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**YOUNG LEADERS FROM PHILADELPHIA JOIN OTHER LOW-INCOME YOUTH IN WASHINGTON, D.C. TO SUPPORT LIFE-CHANGING PROGRAM**

Philadelphia, Feb. 28, 2007 – YouthBuild Philadelphia Charter School program participants Claire Angelone and Domonique Williams will join other low-income young leaders from across the country on Capitol Hill on Tuesday, March 6, to encourage legislators to support YouthBuild, a comprehensive community development, job training, and educational program for low-income youth.

Angelone and Williams will join more than 100 young people as they meet with over 100 legislators and staff to share their experiences as YouthBuild students and emphasize the need for the expansion of YouthBuild programs, nationally.

YouthBuild Philadelphia is one of 226 programs in the U.S. Within variations of the YouthBuild model, unemployed and undereducated young people ages 16 to 24 work toward a GED or high school diploma while building or refurbishing affordable housing. In the past fifteen years, 68,000 YouthBuild participants have produced 16,000 units of affordable housing.

While at YouthBuild Philadelphia, former high school dropouts ages 18 to 21 earn high school diplomas while learning vocational skills in construction, technology or nursing. Since the program's inception in 1992, YouthBuild Philadelphia students have: constructed more than 60 houses for low-income families; refurbished more than 1300 computers (which are donate to community organizations); provided hundreds of hours of care to individuals in long-term care facilities; and, provided thousands of hours of community service, annually.

“I am excited to help bring about positive change,” says Angelone. “High school dropouts are sometimes looked down upon. This trip is a chance to show the country’s leaders that we’re smart and that given the chance, we can go to college and accomplish great things.”

“Attending Capitol Hill Day is a privilege and an honor,” says Williams. “It allows me to let others know what a blessing YouthBuild is for young people. I am proud to represent my peers and have a voice, nationally.”

“We are so pleased to have Claire and Domonique represent our program in Washington, D.C.,” says Katie Siegmund, YouthBuild Philadelphia’s leadership coordinator. “They are wonderful role models for other young people, and they prove that youth can make a difference in the lives of others.”

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**YouthBuild Philadelphia Charter School** is a not-for-profit organization that provides out-of-school youth in Philadelphia the broadest range of tools, supports and opportunities available to become self-sufficient, responsible and productive citizens. YouthBuild Philadelphia offers an innovative 10-month program, which blends a rigorous academic curriculum with valuable community service experience and on-the-job training in construction, technology or nursing.

Students at YouthBuild Philadelphia can earn their high school diplomas and make successful transitions to full-time jobs, post-secondary educations, or further service with AmeriCorps. For more information, visit [www.youthbuildphilly.org](http://www.youthbuildphilly.org).