

**YouthBuild Program
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Program Coordinator**

The new YouthBuild trainees have now been in the program for 6 weeks. For most of them, it was a struggle in the beginning to get use to getting up early and working everyday. However, each is starting to see the light at the end of the tunnel. The trainees are beginning to see a better future for themselves by giving YouthBuild a chance.

The trainees who have been in the program for several months now are starting to transition into college or the workforce. I think it is positive for the new trainees to see the benefits of the program by observing the first cycle of trainees earn a GED, learn many transferable skills, and enter in college or receive employment based on opportunities within YouthBuild. Joey Ferrell did earn his GED on August 24th and we are very happy and proud of his accomplishment. Scott Woods had two interviews with Setlzer Pump and we feel confident Scott will be offered employment.



The trainees were slightly worried when the rain poured and flooded the street. After all that hard work, none of them wanted to see the sidewalk destroyed. Luckily for YouthBuild, the sidewalk remained solid.

Landscaping and painting will be the next part to complete the house. The trainees have been power washing the house to get it prepared for the painting process.

The YouthBuild trainees continue to work on the first house located at 1739 12th Avenue. Most of the work is completed within the structure. Due to weather, production was slowed down a bit but everyone is working hard to get the house completed.

After the removal of all the old concrete, the trainees are now learning to how to pour the new concrete. The trainees learned quickly how to level the ground and pour the concrete into the forms which they made.





As a part of being in YouthBuild, trainees have a community service requirement. For two weeks in August, the YouthBuild trainees built a beautiful gazebo for one of the Pretera Center homes.

All of them worked hard and learned many skills that will transfer to work on the house. By doing this project, it gave all the trainees a chance to see how to correctly use each tool. If mistakes were made, it was actually good because it gave Rob and Mick a chance to teach the trainees how to “measure twice and cut once.”

I do believe the trainees were proud of the work they accomplished on the gazebo. At the end of the two weeks working on the gazebo, I could see the difference in confidence levels. The trainees are not as gun shy to use a tool, learning how to measure correctly is getting easier, and once they could see the gazebo take shape, the trainees realized what I was trying to explain about fear and setting goals.

