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\$64,860 Grant from the Walmart Foundation Helps YouthBuild Philadelphia Charter School Re-engage Out-of-School Youth
Grant Supports Innovative Healthcare Training Program

Philadelphia, PA – September 8, 2010 – As part of a recent \$2.6 million Walmart Foundation grant to YouthBuild USA, 35 local YouthBuild affiliates are each receiving a \$64,860 to support education and job training for low-income youth while giving participants the opportunity to earn a high school diploma or GED. [YouthBuild Philadelphia Charter School](#) will use its grant to support its Healthcare Training Program that provides select students with the chance to become certified nurse aides through industry recognized training.

YouthBuild Philadelphia launched its [Healthcare Training Program](#) in 2005 in response to student interest and local labor market demand in the healthcare industry. The success of the program inspired the national expansion of this alternative vocational training to other YouthBuild programs. This grant will allow YouthBuild Philadelphia to continue to develop and expand the model for hundreds of YouthBuild programs to launch or refine their healthcare training.

“We are pleased to be able to support YouthBuild Philadelphia Charter School and the organization’s work in training YouthBuild students to enter careers in the healthcare industry and provide valuable community service in long-term care facilities,” said Steven Restivo, Walmart Director of Community Affairs.

Forty YouthBuild students will be selected to participate in the Healthcare Training Program during the 2010-11 school year. They will provide hundreds of hours of nursing care through internships at local long-term care facilities, and they will receive training and certification through a partnership with [Leahy Caregivers](#).

“The generous support from Walmart allows us to offer training in a field with immediate employment opportunities for our young people,” said Simran Sidhu, Executive Director of YouthBuild Philadelphia Charter School. “We are also creating a model for innovation in vocational training programs that can be replicated to benefit thousands of out-of-school youth across the country.”

“The healthcare training program at YouthBuild gave me the chance to help other people,” says Ayesha Hayes, 2010 graduate of YouthBuild Philadelphia. “I learned lifelong skills - like how to have patience and care for others - and those skills will open up more opportunities for me. I’m a better member of my family and community thanks to this program.”

Nationally, the Walmart grant to YouthBuild USA will also help train 2,000 young people in green building skills and result in the construction of 170 sustainable housing units in California, Connecticut, Georgia, Illinois, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, New Jersey, New York, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Texas, Virginia, Vermont, Wisconsin, West Virginia, and Washington, D.C.

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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 productive citizens. YouthBuild Philadelphia is an innovative alternative education program that blends a rigorous academic curriculum on-the-job training through community service.

Students at YouthBuild Philadelphia earn their high school diplomas and make successful transitions to full-time jobs and post-secondary educational programs. For more information, visit www.youthbuildphilly.org.

YouthBuild General Information

YouthBuild is a youth and community development program that simultaneously addresses core issues facing low-income communities--housing, education, employment, crime prevention, and leadership development. In YouthBuild programs, low-income young people ages 16-24 work full-time for 6 to 24 months toward their GEDs or high school diplomas while learning job skills by building affordable, increasingly green, housing for homeless and low-income people and participating in leadership development activities in their communities.

YouthBuild programs are sponsored by local community- and faith-based organizations and public entities that raise funds from a variety of sources, with the primary federal funds administered by the U.S. Department of Labor. There are now 273 YouthBuild programs in 45 states, Washington, DC, and the Virgin Islands. 92,000 YouthBuild students have built 19,000 units of affordable, increasing green, housing since 1994.

About YouthBuild USA

YouthBuild USA orchestrates advocacy for public funding, guidance and quality assurance in program implementation, leadership opportunities for youth and staff, research to understand best practices, and targeted grants to YouthBuild affiliates. YouthBuild USA received the international Skoll Award for social entrepreneurship and has been named as one of America's 12 best non-profits in the book "Forces for Good." For more information, visit www.youthbuild.org.

About Philanthropy at Walmart

Walmart and the Walmart Foundation are proud to support the charitable causes that are important to customers and associates in their own neighborhoods. The Walmart Foundation funds initiatives focused on education, workforce development, economic opportunity, environmental sustainability, and health and wellness. From Feb. 1, 2009 through Jan. 31, 2010, Walmart and the Walmart Foundation gave more than \$512 million in cash and in-kind gifts globally, \$467 million of which was donated in the U.S. To learn more, visit www.walmartfoundation.org.