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**Students Will Shelter and Connect Those in Need
During the 13th Annual MLK Day of Service**

Philadelphia, Jan. 17, 2008 – Upwards of 200 students and staff of YouthBuild Philadelphia Charter School will join 60,000 volunteers throughout Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Delaware on Monday, Jan. 21, 2008 for the 13th Annual Martin Luther King Day of Service.

At several homes in Philadelphia (8 a.m. to 2 p.m.), YouthBuild’s construction program will provide free home improvement services to victims of a fraudulent contracting program. For the Stewart/Parsons home at 672 N. Preston St., a small team of construction instructors and students will open a doorway between the first-floor bathroom and kitchen, install a new kitchen floor, and repair a kitchen sink. For the Wilkerson/Graham home at 2714 West Cabot St., instructors and students will install a new front door, repair the drywall on the kitchen ceiling, and remove a dilapidated shed kitchen and other debris in the back yard of the property.

YouthBuild’s housing outreach project was made possible in part by Robert P. Cocco, Esquire, legal representative for the homeowners.

“Robert Cocco has been a great community partner so I applaud him for, once again, providing home improvement services to people who truly need it,” state Senator Shirley M. Kitchen said. “I’m also proud that so many members of YouthBuild are living Dr. King’s dream by helping others. They are setting a great example for their peers and all of us.” Sen. Kitchen represents the Third Senatorial District in Philadelphia.

“MLK Day is an important day for our school,” said Don Pinkney, director of construction for YouthBuild. “It is an opportunity for our students to connect with their community while helping people in need. In this case, anything dealing with safety and health was our priority, and we are concentrating on taking care of those needs during MLK Day.”

“We are so excited about this support for our family,” said Angela Burton, daughter of homeowner Joana Stewart and resident at the Preston Street home. “The work that is being done will permit my father, who is disabled, to be able to move in and out of the rooms. This is something he hasn’t been able to do in years because of the problems we’ve had with our home.”

At Philadelphia's signature site at Germantown High School, 40 E. High Street (9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.), YouthBuild students will refurbish and install Wireless access on desktops provided by Wireless Philadelphia.

Also at Germantown High School, YouthBuild students will construct three park benches that will be installed in Nicetown Park in the spring.

YouthBuild is dedicated to helping out-of-school youth rebuild their lives and escape the cycle of urban poverty. In the past fourteen years, the school has: graduated more than 1,200 students, rehabilitated more than 65 houses for low-income homebuyers, refurbished more than 2,000 computers to donate to organizations and schools, and provided thousands of other community service hours each year.

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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 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.