

Exelon Stay in School Initiative FY09 Report Card

Date	October 22, 2009 Revised
Agency Name/Program Name	BUILD, Centers for New Horizons, Youth Guidance, United Way
Contact Person /Email	<p>Youth Guidance: Sheree Blakemore sblakemore@youth-guidance.org</p> <p>Centers for New Horizons: Stevie Powell steviep@cnh.org</p> <p>BUILD, Inc.: Matilda de Dios mathilda@buildchicago.org</p> <p>United Way: Sarah Frick SFrick@uw-mc.org</p>

I. Demographic Information

Unduplicated youth ____2362____ (total number of youth that participated in any stay in school activity—only counted once and includes core youth)

Core youth _____316____ (expectation is 100)

Gender of core youth served (number)	Racial/ethnic background of core youth served (number)							Ages of youth served <i>Example:</i>
	African American	Native American	Asian American/Pacific Islander	Caucasian	Hispanic or Latino	Multi-Racial	Other/Not Identified	
<i>Female/Male</i>								<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 15 age 14 ▪ 12 age 15 ▪ 32 age 16



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142	174	255		1	5	51	4		
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II. Outputs (complete all that apply)

All students Core Group students

___3487___# ___ 545_____# receiving academic enrichment or tutoring

___2926___# ___497_____# meeting with mentors

___1813___# ___367_____# participating in college prep activities

___1886___# ___365_____# participating in leadership programming

___3512___# ___552_____# participating in life skills/prevention workshops

___2920___# ___580_____# participating in individual planning activities

___669___# ___143_____# participants in Learning for Life

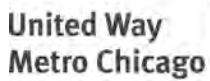
___127___# ___103_____# participants in Exelon-sponsored special events

___65___# ___60_____# of DCFS wards receiving advocacy services

___50___# of family events and parent workshops

___243/20.1___#/% of parents/caregivers participating in events

(Assume one parent/caregiver per youth when calculating % of total)



III. Outcomes Measurement (for core youth only)

Initial Outcomes (for July and February reports)

__241__# and __76.3__% of students with at least a 90% school attendance rate

__234__# and __74.1__% of students who have improved a grade (i.e. B→B+) in a core course (reading/language arts, math, science, social studies or foreign language)

Intermediate Outcomes (July only)

_224# and 70.9__% of students with increased pro-social behaviors
(From initial intake at beginning of year to the end of the year evaluation)

Long-Term Outcomes (July only)

__239__# of non-seniors eligible for promotion

__86.2__% of students who have been promoted (includes 8th grade to high school)

__77__# of seniors eligible for graduation from high school

__96.1__% of students who graduated

IV. Narratives

1. How do you involve parents in helping youth succeed and stay in school?

Youth Guidance

- Youth Guidance has a presence at all the school parent activities such as report card pick-up, Literacy Night and Open House, which provide opportunities for our staff to talk with parents about their student academic and behavior performance



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- Participate in teacher, parent conferences and staffing
- Make home visits and provide referrals and resources
- Our Parent Liaison provides an opportunities for parents to come together to have workshops and event to support and empower one others
- The STRIVE program sponsored a dinner for parents and guardians that gave them an opportunity to network with staff and other parents, as well as learn more about the STRIVE program as a whole
- Our parents and students attended an Exelon sponsored dinner to introduce the “Stay in School Initiative” program, and Exelon volunteers to parents

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BUILD, Inc. is committed to bridging the gap between school administrative personnel, educators, students, and parents/guardians because this will maximize the resources and assistance available to give every student equal access to educational services and increase student potential to not only achieve, but succeed.

Past experience demonstrates that outreach to parents must be consistent and provide some source of value to incorporate them into the learning process of their children. BUILD, Inc. strives to incorporate parents in every aspect of activities by making parental involvement necessary for core group members. Parents/guardians are recognized as liaisons to enable us to effectively assist youth and are therefore asked for input through various workshops and meetings to enable us to enhance our level of service.

Ongoing activities that include parental involvement include quarterly mini-conferences to educate parents about issues that impact their community and Family Nights to engage parents in interactive activities while demonstrating our appreciation. Specialists consistently conduct outreach via phone calls, home visits, parent teacher conferences, during extra-curricular activities, and are accessible during report card pick-up days at schools.

Parental Involvement, at BUILD, Inc. is so largely valued it is emphasized as objectives in the Logic Model, Component Plans, and



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BUILDing Blocks utilized by each Component. Each quarter BUILD Program Managers revisit Logic Model Objectives to ensure we are in route to successful completion of goals and to brainstorm new ideas on how to better serve both youth and parents/guardians. Our newest endeavor to engage parents is the Parent advisory Council (PAC). The PAC was developed to empower parents to participate at our agency and within the schools their youth attend.

Mandatory parent meetings for all agency wide field trips and college tours are successful strategies utilized to encourage parental involvement at BUILD. This motivates parents and guardians to interact with BUILD Staff to ensure their youth's participation in our agency wide trips and college tours. These meetings also provide an outlet to provide guardian questionnaires/surveys to determine how to best meet their needs and the needs of the youth.

Centers for New Horizons

Centers for New Horizons involves parents in helping youth succeed and stay in school through:

- Centers For New Horizons Monthly parent family events
- Staff home visits
- Written communication to parents
- Parent recognition events
- Parent Volunteers opportunities
- Partnering or co-sponsoring with Wendell Phillips parent and academic activities.
- Formal student success recognitions
- Continuous formal and informal surveys
- Partnering with other community partners in parent/family events



Please share a success story about an individual youth in the program. What change occurred as a result of his/her participation in the program?

