

YouthBuild
McLean
County

YouthBuild

Absolutely Alumni

Volume 2 Issue 26

Winter 2005

“Words”

By Latasha Rials

For presentation at 2005 AlumniXchange

“It’s funny how we all are different in our own little way.

But at the end of the day I realize we are all the same.

It seems like nobody knows your name when you doing right.

But when you are doing wrong they sing your song all night.

Why she actin’ like she all that cuz she work for YouthBuild?

Remember she drink and smoke wit us last year.

Some people fear change; to me change is good.

Left the hood six years ago.

I got tired of drinkin henn, tired of smoking dro.

I cant take it no more my people it’s time to grow.

Know the words we speak are powerful.

You can take my freedom, my house, my car, hell you can take my man, but you cant take my words for they define who I am.

Words are so strong.

You know that san sticks, and stones may break your bones, but words will never hurt you. B, you were right that san is so untrue.

Words can break you down, make your smile turn into a frown.

It make you feel so high and make you feel so low.

They also can make us feel complete, unique. So lets be careful of the words we speak, you cant delete them once they are said.

Lets speak wit good purpose and stay two steps ahead of our words.”

Hello to my fellow YouthBuild Graduates. My name is Latasha Rials and will like to share the experience I had at the YouthBuild Alumni Xchange in Redondo Beach, California Dec 10 & 11, 2005. I attended a work shop called “The toughest job you’ll ever love- From YouthBuild student to YouthBuild staff”. This was the best thing that could’ve happened to me. I learned that people from other YouthBuild Programs around the world were having the same problems as I was having. I learned to open up to my peers. I also learned about commitment, values, and declarations. When people grow in life others may look at them like there selling out or being phony. But the truth is people change—some for the better and, some for the worse. This Xchange helped me realize that the past is the past we can’t change the past, some people say that your past defines who you are but that is not true in my eyes. The thing that defines us is what we are doing now to help reach out to our children, our families, and our

KEEP THE
“YOU”
IN
YOUTHBUILD!

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August 2005
BIRTHDAYS

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6 Manuel Rayo	7	8	9 Lee Kay	10	11
12 Nicole McDonald	13 Joe Papa &	14 Josh DeBord & Andy Orrick	15 Travis Gill	16 Robert Biggs	17	18
19	20 Rocco DiVizio	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28 Corey Hall	29 Amber Borlick	30 CJ Loftus		



Happy Birthday to you!



September 2005 BIRTHDAYS

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Bobbi Jo Baize	2
3	4 Jamie Chavez & Stephanie Umstatted	5	6 Joey Peterson	7 Shawn Cahan	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19 Keith Robinette & Tiffany Sylvester	20	21	22	23
24 Jerrus Junior & JJ Ballenger	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

October 2005



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12 Steve Umstattd	13	14 Amanda Boitnott	15
16 Jennifer Ernest	17 Craig Hardesty	18	19	20	21 Greg Brothers	22
23	24 Roger Stamper	25	26	27	28	29
30	31 Ben Lee					

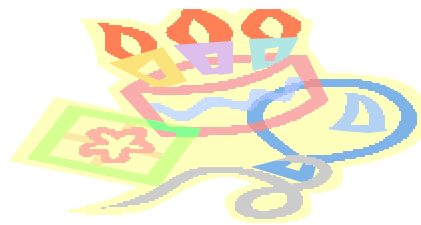


Happy Birthday to you!



November 2005

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7 Charles Griffen	8	9 Rodney Grant	10	11 Travis Ware	12 Jennifer Sheler
13	14 Steven Richarson	15	16 Jeanette Abdul-Saleem	17	18 Mike Donnelly & Josh Kidd & Brandon Missel	19
20 Andre Arline	21 Mickol Crow	22 Maurice Jorden	23 Chris Roznowski	24	25 Tyrone Phillips	26
27 Tom Lakin	28	29	30			



December 2005

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Billy Carter & Donta	2	3
4	5	6	7	8 Frank Wilson	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20 Matt Long	21 Josh Lopez & Jason	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30 Nicole McDonald & Christopher	31



Happy Birthday to you!



January 2006

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4 Kevin Sylvester	5	6 Harvey Trevino	7
8 Eric Clark	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17 Zai Jones	18	19 Rodney Harris	20	21
22	23	24 Bryan Murray	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

What's Happening at YOUR YouthBuild?

