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**YOUTHBUILD PHILADELPHIA CHARTER SCHOOL
MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY OF SERVICE PROJECTS**

Philadelphia, Jan. 10, 2007 – More than 230 YouthBuild Philadelphia Charter School students and staff will join tens of thousands of volunteers throughout Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Delaware on Monday, Jan. 15, 2007 for the 12th Annual Martin Luther King Day of Service. YouthBuild will engage in seven projects, most of which will take place at Martin Luther King High School (6100 Stenton Ave.) – the location for Philadelphia’s signature Day of Service event – from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Since 1996, the Greater Philadelphia Martin Luther King Day of Service has been the largest event in the nation honoring Dr. King. Martin Luther King Day is one of many days throughout the year when YouthBuild students and staff exercise their commitment to community participation.

YouthBuild projects at Martin Luther King High School:

Laptop Refurbishing/Training

Twenty-five students in YouthBuild’s technology program will train a pre-designated group of community members (low-income) in introductory computer skills on laptops refurbished by YouthBuild. Each trainee will receive a refurbished laptop at the end of the training. The laptops for this project were donated by Wyeth, a world class pharmaceutical company.

Disaster Preparedness Training & “Go Kits”

Twenty students in YouthBuild’s nursing program and two full-time YouthBuild AmeriCorps volunteers will participate in a one hour “train the trainer” program on disaster preparedness. Each of the participants will receive a preparedness “Go Kit,” 2,000 of which will be assembled during the MLK Day of Service (the signature project at MLK High School).

Play House Construction

Seventeen YouthBuild construction students, seven staff members and 10 community

leaders will join together to construct two playhouses that will be donated to local community centers.

Anti-violence Panel

Four YouthBuild “Peer Mediators” and the director of case management will participate in a panel discussion about violence in Philadelphia.

Other projects in Philadelphia:

Mural Painting (Charter School Facility, 1231 North Broad St.)

Thirty YouthBuild students and four staff members will paint murals that will be permanently housed at Nicetown Community Development Corporation (CDC) and the YouthBuild technology facility.

Interior Painting (Nicetown CDC, 4414 Germantown Ave.)

Thirty YouthBuild students and staff will join five Nicetown volunteers and 10+ volunteers from DMi Partners – a Philadelphia marketing and e-commerce management firm – to paint the entire two-story interior of the Nicetown CDC.

Interior Painting (Community Concern #13 Daycare, 2721 Cecil B. Moore Ave.)

Sixty-plus YouthBuild students and staff will paint the entire interior of the Community Concern Daycare Center.

For more information about YouthBuild Philadelphia Charter School’s community service programming, contact Lark Rambo, AmeriCorps Coordinator, at (215) 627-8671x22 or lrambo@youthbuildphilly.org.

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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.