

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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YouthBuild Vancouver Accepting Applications for Final Class
Free education & training program for high school dropouts, ages 17-24

VANCOUVER, Wash. (Dec. 1, 2015) — Clark County residents, ages 17-24, who have left high school without a diploma may qualify for a free education and training program to obtain a GED or diploma and job-related skills.

Information sessions for YouthBuild will be held **December 9, 15 and 29** and **January 6 and 15** from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. at Partners in Careers, 3210 NE 52nd Street, Vancouver 98663. To register for the free information session, contact Sam Capeloto at 360-696-8417, ext. 110 or sam@swwpic.org.

Those enrolled in YouthBuild will have the opportunity, at no cost, to:

- Obtain their GED or high school diploma
- Gain two nationally-recognized construction certifications
- Participate in building a house for a family in need
- Receive services, including job, college and career preparation

To participate in YouthBuild, an individual must be:

- A Clark County resident
- Between the ages of 17 and 24 years old
- A high school dropout in need of a high school diploma or GED
- Interested in gaining job skills and experience

Led by the Southwest Washington Workforce Development Council (SWWDC), YouthBuild is a collaboration of nonprofit organizations that includes Partners in Careers, Evergreen Habitat for Humanity, Vancouver Housing Authority and WorkSource.

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Southwest Washington Workforce Development Council (SWWDC), a nonprofit organization founded in 2002, is the Workforce Investment Board for Clark, Cowlitz and Wahkiakum counties. SWWDC brings together funding, service providers, colleges, economic development and community organizations to provide employment and training services to businesses, job seekers and youth. For more information, visit www.swwdc.org.

Partners in Careers (PIC) is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to create self-sufficiency through specialized job training and employment services. PIC has more than 30 years of experience connecting physically, educationally and economically-challenged people to career counseling, job training, placement and coaching to achieve economic self-sufficiency. PIC provides programs for at-risk youth,

low-income seniors, refugees, people with limited English proficiency, veterans, ex-offenders and individuals receiving government assistance. Visit www.partnersincareers.org.

Evergreen Habitat for Humanity (EHFH) is an affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International and works in partnership with people in need from all walks of life to develop communities by building safe, affordable housing. Habitat builds and rehabilitates simple, decent houses with the help of the homeowner (partner) families. This is accomplished through volunteer labor and tax-deductible donations and materials. Habitat houses are then sold to the partner families at no profit and financed with affordable, no-interest loans. The homeowners' monthly mortgage payments are then placed into a revolving fund that is used to build more houses. For information, visit www.ehfh.org.

Vancouver Housing Authority serves more than 7,500 very low-income children, parents, elderly and disabled people with 587 units of subsidized housing and more than 2,300 Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers. The VHA Work Opportunities programs provide subsidized residents with a wide range of services as they work toward self-reliance. The VHA contributes to the sustainability of Clark County with community development activities and 2,293 units of non-subsidized affordable workforce housing that provide homes for an additional 5,000 people. Learn more at www.vhausa.com.

WorkSource is a partnership of state agencies, local service providers, colleges and community organizations that provide free employment and training services to employers and job seekers. WorkSource assists employers to recruit and screen for qualified applicants, provides wage reimbursement opportunities through On-the-Job Trainings, and supplies cost-savings information on employment tax credits. WorkSource serves more than 1,000 jobseekers and 200 businesses each month. For information, go to www.go2worksource.com.