

Huntington Housing's YOUTHBUILD Program Update

Michele Perdue, Youthbuild Coordinator

Students enrolled in the YouthBuild program completed their second restoration project which included two units located at 1202-1204 17th Street. On August 17th, a ribbon cutting ceremony was held and the new tenants were given keys to their new homes. Both units are handicap accessible. The YouthBuild program has now concluded the student training component of the program which started in July 2005 and continued through June 2007. 44 youth ages 18-24 participated in the program, 11 earned a GED, 64% increased math scores, and 75% increased in literacy. Two homes, once known for drug deals, have now been transformed into four apartment units. All the trainees and staff worked diligently on the units and learned many skills while in the program. The most important "tool" the trainees will carry with them for the rest of their lives may be to believe. Believe in yourself, believe in your voice, believe you can make a difference, and believe people really do care about you.

HHA submitted a grant to DOL for funds to keep the YouthBuild Program going another three years and will hear sometime in September or October whether their grant was approved.

BEFORE AND AFTER PICTURES OF THE EXTERIOR



BEFORE AND AFTER PICTURES OF THE INTERIOR

