

Young Detroit Builders Newsletter

YouthBuild Detroit

June 17, 2011

Dear Community,

As we bring in the summer we have many changes underway. One of those changes includes how we communicate with you. In order to keep our supporters informed and always up-to-date with YDB news, we are now distributing our e-newsletter weekly. We hope you enjoy this first edition!

Company Gives Encouragement...and a Donation



Grainger's Mark McCabe (center) with Bev Manick and students

YDB kicked off the week on a great note when, on June 13, we received a \$10,000 donation from **W.W. Grainger**, one of the biggest sales and distribution companies in the world.

Mark McCabe, manager of Grainger's Detroit branch, presented the check on behalf of Grainger in front of the entire student body and staff.

During a time where we have fewer resources and more companies downsizing their philanthropic efforts, this hefty donation was definitely a surprise to all of us.

Beyond presenting the donation, McCabe also emphasized

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Student Recruitment



Well it's that time again! YDB will begin a new cycle of students in early September and we are currently open for testing and taking applications.

If you are between the ages of 18-24, a Detroit resident, low income, without a GED or high school diploma and ready to work, this program is perfect for you.

To enroll, you must come to our facility for TABE Testing and have at least sixth grade reading and math skills. TABE is every Monday and Friday at 12:30 pm.

For more information visit www.youngdetroitbuilders.org or call us at 313.964.2763. Help rebuild communities, while transforming YOUR life today!

Showdown Talent Search Continues

the importance of working hard and constantly looking for ways to move up the career ladder as he did; starting off as a lift truck operator.

Founded in 1927, Grainger has more than 600 branches globally including the Detroit branch located literally right down the street from our facility. Connecting suppliers with commercial, government and private customers, Grainger offers more than 1 million electrical, raw material, power tool and hand tool products.

We would like to send Grainger our deepest appreciation for their generosity, and we look forward to building a lasting partnership with them.

Rebuilding Together



YDB students, AmeriCorps staff and volunteers taking a break to pose in the Dodge RAM

This past Saturday (June 11) 18 of YDB's students and staff joined forces with more than 50 other volunteers for a **Rebuilding Together Detroit** project. We helped make home improvements on eight homes of lower-income, senior citizens on South Ethel Street in southwest Detroit.

The service project was sponsored by *Popular Mechanics* magazine with contributions of products from Lowe's, Dodge RAM, Delta Faucet, Cooper Lighting and Frog Tape.

Our construction team had been "prepping" for the big day all last week; visiting the site to do minor repairs. Students and



If you haven't heard by now YDB is gearing up for the **8th annual Showdown in Motown** in September. This talent competition will feature singers, rappers, bands, musicians and other entertainers battling it out for a grand prize of \$1,000.

We are getting some great talent, but we are still searching for more! If you think you have what it takes, please send audio/video link to ydbshowdowninmotown@gmail.com or call Brittany at 313.964.2763 to audition in person. You must be at least 18 years or older.

The **Showdown** will take place on Friday, September 23 at 7pm at Detroit's Majestic Theatre. The deadline to audition is Friday, July 8.

Special Thanks

Young Detroit Builders would like to give a special thank you to **Steve Baird**, who donated the phone system in our new building and lent us his trailer.

Without him, it would have been very hard to operate business here.

Baird is the owner of JAAN Technologies, a green energy and laser systems integration company. He has been a long-time supporter of YDB and we want to extend him our deepest gratitude.

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construction staff arrived at the YDB facility at 7:30 am to meet with reporters from *Popular Mechanics*, who were doing a photo shoot and writing a feature piece on us.

We worked until 5 pm doing landscape work, painting, power-washing homes, installing kitchen floors and faucets, electric work, and much more.

By the end of the project everyone was tired but felt a sense of accomplishment knowing we were able to help beautify an entire block. This was a huge project and a lot of work went into it.

Special thanks to *Popular Mechanics* magazine and WDIV Channel 4 for giving YDB media coverage, Lowe's for donating materials and Chrysler for lending us their Dodge Ram truck.

A future issue of *Popular Mechanics* will feature a story on Rebuilding Together Detroit, Young Detroit Builders and the project. We will keep you posted on when that issue will be released.

July Extravaganza!

Next month YDB is hosting a BIG event and we want to invite everyone to attend.

On Thursday, July 28, 3pm-7pm, we will be hosting Cycle 16A's graduation ceremony followed by an open house right here at our facility. These students will have completed their 10-month program, and we want to congratulate them for all of their hard work.



Young Detroit Builders is located at 1627 W. Lafayette Blvd. near downtown Detroit

In addition, this will be our first open house in more than a decade and the first one in our new building. We will have displays, demonstrations by construction staff and students, building tours, food and more. You will personally get a chance to see what we do here at YDB everyday.

We would love all our friends, community partners, alumni and

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www.youngdetroitbuilders.org

Join Our Mailing List!

media outlets to come out and support this wonderful event.

Young Detroit Builders is located at 1627 W. Lafayette Blvd, Detroit, MI 48216 (one block over from the Main Post Office near downtown). For more information call 313.964.2763.

Founded in 1993, Young Detroit Builders is a non-profit organization that works with youth to rebuild Detroit neighborhoods through its YouthBuild Detroit/AmeriCorps program. The YouthBuild program helps 18-24 year-olds who have not completed high school to prepare for the GED test and learn life management skills while helping to build affordable housing for low-income families. YDB is also part of the Partnership for Permanent Supportive Housing, a coalition of three agencies, which takes a holistic approach to meeting the needs of Detroit's low-income and homeless population.

Rebuilding and Transforming Lives,

Young Detroit Builders

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