

2009 Annual Report



Building **Greener** Communities.
Transforming Lives.

www.youthbuildlakecounty.org



Our Mission

To help low-income young adults complete their education, learn the necessary skills to become gainfully employed, and build a hopeful future for themselves and their families.

YouthBuild Lake County Basics

YouthBuild Lake County is a non-profit agency that gives low-income young adults (ages 17-24) the opportunity to dramatically change their lives through education and job training. Following the lead of YouthBuild USA founded in 1978 in East Harlem, YouthBuild Lake County was incorporated in 2003 to provide education, and job training and placement help to youth with the greatest need in Lake County. Through the comprehensive ten month program YBLC trainees can:

- Earn their GED and acquire computer skills in our computer lab by taking classes taught by instructors from the College of Lake County (CLC)
- Learn marketable green construction skills by building affordable homes in Lake County
- Earn a Home Builder's Institute certification
- Build a more hopeful future through counseling, life skills and job readiness training
- Earn scholarships through community service
- Secure employment or enter college

YouthBuild Lake County is now GREEN!

We've added a new color to our core program ~ GREEN. In May 2009 YBLC broke ground on its first Green Home Construction Project. The new energy-efficient Green home is North Chicago's first, and only one of several scheduled for completion in the next few years. Thanks to competitive Green construction grants and the tireless dedication of our new Green Building Team partners, the class of 2009-2010 will be the first to receive on-the-job training and experience in Green building methods.

The YouthBuild Program continues to evolve and thrive thanks to the generous dedication of the Board of Directors, Coalition members, donors, staff and volunteers.



3D architectural drawing of the new green home



Site of YBLC's new Green Home

The meaning of green

Green isn't a new word, a new concept, or a new color. But it continues to paint our lives in new ways. Perhaps ancient Feng Shui describes green best: nourishing to health, fresh energy and new beginnings. Considering the many young people that have created new lives for themselves, it's fair to say that in many ways, YouthBuild Lake County has always been Green.

Now the construction projects that build new skills and lives will also be Green.

With leadership from YouthBuild USA, and the participation of over twenty companies, the YBLC Green Building Team was created to instruct, oversee and implement green building practices for trainee construction projects. This meant getting up to speed on the latest building technology. Green partners quickly got on board generously sharing their expertise both on and off the job site to give our trainees first hand experience with new building methods. And North Chicago will soon have its first Green home.

Still, none of this could have happened without the other \$green.

Though energy-efficient homes had been on the YBLC agenda for months, it was funds targeted for green building that put grant money within reach to start the ball rolling. Through the Lake County Planning and Development Dept, YouthBuild Lake County and Habitat for Humanity Lake County received a combined \$250,000 for green home projects that meet requirements for Energy Star and energy-efficient standards.

Green home-building is breathing new life into YBLC trainees. They're excited to be a part of the latest building trends ~ getting experience that will make them more competitive in the job market.

"People, even more than things, have to be restored, renewed, revived, reclaimed, and redeemed; never throw out anyone."

Audrey Hepburn

Elements of Green Building

By next June the vacant lot donated by the City of North Chicago will be filled with YouthBuild Lake County's very first Green Home Building Project.

Designed by Leslie Day of Sutter Day Architects, the 1400 sq. ft. home at 2108 Wallace Avenue is being built using energy-efficient technology and design, and materials with low environmental impact. Insulated Concrete Forms (ICFs) will replace standard block and poured foundations providing effective moisture and temperature control even in the basement. Exterior walls will be erected using pre-constructed Structural Insulated Panels (SIPs). Their modular design makes installation more efficient and delivers optimum heating efficiency. This home will also feature a brick exterior using materials and supervision donated by Esche and Lee Masonry and installed by our trainees.

Following green building practices will result in at least 30% lower heating, cooling, and electrical costs for the low income homeowners lucky enough to move into this 'groundbreaking' home in North Chicago.



