

MILWAUKEE BUILDS BREAKS GROUND

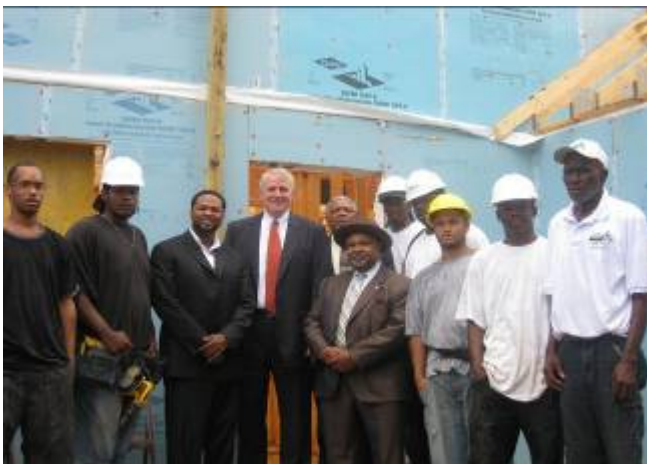
City of Milwaukee trains workers to prepare for influx of green jobs and construction, a move that will boost the economy and restore homes in the central city.



On Thursday, July 23, 2009, Mayor Barrett & District Alderman Bauman spoke during a Milwaukee Builds Press Conference at the Northcott Neighborhood worksite, where two single-family homes are being constructed by youth for sale (PHOTO). Other speakers include youth participant, Terrell Owens, Northcott House Executive Director, Mac Weddell, Lois O’Keefe of Congresswoman Moore’s office, and Milwaukee Workforce Investment Board (MAWIB) CEO, Don Sykes.

The U.S. Department of Labor awarded the MAWIB a \$1.0 million Youth Build Grant to fund Milwaukee Builds. Milwaukee Builds is a program that prepares youth and young adults for careers and employment in the construction industry. The two-year grant will provide 60 young adults with skills to integrate “green” construction techniques into the building of two new homes and the rehab one dilapidated home. Milwaukee Builds is an extension of the city’s goal to address unemployment and community development. “Providing job training is an integral part of empowering our people and making our communities stronger,” said Mayor Barrett.

PHOTO-Milwaukee Builds program youth with (l-r) Alderman Hamilton, Mayor Barrett, Northcott Director, Mac Weddell.



The Milwaukee Builds program is the direct result of a new mission of the Milwaukee Area Workforce Investment Board (MAWIB) to become the planning, coordinating and monitoring workforce development agency for the Milwaukee area. The MAWIB CEO, Don Sykes, wants to see more workers trained to meet the demands of high-growth industries in energy and technology. “Milwaukee Builds recognizes one of the key barriers

limiting workers in the energy efficient and renewable technologies is a shortage of a trained and skilled workforce for the specific industry”. Sykes envisions the Milwaukee Builds model as providing a pathway out of poverty for many under skilled workers. “The model can be used to put people back to work by providing employment and training/education for youth and adults in the construction sector” said Sykes.



Project partners will include the Milwaukee Christian Center, Milwaukee Community Service Corps, Northcott Neighborhood House, and the Wisconsin Regional Training Program/BIG STEP. Key supporting partners to the project are Milwaukee Area Technical College, Housing Authority City of Milwaukee and Community Development Block Grant. All of these partners are united in the goal of providing a seamless program that leverages community resources in a coordinated fashion to yield stronger results and meaningful skills and job opportunities for the program participants.

(PHOTO) Two youth working on one of the two homes, a two story single-family home on Milwaukee’s Northside.