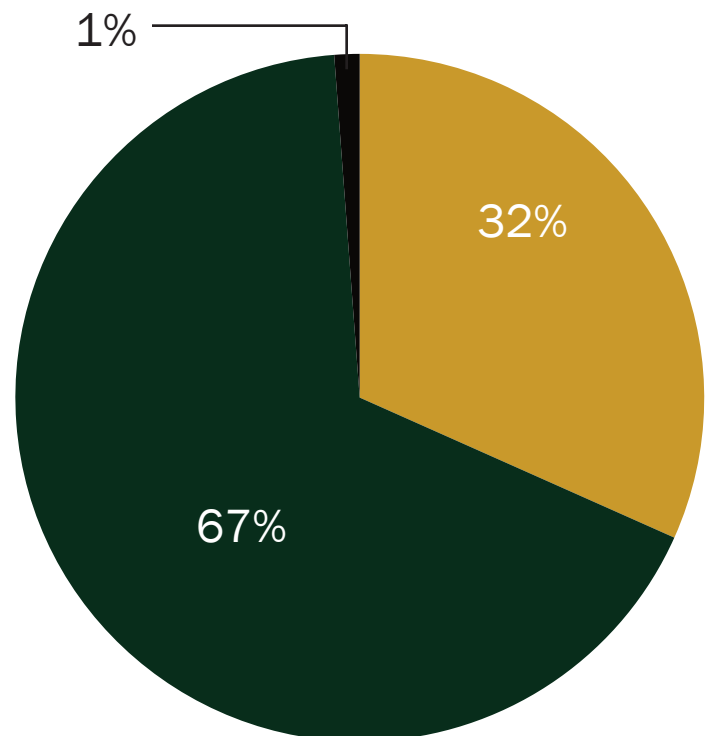
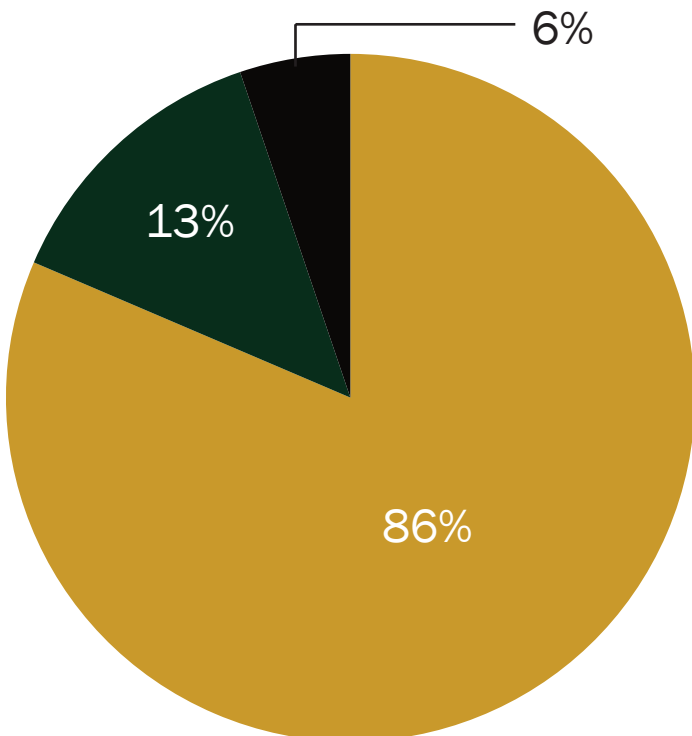
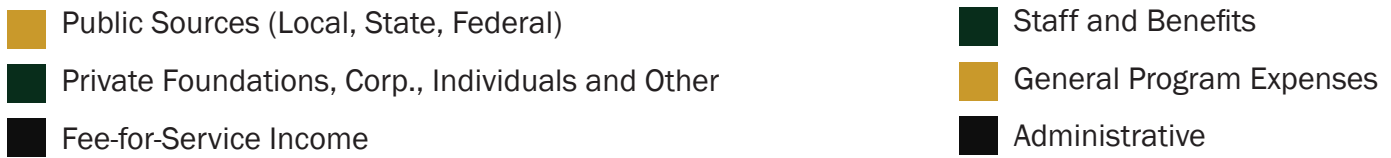
Supports and Revenues

| | |
|--|-------------|
| Public Sources (Local, State, Federal) | \$3,474,489 |
| Private Foundations, Corporations, Individuals and Other | \$570,571 |
| Fee-for-Service Income | \$221,357 |
| <hr/> | |
| Total Supports and Revenues | \$4,266,417 |

