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YouthBuild Students to Revitalize Communities for Make A Difference Day

Former Out-of-School Youth Unite to Honor Nation's Largest Day of Helping Others

- WHO:** More than 200 students/staff from YouthBuild Philadelphia Charter School
- WHAT:** YouthBuild Philadelphia students and staff will serve four northern communities in Philadelphia on October 24, 2008 in honor of the nation's 18th annual Make A Difference Day. Make A Difference Day is a national celebration of neighbors helping neighbors, with millions of people participating in thousands of projects each year.
- WHEN:** Friday, Oct. 24, 2008 – Best visuals between 9:45 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.
- WHERE:** Location 1 – North 4th Street & West Somerset Street:

In partnership with Keep Philadelphia Beautiful, HACE, Weed and Seed and the Mural Arts Program, YouthBuild will clear trash and debris and paint a fence and walls in the vacant lots around Julia De Burgos Elementary School. The purpose is to prepare the lot for a mural project that will take place throughout the winter months with the Semilla Arts Initiative.

Location 2 – Enon Baptist Church (8001 Michener Ave.)

As part of YouthBuild's construction training program, students are renovating the administrative offices of Enon Baptist Church during the school year. On Friday, YouthBuild will engage in construction activities at the site including demolition, framing and electrical work.

Location 3 – Police Athletic League (PAL) (Lewis Elkins Elementary School – East Allegheny Avenue & D Street)

In partnership with City Year and FAP (a software company that is sponsoring the youth center revitalization project), YouthBuild will paint the walls, floors, locker rooms and basketball backboards in the gym of the PAL Center, located at Lewis Elkin Elementary School.

Location 4 – Kensington Area (Frankford Avenue between Silver and Sterner streets; Emerald Street & East Lehigh Avenue; Lot on Jasper Street & Birch Street)

In partnership with the Kensington Area Neighborhood Advisory Committee (KANAC), YouthBuild will clear trash and debris in areas around Lehigh and Frankford avenues. The Health Partners Foundation will sponsor a lunch for the group following the morning activities.

WHY:

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.

YouthBuild Philadelphia students are former high school dropouts aged 18 to 21 who have returned to school (sometimes after years of absence from the classroom) in order to earn their diplomas and build better futures. Each student completes 900 hours of community service as a part-time member of AmeriCorps by the time he or she graduates.

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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 program, which blends a rigorous academic curriculum with 900 hours of community service 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.