The YouthBuild program prepares students for both college and the workforce. Many of the YouthBuild graduates go on to work with construction companies in Rochester. Clark noted that the training consists of four modules that teach students construction safety and the knowledge of tools, Bashir said, adding, “I was one of the worst kids in Urban League. I was still young. I was still being disobedient. But they helped me, they kept me focused. They’re kicking me out or send me home.”

YouthBuild Rochester is based on the YouthBuild USA Inc. model that was first developed in East Harlem in 1978 by Dorothy Stoneman. “She actually wanted to improve the community of East Harlem,” said She- lia James, Urban League vice president of program planning, research & evaluation. “And also she wanted to take back empty buildings and the poverty that existed in Harlem.”

The Harlem Youth Action Program’s first project was a getting and rehabilitation of an abandoned 10-unit tenement building. The project’s success led to an expansion of YouthBuild such that today the nonprofit organization has 269 urban and rural Youthbuild programs in 46 states, including Rochester’s premier program through the Urban League.

The mission of YouthBuild USA and YouthBuild International is to “unleash the intelligence and positive energy of low-income young people to rebuild their communities and live their lives.”

The program targets disadvantaged youth, including some who have left high school. Participants must meet one of the following criteria: be a member of a low-income family; in foster care; adjudicated; an individual with a disability; a child of an incarcerated parent; homeless; or a migrant.

Each year some 10,000 low-income young people nationally, who have left high school without a diploma, enroll full time in the 10-month Youthbuild programs. About half of the program time is spent in classrooms, while the other half is hands-on job training building affordable housing or other community assets.

A strong emphasis is placed on creating a safe and caring community of adults and peers committed to each other’s success, and Youthbuild accepts students with a wide array of backgrounds, including those with criminal records.

Locally, Urban League received its Youthbuild accreditation in 1996 and has served nearly 600 young adults during that time, with or without federal assistance, James noted.

YouthBuild aims to construct strong students

By VELVET SPICER

Bria Beckley received her General Equivalency Diploma through the YouthBuild program at Urban League of Rochester, N.Y. Inc.

YouthBuild Rochester is based on the YouthBuild USA Inc. model that was first developed in East Harlem in 1978 by Dorothy Stoneman. “She actually wanted to improve the community of East Harlem,” said She- lia James, Urban League vice president of program planning, research & evaluation. “And also she wanted to take back empty buildings and the poverty that existed in Harlem.”

The Harlem Youth Action Program’s first project was a getting and rehabilitation of an abandoned 10-unit tenement building. The project’s success led to an expansion of YouthBuild such that today the nonprofit organization has 269 urban and rural Youthbuild programs in 46 states, including Rochester’s premier program through the Urban League.

The mission of YouthBuild USA and YouthBuild International is to “unleash the intelligence and positive energy of low-income young people to rebuild their communities and live their lives.”

The program targets disadvantaged youth, including some who have left high school. Participants must meet one of the following criteria: be a member of a low-income family; in foster care; adjudicated; an individual with a disability; a child of an incarcerated parent; homeless; or a migrant.

Each year some 10,000 low-income young people nationally, who have left high school without a diploma, enroll full time in the 10-month Youthbuild programs. About half of the program time is spent in classrooms, while the other half is hands-on job training building affordable housing or other community assets.

A strong emphasis is placed on creating a safe and caring community of adults and peers committed to each other’s success, and Youthbuild accepts students with a wide array of backgrounds, including those with criminal records.

Locally, Urban League received its Youthbuild accreditation in 1996 and has served nearly 600 young adults during that time, with or without federal assistance, James noted.

YouthBuild Rochester is based on the YouthBuild USA Inc. model that was first developed in East Harlem in 1978 by Dorothy Stoneman. “She actually wanted to improve the community of East Harlem,” said She- lia James, Urban League vice president of program planning, research & evaluation. “And also she wanted to take back empty buildings and the poverty that existed in Harlem.”

The Harlem Youth Action Program’s first project was a getting and rehabilitation of an abandoned 10-unit tenement building. The project’s success led to an expansion of YouthBuild such that today the nonprofit organization has 269 urban and rural Youthbuild programs in 46 states, including Rochester’s premier program through the Urban League.

The mission of YouthBuild USA and YouthBuild International is to “unleash the intelligence and positive energy of low-income young people to rebuild their communities and live their lives.”

The program targets disadvantaged youth, including some who have left high school. Participants must meet one of the following criteria: be a member of a low-income family; in foster care; adjudicated; an individual with a disability; a child of an incarcerated parent; homeless; or a migrant.

Each year some 10,000 low-income young people nationally, who have left high school without a diploma, enroll full time in the 10-month Youthbuild programs. About half of the program time is spent in classrooms, while the other half is hands-on job training building affordable housing or other community assets.

A strong emphasis is placed on creating a safe and caring community of adults and peers committed to each other’s success, and Youthbuild accepts students with a wide array of backgrounds, including those with criminal records.

Locally, Urban League received its Youthbuild accreditation in 1996 and has served nearly 600 young adults during that time, with or without federal assistance, James noted.