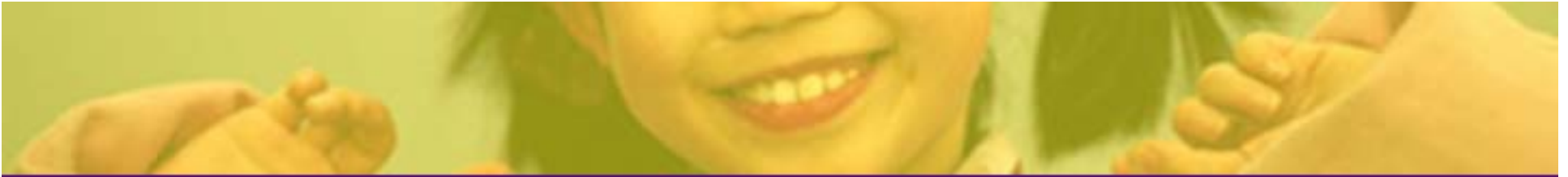


A young child with light-colored hair is shown in profile, blowing bubbles. The child's mouth is open, and several bubbles are visible near their face. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green. The overall mood is joyful and carefree.

YOUTHBUILD USA: A case of Positive Youth Development at work

Margaret Suda
Professor Lerner
Child Development 85
Class Presentation
May 1, 2006

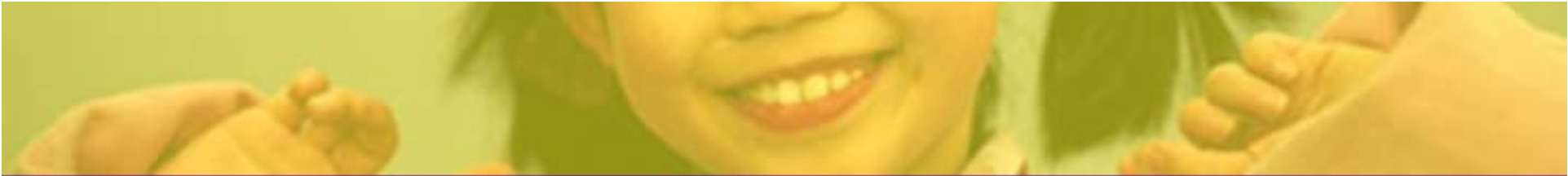


What is Youthbuild's Mission?

Youthbuild's mission is to:

“...unleash the intelligence and positive energy of low-income youth to rebuild their communities and their lives. YouthBuild USA seeks to join with others to help build a movement toward a more just society in which respect, love, responsibility, and cooperation are the dominant unifying values, and sufficient opportunities are available for all people in all communities to fulfill their own potential and contribute to the well-being of others.”

Source: www.youthbuild.org



How does Youthbuild promote positive youth development?

Youthbuild programs try to engage low-income youth, unemployed youth to serve their communities through affordable housing building projects, while aiding them in developing as individuals. The youth spend 6 to 24 months in the program, and allocate their time between the building site and the Youthbuild school.

Facets in which Youthbuild tries to promote:

Housing. Students construct or rehabilitate homes for homeless and low-income people in their communities. Projects range from restoring multi-unit buildings to constructing new homes.

Education. Students prepare for high school diplomas, GEDs, vocational school, or college. The curriculum integrates teaching academics with life skills. Classes are small, allowing one-on-one attention to students to facilitate better learning. After their education with Youthbuild, many students earn an AmeriCorps scholarship for their community service.



Facets Promoted Cont'd

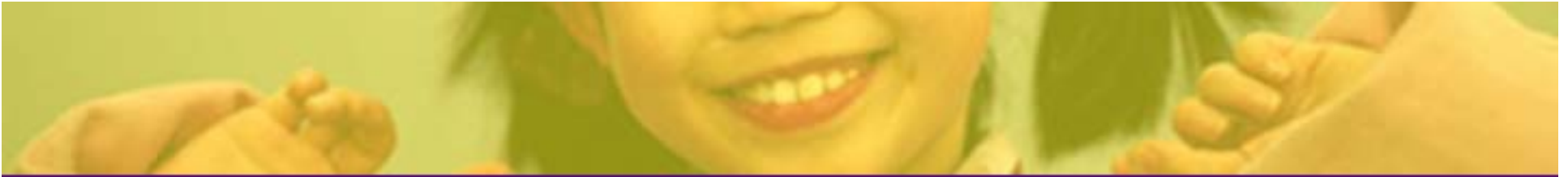
Job training. Students are able to develop good work habits such as decisionmaking and time-management skills. They learn how to develop career plans and prepare for job interviews and through their work at the job site, they receive training from qualified construction instructors.

Leadership development. Participants learn to advocate for issues that concern them and their communities, and to take responsibility for themselves and their families. Students share in the governance of their own program through an elected policy committee.

Counseling. Youthbuild offers counseling and referrals to target issues such as child care, transportation, or substance abuse. Students are assigned a counselor, whom they meet with regularly.

Graduate support. After their education at Youthbuild, graduates have access to resources and support to assist them in their future endeavors. These youth may use what they have learned to advance their careers, go to college, build assets, and become role models locally and nationally.

Sources: www.youthbuild.org



Youthbuild's Theory of Change

If we enlist the intelligence and enthusiasm of youth and give them the opportunities to benefit their community they will be able to flourish and reach their full potential while simultaneously solve many of the problems of our society.



How does Youthbuild promote the Big Three?

- 1. Positive Sustained Adult Youth Relations:** Through their close mentoring relationship with their assigned Youthbuild staff, community leaders, and counselors they are able to engage in personal growth, career development, and academic advancement.
- 2. Skill building Activities:** The youth learn many invaluable assets such as technical skills for different jobs and how to seek out employment they desire.
- 3. Youth Participation and Leadership:** The youth also learn how to advocate for themselves and others in their community and about issues that are important to them. Most importantly they also share leadership in how their program is governed.



What are the effects of PYD in Youthbuild?

5 C's

- character
- competence
- caring/compassion
- connection
- confidence

AND FINALLY... **CONTRIBUTION**



Three Major Components of a successful youth program

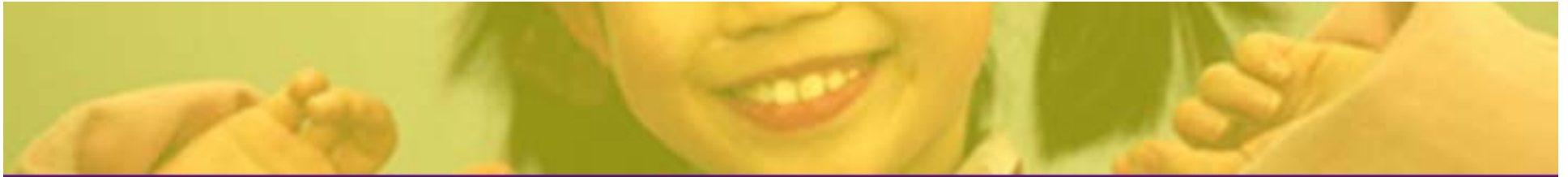
- **Effectiveness** - effective since 1990
- **Scale** - reached scale and has programs in many parts of the country
- **Sustainability** - has been sustainable for 16 years and continues



Method of Evaluation

Although Youthbuild does not have a systematic setup for ongoing evaluations they have had one evaluation of the program in 2003.

Sources: "Evaluation of Youthbuild Program." August 2003. U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development, Office of Policy Development and Research.



Bibliography

<http://www.youthbuild.org>