Youth Guidance

Jennifer is a senior at Fredrick Douglass Academy High School. Throughout Jennifer's high school years, she has faced many hardships like most of her fellow peers. However, she has found a way to stay strong, be resilient, and above all succeed. Through the help of Youth Guidance over the past six years, this process of maturing has been possible for her. Jennifer's most recent success has been her acceptance into Northern Illinois University, which she will be attending in the fall of 2009.

There have been many events that have led up to this accomplishment. For instance, Jennifer received a poetry internship last summer, has been involved on the debate team, and actively involved in her church. A substantial and important piece to this puzzle is her involvement with Exelon's Stay in School Initiative over the past three years. The life skills are addressed during the program have assisted in creating Jennifer's broader view of both the working world and the next step forward in her life—college. Also, the diverse events that Exelon provides for the students have given Jennifer a sense of opportunity she would not have experienced without the program.

Jennifer's non-stop determination to stay focused in school permitted her to receive all A's on her report card, and her willpower to move forward regardless of the obstacles and challenges faced by her and her peers has made the Douglass family extremely proud of calling her one of our own. She defiantly has lived by our motto "Jewel of the Westside where failure is not an option"!!!! Lastly, not only will Jennifer's enthusiastic and vibrant presence be missed but so will the



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beautiful, heartfelt, and soulful poetry that she has so graciously presented to us all over the years. She truly is a jewel.

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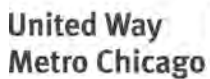


Quentin L. was referred to BUILD after being expelled from South Shore High School for gang participation. Soon thereafter, Quentin aimlessly wandered South Side streets where the odds stacked up expeditiously - childhood friends began to fall victim to drugs, crime, and murder daily.

Quentin's expulsion, plus his father's release from a ten-year incarceration, made it difficult for BUILD and Quentin's mother to redirect his focus. Despite two trips to the County Jail, for simple cannabis possession and resistance to reenter school Quentin agreed to enroll at Mandela Alternative School after attending a Talent Search Leadership Conference with BUILD.

Within one day of enrollment, Quentin's best childhood friend, whom he normally traveled the streets, was murdered in broad daylight at age 17. Angered by the loss and confusion Quentin rebelled and was nearly expelled from Mandela High School where the teachers loved his disposition and believed in his academic ability to succeed.

Despite numerous obstacles and distractions before him Quentin expressed interest in the Exelon Mentor's Program where Margaret Amato took a liking to his mild mannerisms and boyish smile. Despite Quentin living outside of the program area, Margaret extended participation privileges at Saturday Sessions and job placement contingent upon successful graduation. Quentin was additionally recognized at an Exelon sponsored recognition event for staying out of trouble and excelling in school.



In June 2009, Quentin attended Senior Prom and Graduated at age 19 despite being out of school an entire year! One of his fondest memories is being at the Bulls Game with Build and feeling like we genuinely believed in him and his potential despite his troubled past.

Quentin's plight is to be celebrated because he taught us a great deal about the value of genuine relationships with our donors amongst other things. At Build we often make exceptions to meet the diverse needs in order for our youth to succeed. However, it is not often that we witness a donor partake in the same behavior and make exceptions to rules thereby openly engaging and mimicking the same passion we possess. It is one thing to recognize our true potential as an agency in helping youth to recognize theirs, but an entirely different experience to incite that same vigor in other organizations and inspire professionals to further champion our very deserving cause.

The death of tenured Build Participant Leon Gonnigan reminds us how relatively close success and failure are in relationship to the youth we serve. While Quentin Lucious's plight brings resolve.... as the odds continue to stack up, so does our resistance.

Centers for New Horizons

Last year a young man, Jacoby Knight, that is a member of the Wendell Phillips' baseball team got into an argument with the head coach, he quit the team and tossed his uniform on floor in the second floor hallway outside the coach's classroom. Although he was not a CNH program participant at the time Centers for New Horizons' staff knew of Jacoby, and CNH staff member Robert Harris went to speak to him and try to calm him down. After being able to calm Jacoby down and asking about his desire to be on the baseball team, he stated he "I really wanted to play". Mr. Harris suggested he go into the coach's room, apologize for his actions, and ask to be back on the team with the guarantee that he will never act that way again. The coach allowed the Jacoby back on to the team after accepting his apology.

CNH staff has continued talking to Jacoby and signed him up for summer activities making him 'officially' Centers for New Horizons' participant. Jacoby



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participated in a Summer Job Program that studied youth concerns in Bronzeville and issues the community faces regarding the possibility of Chicago hosting the 2016 Summer Olympics. Jacoby also participated in a summer basketball program coordinated by Mr. Harris and Phillips Head Basketball coach Patrick Williams, that team was sponsored by Exelon to play in an Anti-Gang Basketball Tournament in the Austin neighborhood, where Jacoby was able to meet one of his favorite NBA basketball players Shannon Brown of the Los Angeles Lakers. On the basketball court and in our summer programming Jacoby has excelled and proving to be a leader, and certainly is an influential student at Wendell Phillips Academy High School.

The significance of this is, almost a year later a different young man got into an argument with the same baseball coach in the same classroom, Jacoby Knight was walking pass as this incident was happening. Jacoby walked in asked the other student what was wrong, found out that this other student was mad about something that didn't involve the baseball coach, but was taking it out on the coach anyway. Jacoby Knight, the same young man that was pulled to the side a year earlier when in a similar situation, suggested that the other young man apologize to the coach and then go some place to calm down. A year in the making, but it was an obvious sign of CNH planting a seed that grew in one young man.