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**YouthBuild Philadelphia to Lead Green Home Building Initiative  
on National Mall for YouthBuild USA's 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

***Students Will Put Local Green Building Practices to Use in Nation's Capital***

PHILADELPHIA, March 2009 – YouthBuild Philadelphia Charter School will lead a “green” home building initiative on March 17, 2009, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. in celebration of YouthBuild USA's 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Roughly 20 YouthBuild Philadelphia construction students and instructors will join more than 100 other young leaders from YouthBuild programs across the country, in addition to public officials and community leaders, to frame the walls of an energy-efficient, affordable home for a low-income family in Brownsville, Texas. The participants will raise the walls of the house during the afternoon, after which the frame will be sent to Brownsville for completion.

While in the District, students will engage in different activities focused on green building, including green collar jobs, green schools, energy responsibility and environmental awareness. Some of the students will also have the opportunity to meet with members of Congress and share their experiences in the program.

YouthBuild Philadelphia students—all of which are low-income, former out-of-school youth between the ages of 18 and 21—work toward their high school diplomas while training in construction, technology or nursing, and providing 900 hours of community service (each), per year. YouthBuild Philadelphia's construction students receive hands-on skills training by rehabilitating affordable housing for low-income families.

YouthBuild Philadelphia incorporates many green practices into its rehabilitation projects, such as the installation of Energy Star Appliances and high efficiency heating systems, and the use of energy efficient insulation and windows. On Jan. 19, 2009 during the Martin Luther King Day of Service, YouthBuild Philadelphia led 150 volunteers in the construction of a green playground and picnic tables—using recycled materials and lumber from sustainable woodlands—for Winchester Recreation Center.

The March green building project will help to expose YouthBuild students to new green techniques and enhance YouthBuild's stake in green initiatives in the Philadelphia community. Instructors and students will learn the process to fully integrate green adaptations to the homes that YouthBuild Philadelphia rehabilitates each year. The school has identified one house rehabilitation project for the 2009-2010 program year, for which the students will incorporate all green building techniques.

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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 one-year program, which blends a rigorous diploma-based 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 and post-secondary educational programs. For more information, visit [www.youthbuildphilly.org](http://www.youthbuildphilly.org).