A Message from Our Director

Ms. Jasmine Joseph-Wheeler

Dear Passaic YouthBuild students,

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you on publishing the first of many issues of the Passaic YouthBuild Newsletter. You should be proud of this accomplishment and use it as a stepping stone to move toward greater achievements. This newsletter is your voice, your story, your community, your legacy; use it to advertise PYB greatness. As a community we have the power to rebuild, to transform, to improve and to create. Continue to strive for success and remember, “A #2 pencil and a dream can take you anywhere.”

ACADEMIC & VOCATION AT PYB

In the academic class we have a great teacher whom we are proud to announce: Mr. Donald. He is a teacher certified in all subjects. He provides us with a lot of help during school hours and after school if anyone needs extra help.

In construction class we learn the information necessary to develop our potential as construction workers. We become prepared for community service activities as well as the working world. We will have the capacity to fix anything around our homes without having to pay someone else to do it for us.

“BE THE CHANGE YOU WISH TO SEE IN THE WORLD” MAHATMA GANDHI
Passaic, N.J. – Featured on ABC News, Passaic YouthBuild is lending its support to the Ortiz Family of Little Ferry (N.J.) as they attempt to recover from their home being damaged during Superstorm Sandy.

"I didn’t think there were people left in this world so willing to help," said Lorraine and Freddie Ortiz. Their flooded basement in Little Ferry [has] been silent since the night the family was rescued by boat during Superstorm Sandy; their third flood sapped any savings to fix it up. That was until now; enter Passaic YouthBuild, a non-profit program sponsored by St. Paul’s Community Development Corp. (WABC)

The Passaic YouthBuild program works with 16-24 year old opportunity youth and young adults on making positive gains in their life and the life of their family and community. Passaic YouthBuild students participate in educational instruction in the core subject areas of Math, Science, Social Studies, and Language Arts, with a goal of successfully passing the General Equivalency Exam (GED). Passaic YouthBuild students are trained in construction fundamentals, learning carpentry skills and building techniques with a goal of National Center for Construction Education and Research Certification (NCCER). As AmeriCorps*State members, Passaic YouthBuild students also earn an education award for their community service efforts, which can go toward furthering their educational goals once they complete the program.

The mission of St. Paul’s Community Development Corporation (SPCDC) is to serve as an agent of hope, partnering with others to provide needs driven services that improve the quality of life and encourage greater self-sufficiency.

Together, SPCDC and Passaic YouthBuild are providing “Hope for Today… [While] Building for Tomorrow.”
AmeriCorps Community Service

- Built a rain garden
- Beautification projects
- Took the AmeriCorps pledge: “We will get things done.”

“We enjoy getting to help our community while developing many skills such as leadership and teamwork.”

YouthBuild Activities
Class Projects

The students were given a class project to create what they believe is a perfect city. They have incorporated each other’s ideas, gathered pictures from magazines, and have even created their own ideas with accessories they were given.

College Tours

New Jersey City University was the first college trip the Passaic Youth Build students attended. Students as well as staff were able to learn about the variety of programs available for the university students. PYB also visited Bloomfield College and Rutgers University. They took a tour around the whole college and got to see how it would be if anyone was interested in going.
Our Staff
Jennifer Fana - AmeriCorps Member
Donald Semexant – Academic Instructor
Jasmine Joseph-Wheeler – Interim Program Director
Nancy Franceschi-AmeriCorps Staff Member
Tracy Reyes-AmeriCorps Member
Larry LaRocca – Vocation Instructor
Elizabeth Almodovar – Case Manager

We want to acknowledge and congratulate the following students that have earned a certificate for student of the week from April 2013 through August 2013:

Raul Berberena, Brenda Franceschi, Angelica Vargas, Briana DeJesus, Yaira Aquino, Ivana Suarez, Victoria Artis, Anel Sanchez, Darwin Tejada, Sidayi Johnson, Jahmire Ingram, Nicholas Scalici.

St. Paul’s Community Development Corporation