YouthBuild students and staff at the Green groundbreaking



Success stories from the 2008-9 YouthBuild Program

Even with the economic challenges of the last twelve months, YouthBuild Lake County accomplished a lot this fiscal year. In June 2009, 24 trainees graduated from the program, and 85% of them were placed in jobs. This is thanks in part to the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) summer employment program which provided funding for youth programs across the country.

23 graduates also received Home Building Institute (HBI) certificates for pre-apprenticeship training in residential construction. And 20 received Model Office Certificates from the College of Lake County for completing a computer skills course.

Together, the trainees spent over 10,000 hours in construction and community service projects earning 23 graduates AmeriCorps scholarships worth \$1250 each. Throughout the year trainees helped paint a school for autistic children, made lunches for the homeless, helped build parks, cleaned up streets in Lake County, attended speaking engagements, provided a panel discussion for a county-wide drop-out summit, and represented YBLC in local parades.



YouthBuild Lake County Graduating Class of 2009

2008-9 Highlights

Groundbreaking on the Green Home

Neither rain nor mud kept a standing room only crowd from attending the Green Home groundbreaking ceremony at North Chicago City Hall on a cold, wet May 13th. You could feel the community within the community as local leaders, YouthBuild Lake County staff, coalition members, trainees, supporters, reporters and friends huddled together to hear about the first Green home ever to be built in North Chicago. Through our Green Building Team, YouthBuild Lake County received committed donations of over \$40,000 to help build this first Green home.



Surrounding the ceremonial shovel L to R: Jon Hirsch* – COO of Krügel Cobbles Inc. and Chairman of the Green Building Committee, Laurel Tustison* - Executive Director of YBLC, Douglas Raul Williams* - Round Lake School Board, Mary Ross Cunningham – Lake County Board of Commissioners, North Chicago Mayor Leon Rockingham, Audrey Nixon and Diane Hewitt – Lake County Board of Commissioners, and Torrance Abrams – 5th Ward Alderman.

* YouthBuild Lake County Board of Directors Member

Summer BBQ

We love the summer barbeque. It gives us a chance to celebrate summer and thank all those who help YBLC throughout the year with their time, their skills and their donations. At this year's event, Representative Eddie Washington announced that YouthBuild Lake County would be receiving funding to start an Employment Opportunity Grant Program funded by the State of Illinois through the efforts of the Illinois Black Legislative Caucus. In addition, YBLC recognized our partners with annual awards.

Five YBLC supporters were recognized this year with awards:

Community Coalition Award to

Deborah Hoem, (Community Liaison for Adult Probation for the Lake County 19th Judicial Circuit) for her help with recruiting trainees, life skills speakers and community partners from day one.

Dr. Chinni Chilamkurti, for her help starting and now overseeing our Wellness Program which provides access to counseling services.

Construction Coalition Award to

Mike Woodrich, (Esche & Lee) for his ongoing commitment to job placement and continuing success in the workplace.

Green Building Award to

Charlie Moberly, (The Original Green Team) for his donations of time materials and know-how to help us go Green.

Golden Hammer Award to

Victor Grzebicki, (Preferred Home Improvement and Builders) for his generous in-kind donations of construction materials for our affordable homes.



Award winners L to R Deborah Hoem, Dr. Chinni Chilamkurti, Alan Esche (accepting for Mike Woodrich), Victor Grzebicki, Charlie Moberly



