

Youthbuild Program Update

The YouthBuild orientation began on July 10th to start the second cycle of YouthBuild trainees. The orientation lasted for one week with many activities scheduled. The YouthBuild orientation gives everyone a chance to learn the expectations of being a trainee in YouthBuild.

The new trainees were able to meet the staff and trainees from the first cycle by spending time in classes and being introduced to the worksite.

The week began with a staff introduction and each staff member's role in YouthBuild. We then played a game called Cocktails. As if we were at a party with music playing, everyone had a glass of juice in hand and spent a couple of minutes meeting someone new. When the music stops, you move on to someone new. Cocktails is a relaxed way of moving around the room and meeting new people for the first time. The game gets people talking and maybe finding a common background or interests!! After the game, I discussed with the trainees the story of YouthBuild and the expectations in the specific Huntington YouthBuild program.

Each day we discussed different topics such as, Setting Goals, Labeling, F.E.A.R , and I scheduled several team building activities in between the classes. I wanted the new trainees to get use to the Leadership activities as well as working together as a team.



On July 20th, we were able to participate in the YMCA Ropes Challenge hosted at the Kennedy Center. We started off the day learning to listen. Ebb Cummings, Ropes trainer, had several tricks up his sleeve to test our listening skills and working as a team. Once he knew we could work together as a team, we moved onto the Ropes Challenge.



All of us enjoyed spending time together and worked as a team on each part of the course. Everyone offered support and encouragement in each obstacle we faced.



Construction has started on the second YouthBuild house located at 1202-1204 17th Street. The trainees have started tearing down the walls and taking down all of the old siding and shingles.



The first house is still under construction but should be finished soon. All of the trainees have been doing concrete work and are doing a good job. Once the landscaping is completed, the house should move quickly into completion.



YMCA: The YMCA gave us our 20 membership cards to give to the students. Scott Woods, Laundle Minor, Bridgett Dotson, Rachael Conn, William Harper, Benito Rodriguez, and Preston Hatfield have all joined the YMCA.