

YOUTHBUILD PROGRAM BEGINS

On July 5, the 2005 Youthbuild program officially began. Seven trainees spent the first week in classroom orientation and ended the week with a great experience at the Kennedy YMCA Challenge Ropes Course. During the orientation week, trainees learned about how to make a great team and be a great team member.

At the Challenge Course on Friday, lessons were put into action as the group helped each other through obstacles and fears to complete the physical and mental challenges faced that day. While hesitant at the beginning of the day – by the end of the day Youthbuild trainees and staff had jumped from the top of a 25 ft telephone pole, balanced on a wire 20 feet in the air – and more! Even though safety was first and everyone knew that the safety harnesses and helmets would protect them, it took some nerve and some trust to make the climb up to the top of the pole or wall complete the challenge.



The second week at Youthbuild was all about the construction site: preparing the house and yard for work, assembling tools and supplies, sand building saw horses and benches for the work ahead.



Trainees were at the jobsite from 8-4:30 the second week. Under the instruction of Mick Murphy and Robert Grant, trainees learned how to use and care for equipment on the site and started constructing walls within the house.

For the next twelve months, Youthbuild participants will attend GED/educational classes in the morning and learn construction trade skills on the job site in the afternoon.

They will complete their GED's while completing renovation on the duplex home. They have been visited by curious neighbors and local business owners and everyone is impressed by the crew's hard work and enthusiasm.

Good luck to all our Youthbuilders!