Representative Eddie Washington announces the EOGP funding

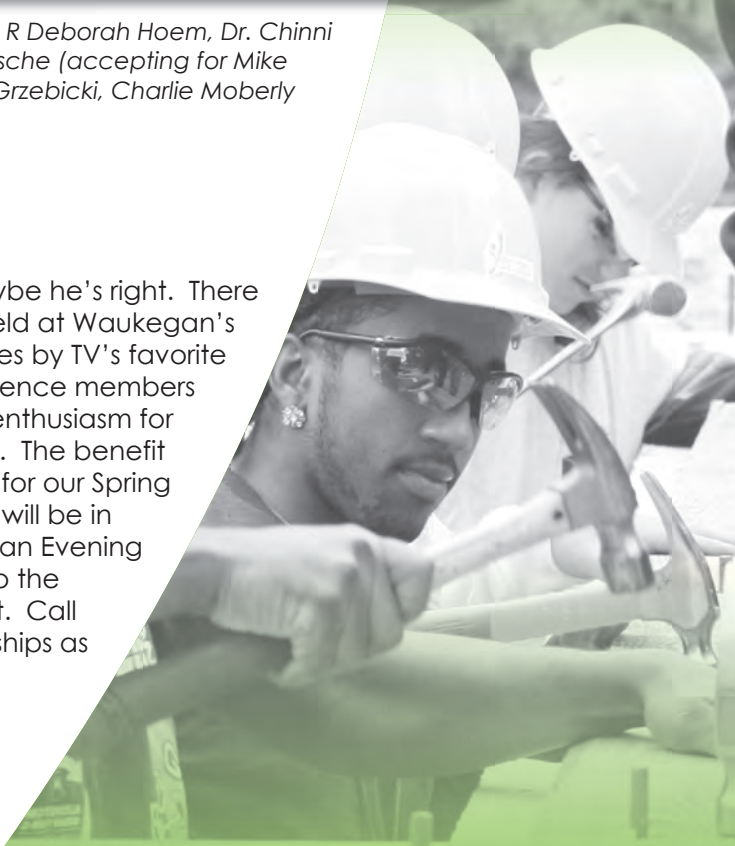
2009 Spring Benefit: An Evening of Comedy

Robin Williams says, "comedy is acting out optimism." Maybe he's right. There were certainly no long faces at this year's Spring Benefit held at Waukegan's beautiful historic Genesee Theater. Maniacal performances by TV's favorite improv kings, Colin Mochrie and Brad Sherwood, had audience members rolling in the aisles, bidding on auction items, and sharing enthusiasm for

the work they were helping to fund. The benefit netted over \$71,000, the most ever for our Spring Benefit. In 2010, the Spring Benefit will be in Chicago on Saturday May 1st with an Evening of Theater that will include tickets to the Tony-award winning play, Billy Elliott. Call now to reserve tickets and sponsorships as it is sure to be a sold-out event.



Colin Mochrie and Brad Sherwood



1st Annual Donor Appreciation Event

Our donors are incredible. They make everything we do possible through their generous, unyielding support. So in November we invited our Platinum, Gold, Silver and Bronze donors to an evening of cocktails and hors d'oeuvres amidst the spectacular private collection of vintage cars at Knauz Auto Park in Lake Bluff, hosted by William and Kim Madden. Though this wonderful evening was over in hours, we continue to be grateful everyday for the support of our donors.

MLK Community Service Day

January 19 marked Martin Luther King Day, and the YouthBuild National Day of Service where trainees follow Dr. King's example of giving back to the community. This year YBLC trainees made lunches for the homeless at P.A.D.S. in Grayslake, and painted the Easter Seals Autism Therapeutic School at the Ann M. Kiley Center in Waukegan. Please let us know if you would like to volunteer with us for our 2010 MLK Community Service Day.



Doug Gourley with Kim and William Madden, hosts of the Donor Appreciation event

Free Wheelin'

This year YBLC was extremely fortunate to receive two vehicle donations. William and Gloria Sinclair donated their Dodge Durango for use by YBLC staff. Its three rows of seats make it ideal for trainee transportation to job sites. In addition, Discover

Financial donated a semi-trailer/moveable stage which will be used as portable event headquarters.



Discover Financial donates trailer



Newly donated vehicle from the Sinclairs

Chicago Flower & Garden Show

Members of this year's YBLC class helped to create one of twenty-five spectacular show gardens for the 2009 Chicago Flower & Garden Show last March. Under the leadership of Jon Hirsch of Krügel Cobbles, Inc., trainees worked closely with

leading landscape professionals to bring their 'Dancing Stones' garden design to life. The experience gave trainees new insights into landscaping employment opportunities and entrepreneurship.



