

# MEDIA RELEASE

**For Immediate Release:** May 1, 2012

**Contacts:** Dr. Walter McNeil, Jr.: 973.675.1250  
Deborah Hurley: 201.709.4296

## **JOB TRAINING GRANT IS WORKING AT ORANGE HOUSING AUTHORITY**

May 1, 2012, When the Orange Housing Authority (OHA) was awarded a \$190k grant from the New Jersey Department of Labor Workforce Development Program to train women and minorities in technical skills to aid them in securing jobs, they welcomed the challenge, as this would be the first time OHA would implement the Orange NJBUILD Program that focuses on heating, ventilation and air-conditioning (HVAC) training. The program includes a wide range of life-skills classes: literacy education, occupational safety and health administration, leadership skills and individual development plans, community service projects, case management services, externships, job-readiness skills, and career exploration.

On the second floor, YWCA in Orange, the program held Monday - Friday, 9:00 am to 2:00 pm, trains 18 students at entry level HVAC Technicians. Students undergo testing throughout the program to ensure that they are learning the required HVAC curriculum which has been approved by the State of New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development. The hands-on-training is also significant, as it is a win-win for the student trainees and the YWCA. The "HVAC workshop", strategically located on the same level as the first level rooftop of the YWCA's rooftop will benefit from the student trainees expertise, once HVAC units have been successfully put together, units will be installed at the YWCA -- a service that is much needed.

Several unions have played a significant role in the training program, Local 4 Refrigeration, Hazlet, NJ, and Local 25 Sheet Metal Workers Union, Carlstadt, NJ have welcomed student trainees and staff to tour their sites and learn the trade. "This is truly a program of **HOPE** that will strengthen our families' network and surrounding communities", says Susan Moore, OHA, Family Self Sufficiency Coordinator/NJBUILD Case Manager. She continued by stating that "the program gives constructive educational training to people who will greatly benefit from this opportunity and engage in a new market for good job security". Student trainee, Miriam Morency is looking forward to completing the program so that she can pursue a job with a union. The program has captured the attention of local businesses. Thanks to Johnstone Supply, Kenilworth, NJ, donation of furnace, student trainees are able to explore the intricate assembly of these units. Neil S. Sullivan Associates, LTD, made a donation of \$250, which allowed staff to purchase gauges that is used to read pressure and temperature of refrigerant in a close system, and Elite Air of Hamilton, New Jersey who manufactured and provided free ducts for the students training and learning development.

Upon completion, student trainees will be monitored to measure their success. "Our goal is to continue and expand this program. The grant we received is very competitive, thus our success will determine Fall, 2012 funding" Susan Moore, OHA, Family Self Sufficiency Coordinator/NJBUILD Case Manager.

Two other important factors of the Orange NJBUILD-HVAC program are the administrators: Mrs. Marianna DeVincentis, Program Director and Mr. Tunde Azeez, Hired Training Provider from Moe Shea Corporation.

---

Student trainees had to meet the requirements of being a minority or female, having a High School Diploma or GED, and demonstrate the ability to maintain financial good standing while participating in the program. Student trainees were required to reside in Northern New Jersey, be at least 20 years of age, demonstrate a genuine interest in pursuing a career in construction and be registered and referred by the Essex County One-Stop Career Center. For additional information, please call Susan Moore (973) 677-4563/(973) 765-3364 or email: [smoore@haconj.org](mailto:smoore@haconj.org).