

PRESS RELEASE
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ReCycle North YouthBuild Wins 10th Annual Carpentry Challenge



ReCycle North YouthBuild participated in the 10th Annual Carpentry Challenge in Methuen, Massachusetts on Tuesday, May 9th. The crew of seven YouthBuild partners from ReCycle North took first prize at the event, beating more than a dozen other YouthBuild teams from throughout New England.

The Carpentry Challenge is an annual event sponsored by YouthBuild USA. YouthBuild affiliates are invited to send teams to Boston for the day to strut their stuff. Each team is provided with a set of blueprints and building materials (donated by Home Depot) and must use their skills and tools to build a free-standing structure according to plans. Each team is allowed only one designated coach to assist with the project. The coach, however, may not solve math problems or touch tools or materials during the event. Teams are judged based on the quality of their work and finishing the project in the allotted time. Time penalties are given for everything from protruding nail points and corners that aren't square to safety infractions, coaching violations, sloppiness, and rudeness to judges.

This year's structure involved framing out a set of walls that included a window and a doorway and ultimately applying sheetrock. The ReCycle North crew completed the structure in the allotted time (about 2 hours) with only minimal penalties. "We had a few minutes added on for having our shirt tails out and for not wearing all-leather work boots," explained Adam Miller, YouthBuild Job Site Supervisor.

This was the first year that ReCycle North had participated in the event. "We were the last team to finish, but we did everything right," noted Brad Elie, a YouthBuild partner and the math whiz on the team. "When we heard we had won, we were stoked! We talked about it all the way back to Burlington." The crew was especially proud of the fact that they even beat a team comprised of staff from YouthBuild USA!

YouthBuild is a 9-month education and job-training program that targets young adults who have not completed high school. Each week YouthBuild participants, called partners, spend two days in the classroom working on their GED or high school diploma and two days at a jobsite learning construction skills by building affordable housing in their community. A fifth day each week is devoted to community service projects. ReCycle North YouthBuild is one of more than 200 YouthBuild affiliates nationwide.

ReCycle North is currently accepting applications from young men and women interested in enrolling in YouthBuild. Applications are available online at www.recyclenorth.org or by calling Andrew Jope, YouthBuild Program Manager, at 658-4143 ext 36. The application deadline is May 26 for the crew starting June 5.

YouthBuild students comprising the winning team in the 2006 Carpentry Challenge:

Brad Elie (), Jason Lessard (Burlington), Kevin Mongeon (Colchester), Nick Mott (Jericho), Nick Vogt (Colchester), Ahmed Ohmar (Burlington), and Adam Fyfe (Colchester). The students were accompanied by ReCycle North YouthBuild staff: Adam Miller & Lindsay Foreman

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