Trainee Victor Hubbard learns the basics of landscape design firsthand as he places stones in the garden.

YouthBuild USA celebrates 30 years of success this March in Washington D.C.

Looking back on 30 years of success, YouthBuild leaders and participants from around the country and around the world have every reason to be proud. Dorothy

Stoneman's vision in 1978 fueled a movement that now includes over 226 programs across the country with more programs opening overseas. In the past 15 years alone, YouthBuild organizations have helped over 76,000 young people turn their lives around and participate in over 17,000 building projects in 44 US locations.

First Lady Michelle Obama joined the celebration, praising YouthBuild for its strong, relevant contribution to community life, and applauding the new focus on Green building. YouthBuild Lake County attendees included trainees De'Angelo McEwen and Tremaine Garner, who participated in Green Academy mini-lectures where they learned more about green building, green-collar jobs and energy responsibility.

Photo courtesy of YouthBuild USA



First Lady Michelle Obama meets with YouthBuild trainees

YouthBuild Lake County receives new government funding and gains more private donors

YouthBuild Lake County continues to actively seek private and public resources throughout the county and across the country. During the past year, YBLC received funding from 90 new private donors thanks to the efforts of our Fundraising Committee and the strong support of our current donors. This is a tremendous vote of confidence in these economic times.

To sustain and grow our program funding, the staff wrote over 60 grants. Although private foundation funding was down, Government funding for YBLC increased this year. We received notice that we will be receiving \$1.1 million over three years from the US Department of Labor to help fund the YouthBuild program. YBLC also received \$71,000 in federal funding to build four new Green affordable homes.

Saving community youth saves community money

Since opening its doors, YouthBuild Lake County has brought 243 young people from poverty, illiteracy and even crime to a place where training and education come hand in hand with self-esteem, self-reliance and hope for a better life.



Trainee learns bricklaying skills on the job site

Every trainee that graduates with a place in the workforce or college increases the chances that the next generation won't turn into tragic statistics. Consider this:

- Over 50% of our trainees have criminal records
- 80% have experienced gang involvement
- A life of crime from age 18 is estimated to cost taxpayers from \$2,000,000 to \$4,300,000
- The average person without a GED or high school diploma can be expected to live in poverty indefinitely, drawing on public aid and other services to survive.

Investing in young adults at-risk gives them a chance to climb out of poverty and leave the crime that's happening in the streets. By spending \$15,000 per youth, YouthBuild Lake County helps reduce the use of public aid and the justice system saving both lives and millions in taxpayer dollars.

To each of you, on behalf of the trainees, thank you!

We want to recognize all those who have contributed to our program during our 2008-9 fiscal year between July 1, 2008 and June 30, 2009. The * indicates all or a portion of the gift was in-kind.

Government Funding Partners

City of North Chicago
 City of Waukegan
 Lake County Affordable Housing Program
 Lake County Community Development Block Grant
 Lake County HOME Grant
 Lake County HOME CHDO Operating Funds Grant
 Shields Township
 YouthBuild USA / Americorps National Direct Grant
 YouthBuild USA / Americorps Recovery Grant

Platinum \$50,000 and above

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 in memory of Robert J Greenebaum
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 of Jon and Judith Liebman's 50th
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 David and Mimi Liebman in
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 Fred and Patricia Lurie in honor
 of Steve Blinderman's Milestone
 Birthday
 Burton and Sheli Rosenberg in
 honor of Doug Gourley



William and Gloria
 Sinclair

Community Coalition

The Community Coalition was established in 2005 to create partnerships with local not-for-profit agencies. A subcommittee of the Board of Directors, its goals are to:

1. Develop and maintain a support network of service providers for our trainees
2. Help develop program curricula
3. Help create community awareness for YBLC

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Nita Smith



Mary Charuhas
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Construction Coalition

The Construction Coalition is a subcommittee of the Board of Directors established to create a stronger link to the construction community. Its goals are to

1. Help develop a placement strategy and network for YouthBuild Lake County graduates
2. Help increase awareness and support for YBLC within the construction and related industries.

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