Expenditures

| | |
|--------------------------|-------------|
| General Program Expenses | \$1,385,583 |
| Staff and Benefits | \$2,936,778 |
| Administrative | \$51,969 |
| <hr/> | |
| Total Expenditures | \$4,374,330 |

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------|
| Excess of Revenues under Expenditures | \$107,913 |
| Fund Balance/Net Assets (Beginning) | \$1,001,875 |
| Net Assets (End of Year) | \$893,962 |



Employment and Internship Partners

Aker Philadelphia Shipyard
Boys and Girls Club
Cicada Architecture
Goldsmith Kahn Associates
Leahy Caregivers
Lutheran Family Service
Mercy Hospital of Philadelphia
Mercy LIFE
PA Careerlink
Philadelphia Job Corps Center
Southco, Inc.
St. Ignatius Nursing Home
The Big Picture Company
UPS - United Parcel Service
YMCA

Home Rehabilitation Partners

Ciro Electrical Supply Co.
CM Electrical
Curtis Perry Drywall
Diamond Tool
East River Bank
George F. Kempf Supply Co.
KAJ General Contractor
Kramer Marks Architects
New Deal Lumber
Nicetown Community Development Corporation
Northeast Building Products
Philadelphia Housing Development Corporation
Redevelopment Authority
Resources for Human Development
Roy Sims Plumbing & Heating
S & L Roofing
Universal Community Homes
Universal Rehab
West Supply Center

Post-Secondary Education Partners

Community College of Philadelphia
JNA Institute of Culinary Arts
Lincoln Technical Institute
Orleans Technical Institute
Thaddeus Stevens College of Technology

Program Partners

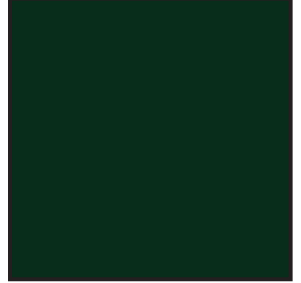
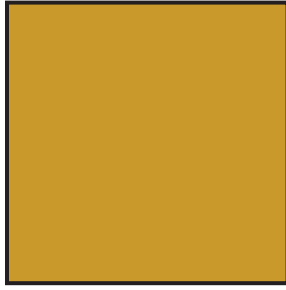
American Reading Company
Bryn Mawr College

Center for Literacy
City of Philadelphia, Office of Mayor Michael Nutter
Deloitte LLP
District 1199 C Training and Upgrade Fund
Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce
Habitat for Humanity
Home Builders Institute
Honickman Learning Center
Jobs for the Future
LEADERSHIP Philadelphia
Leahy Caregivers
LIFT Philadelphia
PA Department of Labor & Industry
Philadelphia Developmental Disabilities Corporation
Philadelphia OIC, Inc.
Philadelphia Reads
Philadelphia Youth Network
Project H.O.M.E.
American Red Cross of Southeastern PA
Smith & Solomon
Solutions for Progress
Tamman Technologies
The Campaign for Working Families
The PA Prison Society
University Community Collaborative of Philadelphia
Young Legends
YouthBuild USA

Service Partners

Awbury Arboretum
CHOICE
City Year of Greater Philadelphia
Digital Service Fellows
Every Murder is Real
Girls Exploring Tomorrow's Technology
Global Citizen
Keep Philadelphia Beautiful
Kensington Area Neighborhood Advisory Committee
Mothers in Charge
Mural Arts Program
PennSERVE
Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts
Philadelphia Committee to End Homelessness/
SafeHome Philadelphia
San Lucas Toliman Mission
The Arc
The Salvation Army





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YouthBuild
CHARTER SCHOOL

Rebuilding Lives and Communities Since 1992

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