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**TWO HUNDRED YOUTHBUILD STUDENTS TO
CLEAN UP COMMUNITIES FOR MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY**

Volunteer Service Activities Planned for Largest Service Day in Nation

Philadelphia, Oct. 20, 2006 – More than 200 students from YouthBuild Philadelphia Charter School will stabilize and beautify two neighborhoods from 9 to 11 a.m. on October 27, in observance of the nation's 16th annual Make A Difference Day. Make A Difference Day is the largest community service effort in the country -- a celebration of neighbors helping neighbors.

In partnership with Allegheny West Foundation, a group of students will erect fences (funded by Allegheny West) in front of as many as ten unused lots in the area between 22nd and 24th Streets, and between West Lehigh Ave. and West Indiana Ave.

In partnership with Nicetown Community Development Corporation (CDC), a second group of students will spruce up Nicetown Park (18th St. and Germantown Ave. and Cayuga St.). Specific activities include trash pickup, reseeding, planting, repairing a bricked area near the park's entrance, and removing graffiti on playground equipment. Students will also paint a mural to commemorate the day. The mural will be permanently housed in Edward T. Steel Elementary School.

Additional partners for the park project include the Philadelphia Recreation Department, which will supply the trash pickup materials and bottled water for the students, and the Philadelphia Green Program (Pennsylvania Horticultural Society), which will provide graffiti removal solution, grass seed, hay, plant materials and additional tools.

In an effort to reconnect with their communities, YouthBuild Philadelphia students (all former high school dropouts) engage in a number of service projects throughout the year. The October community service project is part of YouthBuild's legacy – adopting areas of the city in an effort to transform young people's lives, while revitalizing neighborhoods.

“Our students and the neighborhoods served will be inspired to see the tangible, positive changes youth can make in their community,” said Lark Rambo, Coordinator of the Make A Difference Day project.

For more information, contact Amy Kapp at (215) 627-8671x39 or akapp@youthbuildphilly.org. Questions on the morning of October 27 should be directed to (703) 946-0041.

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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.