Do you ever wonder what's going on everyday at YouthBuild McLean County? As you may know, several of our staff members have made transitions to exciting, new opportunities.

Latasha Rials (YouthBuild McLean County class of 2004) and Sherri Crowder join us as Community Partnership AmeriCorps Members. They are working on maintaining contact with you all, arranging service and social events, and making sure that all of our interested alumni have mentors.

Larry Kotowski comes to us with a HUGE amount of experience in Career Development and education. If you need assistance with updating your resume' or learning about training programs or college enrollment, he'll be happy to take your call.

Kevin Bradley has accepted the position of Classroom Instructor and has done an OUTSTANDING JOB of ensuring that our students are achieving their full potential. Next year our goal is to be able to grant DIPLOMAS to our students!!! You will hear more about this WONDERFUL AND EXCITING program in the weeks to come!

Jeanette Abdul-Saleem has moved from Case Manager at YouthBuild McLean County. She is now pursuing her Associates Degree. We wish her success in her endeavors!

Kim Cazalet has taken a position with the McLean County Chamber of Commerce.

Liz Barnhart has moved on as well and below is the message that she wants you all to remember:

Dear Friends...

It is with a sad but peaceful heart that I must tell you that I, too, must part from YouthBuild. Sad because I love all of you very much and

will miss having you in my life on a daily basis. Peaceful because I know that leaving is what is best for me and for the organization. I have enjoyed my seven years here so much...there are not words to express my fondness for the program and all of the young people and staff associated with it. However, I know that YouthBuild is moving in new and exciting directions, and that I simply am not the best person to help make that happen. I will continue to work on contract for the program from time to time, helping out with data management and grant writing, so I will still get to see all of you now and then. Take care and in the words of Kelly Clarkson...

*I'll spread my wings
And I'll learn how to fly
Though it's not easy
To tell you goodbye
I gotta take a risk, take a chance make a change
And break away*

I love you all. Liz Barnhart

Though staff members move on to other opportunities, our commitment to you, the alumni of YouthBuild McLean County, remains the same. You are family, and will always be part of the YouthBuild Family. We are here for you, to celebrate your successes and your joys, to stand by your side when you have challenges and to help you to become stronger leaders.

"Change has a bad reputation in our society. But it isn't all bad — not by any means. In fact, change is necessary in life — to keep us moving ... to keep us growing ... to keep us interested Imagine life without change. It would be static ... boring ... dull."

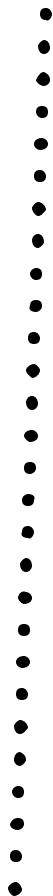
— Dr. Dennis O'Grady in *Bottom Line Personal*

You Make a Difference!

Alumni Services
1111 W. Market St.
Bloomington, IL 61701

Phone: 309-827-7507 ext. 7#
Email: cpierce@youthbuildmcleancounty.org

Did you know that we have a toll free number?
1-888-900-6319



ANNOUNCEMENTS-Help with your Gas Bill !!

△ Nicor gas has announced it will participate in more than 30 energy fairs throughout its service territory this winter heating season. The energy fairs serve as a venue where customers can check financial assistance eligibility, as well as **sign-up onsite for payment assistance** programs and receive energy-saving tips they can implement in their home. Nicor reps will be on hand to discuss their payment assistance programs, including Budget Plan, Nicor Sharing, LIHEAP, and Deferred payment Arrangements (DPA) program. Nicor has also introduced a variety of new programs this winter: 1) Moratorium on disconnecting gas for certain residential customers from Dec 1 to Mar 30, 2006; and 2) Customer Outreach for customers who have fallen behind on their bills— instead of proceeding with disconnection of service, Nicor will provide information on where to apply for a LIHEAP grant and how to sign up a payment program. Nicor also has three programs specifically for customers who have been disconnected; 1) Disconnection Assistance gives customers the opportunity to have service restored if they pay one-third of the total balance owed arrangements to pay the balance over time;) Good Samaritan Initiative, IL Lieutenant Governor's program, which enables LIHEAP- eligible customer to have their gas service restored for \$250 or 20% of their outstanding;3) State Program allows LIHEAP-eligible customers to get re-connected and apply LIHEAP dollars only to arrears. Nicor assists by waiving all reconnection fees and deposits through June 1, 2006. More information is available at www.nicor.com or call the company's support line at **1-888-Nicor4u (642-6748)**. *** **Sign up for LIHEAP by calling 829-0691**