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YouthBuild Newark Awards \$3.6 Million to Four New Jersey Non-Profits

\$910 thousand to Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Newark to Replicate Youthful Offender Model in Jersey City

YouthBuild Newark has selected Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Newark as one of four New Jersey organizations to receive United States Department of Labor (DOL) funds to replicate its youthful offender program in four high-need cities throughout New Jersey.

The additional sub-recipients include **Brand New Day, Inc.** serving Elizabeth; **Covenant House** serving Atlantic City; and **St. Paul's Community Development Organization**, serving Passaic City. The replication effort is supported by the State of New Jersey Office of the Attorney General (OAG) which will act as a key partner.

Catholic Charities is one of the oldest and largest non-profit social service organizations in the state of New Jersey, serving more than 77,000 people last year. The agency provides extensive mentoring, workforce development/employment readiness, family services, and educational programming to meet the needs of youth and young adults. The goal of Catholic Charities' YouthBuild program is to provide Hudson County youth who have been involved with the juvenile justice system the education and job skills necessary to build their self esteem and contribute to their community.

"Catholic Charities looks forward to working as a partner with YouthBuild Newark in this important endeavor," said Allan J. Daul, Executive Director of Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Newark. "We bring to the partnership a strong Hudson County presence, experience in working with the juvenile justice system, and educational know-how with special populations. We are delighted to have been selected."

YouthBuild Newark is a non-profit academic and job-training program for out-of-school youth. Its youthful offender model helps juvenile ex-offenders between the ages of 16 and 21 through youth development and leadership training, education, job training and community revitalization efforts. In particular, students are taught construction skills that are applied on-site at affordable housing developments. In addition to being an effective gang- and crime-prevention program, YouthBuild Newark graduates have an 85 percent placement rate in higher education or employment among graduates.

YouthBuild Newark's results with youth who have been involved with the juvenile justice system prompted the U.S. DOL to award the organization an Intermediary Juvenile Reentry Grant last year – the only one in the country.

“The replication of YouthBuild Newark’s youthful offender program fills a niche in the service continuum for kids who, if not for this program, could fall through the cracks of the justice system,” adds Lisa Macaluso, Director of YouthBuild Newark’s Intermediary, which will oversee the replication process. “YouthBuild Newark’s model decreases the likelihood of re-offense by helping kids who are coming into adulthood develop the skills and attitudes necessary for leading a crime-free life, while at the same time, providing them with an opportunity to build and improve their community. The replication of this programming across New Jersey will help secure YouthBuild Newark’s model as a best practice for youth development agencies serving re-entry youth throughout the country.”

YouthBuild Newark, which serves approximately 150 students a year, was founded in 2003 by Executive Director Robert Clark. It is affiliated with YouthBuild USA, a non-profit started by Dorothy Stoneman in 1978 to help youth in East Harlem continue their education and build low-income housing.