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**YOUTHBUILD USA FOUNDER WINS PRESTIGIOUS \$1 MILLION INTERNATIONAL  
AWARD FOR MOBILIZING LOW-INCOME YOUTH TO REBUILD COMMUNITIES**

**YouthBuild Philadelphia is Proud to be a Part of the National YouthBuild Network**

Philadelphia, March 14, 2007 – Dorothy Stoneman, president and founder of YouthBuild USA, is a winner of the prestigious 2007 Skoll Awards for Social Entrepreneurship, which honor and provide support for the world's most promising social entrepreneurs whose organizations have the potential to resolve critical social issues through innovative and effective approaches. YouthBuild USA will receive \$1 million as part of the international award.

YouthBuild USA is one of ten recipients of the Skoll Awards. Stoneman and YouthBuild USA join a prestigious group of entrepreneurs working around the world on issues such as tolerance and human rights, health, environmental sustainability, economic and social equity, peace and security, and institutional responsibility. The Skoll Foundation is awarding more than \$10 million to the ten winners, three of whom are based in the United States.

YouthBuild USA is a national non-profit that supports hundreds of community-based organizations, including YouthBuild Philadelphia Charter School, to engage low-income high school dropouts in rebuilding their lives as they rebuild communities.

At YouthBuild Philadelphia, out-of-school youth ages 18 to 20 work toward high school diplomas while rehabilitating low-income housing, refurbishing technology, and providing care for residents in long-term care facilities. Today, YouthBuild Philadelphia is one of 226 YouthBuild programs across the nation engaging approximately 8,000 young adults each year in the poorest urban, rural, and tribal communities.

YouthBuild empowers young adults to transform their lives and their communities. According to a 2004 Brandeis University study of 900 YouthBuild graduates:

- 75 percent went on to college or jobs earning more than \$10 an hour;
- The recidivism rate for young offenders was less than 15 percent, compared to 67 percent nationally;
- 70 percent registered to vote and nearly half have voted; and,
- 65 percent said they expected to live longer because of YouthBuild – an average of 32 years longer.

YouthBuild USA plans to use the Skoll Award prize to raise public awareness about the potential of low-income youth and to build political support at federal and state levels to reconnect all youth.

“Dorothy Stoneman is a tremendous addition to the community of Skoll entrepreneurs and someone who has demonstrated those key characteristics of a successful social entrepreneur: inspiration, creativity, direct action, courage, and fortitude,” said Sally Osberg, president of the Skoll Foundation. “Like all the organizations in our portfolio, YouthBuild USA is tackling a complex social problem with a sustainable, scalable solution.”

“I hope that this award brings to attention the uniqueness of the YouthBuild model,” said YouthBuild Philadelphia Executive Director Simran Sidhu. “YouthBuild is not just an education program; it taps into young people’s creativity and enhances their ability to contribute to the social development of their communities. As one of the leading YouthBuild programs, we are proud and honored to be part of the network.”

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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](http://www.youthbuildphilly.org).

**YouthBuild USA** is a youth and community development program that addresses core issues facing low-income communities: housing, education, employment, crime prevention and leadership development. In YouthBuild programs, low-income young people ages 16 to 24 work toward their GED or high school diploma while learning job skills by building affordable housing for homeless and low-income people and participating in leadership development activities in their communities. For more information, visit [www.youthbuild.org](http://www.youthbuild.org).