

During 2010, Tree Trust’s YouthBuild program provided paid job training and academic enrichment to 37 low-income young adults who were at a high risk of dropping out of high school.

41% of our 2010 participants had a physical, emotional learning or behavioral disability; 41% had a previous record of juvenile offenses; 100% were basic skills deficient; 14% were teen parents.

Participants resided in Minneapolis and/or suburban Hennepin County.

While 20 of our participants continued with the program into 2011, 17 participants exited the program in 2010.

Pictured right: A participant learns how to correctly read blueprints while working on a demolition project.



Participants of our 2010 program self-reported the following demographics.

Male:	78%	African-American:	84%
Female:	22%	Native American:	3%
		Caucasian:	8%
Ages 16-17:	24%	Other/Not Disclosed:	5%
Ages 18-21:	73%		
Ages 22-24:	3%		



YouthBuilders alternated weeks between school and the job site from October through June. During their school weeks they concentrated on completing academic coursework to earn a high school diploma or GED.

During their weeks on the job site participants learned the basics of the construction trade while working in small teams of four or five youth to build and rehab homes that will be sold to low-income, first-time homebuyers.

Pictured left: A YouthBuild participant safely operates a circular saw while working on the construction of a garage.

Our 2010 YouthBuilders also participated in financial management and work readiness training, where they completed lessons from the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation's Money Smart program, learned how to create resumes, practiced interviewing, explored career choices and strengthened soft skills like timeliness, communication and teamwork.

YouthBuilders also participated in leadership skill building activities, which included planning and implementing services projects like meal preparation for women in recovery, custodial services for emergency and transitional shelters, and maintenance of rain gardens in a public park.



Pictured here: YouthBuilders participate in a group exercise on the qualities of an effective leader.

Individual and group work with our YouthBuild Counselor helped participants to create short- and long-term goals and break down barriers to success. Each of the participants who exited the program in 2010 will be provided with follow-up services for up to 12 months.

We are proud to report the achievements of participants who exited our program 2010:

- Participants completed the rehabilitation of four homes and started the rehabilitation of three homes in north Minneapolis. 100% of these participants earned OSHA-10 certification.
- 94% of participants earned a high school diploma or returned to school to complete their diploma or GED.
- 100% of participants who responded to surveys reported their leadership skills improved as a result of participating in the program.
- 83% of participants who responded to surveys reported that Tree Trust helped them to reach their employment goals.
- 92% of participants who responded to surveys reported their participation in Tree Trust helped them improve their ability to manage money.
- 74% of participants who completed pre- and post-tests improved basic math and reading skills two months after entering the program.