



PRESS RELEASE

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Central Pennsylvania YouthBuild Recruits New Participants

Central Pennsylvania YouthBuild, based in Shamokin, Pennsylvania, is recruiting young men and women from Columbia, Montour, Northumberland, Snyder and Union Counties between the ages of 18 and 24 who have not received a high school diploma. The YouthBuild model combines hands-on vocational training with individualized instruction to provide a unique opportunity to young women and men who require support and a flexible learning environment. Now in its second year of operation, Central Pennsylvania YouthBuild is seeking candidates for the next six-month class to begin in December 2010.

After completing an interview, prospective trainees will be invited to participate in a two-week orientation before the final class of up to 23 students will be selected. Trainees are eligible for a modest stipend to help defray living expenses during the intensive training program. Trainees spend one half of their time learning construction skills while working on renovating and building affordable housing. The other half of their week is spent in the classroom receiving leadership and educational support leading to a GED. YouthBuild trainees are also assisted with college exploration, including school visits, financial aid and college application assistance, academic and career exploration.

As members of YouthBuild, trainees also have a unique opportunity to provide valuable service to their community. In addition to partnering with the Housing Authority of Northumberland County and Union Snyder Habitat for Humanity on the home projects, trainees have also taken part in individual and group service projects including landscaping at the Kulpmont Sportsman's Club, beautification for the Mt. Carmel VFW and minor repairs at the Northumberland County Center for Career and Arts Center.

Recruitment for the YouthBuild program is ongoing until all participant slots are full. Trainees do not have to pursue construction careers. Transportation to and from the Shamokin site is available. For more information and an application, contact Brian Ambrose, YouthBuild Case Manager at 570.644.6575 ext. 109, visit your local PA CareerLink® or search YouthBuild at www.cpwdc.org.

After earning their GEDs, recent YouthBuild graduates have enrolled in post-secondary institutions, started their own construction companies and secured employment. With funding from the US Department of Labor, YouthBuild, is rooted in a long history across the United States. In fact, these trainees will join one of 10,000 young people who have or are participating in one of 275 YouthBuild programs across the United States. Central Pennsylvania YouthBuild is a collaboration between the Central Pennsylvania Workforce Development Corporation (CPWDC), which serves as the local Workforce Investment Board (WIB); Central Susquehanna Opportunities, Inc. (CSO), a local Community Action Agency; and Home Builders Institute, the workforce development arm of the National Association of Home Builders.

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