



American Red Cross

Southeastern Pennsylvania Chapter  
23<sup>rd</sup> and Chestnut Sts.  
Philadelphia, PA 19103

## NEWS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Red Cross Graduates 17 Nurse Aides for YouthBuild**

In a dramatic success story about Philadelphians conquering the odds, the American Red Cross Southeastern Pennsylvania Chapter tomorrow will graduate the first 17 certified nurse assistants resulting from its partnership with the YouthBuild Philadelphia Charter School.

YouthBuild Philadelphia is a unique 10-month program to help young men and women earn a high school diploma and, at the same time, develop vital job skills. Students who have dropped out of school can return and get their diplomas while performing community service.

“This is the first class of nurse aides Red Cross has trained through YouthBuild Philadelphia. Our program to train and certify nurse assistants fits perfectly with YouthBuild’s emphasis on helping people help themselves. We look forward to a long and productive partnership to benefit people who are working hard to improve their lives,” said Tom Foley, CEO of the Red Cross SEPA Chapter.

Foley will address the new nurse aides at a graduation ceremony from 9 a.m. to noon tomorrow, Wednesday, March 15, 2006, and will hand out certificates for completing the training. The graduation ceremony will be held at the Red Cross Building at 23<sup>rd</sup> & Chestnut streets, Philadelphia.

Only 10 percent of this year’s YouthBuild Philadelphia Charter School class of 200 students received the six-week nurse aide training. When they graduate from YouthBuild Philadelphia in June, the students will have both a high school diploma and nurse assistant certification with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, two important keys to unlock job opportunities.

Training certified nurse assistants is a core Red Cross program. Since the program began in 1998, the SEPA Chapter has trained 1,571 nurse aides.

YouthBuild Philadelphia began in 1992 with 28 students, and has grown into one of the most successful such programs in the country. Operated by the Philadelphia School District, YouthBuild provides out-of-school youth with the broadest range of tools, supports and opportunities to become self-sufficient, responsible and productive citizens.