

# Computer Corps

**A**t-promise youth mentor and teach technology in Austin, helping to bridge the Digital Divide by:

- Refurbishing donated PCs and providing them to low income families.
- Providing basic computer training throughout the community.
- Designing websites and providing support services.

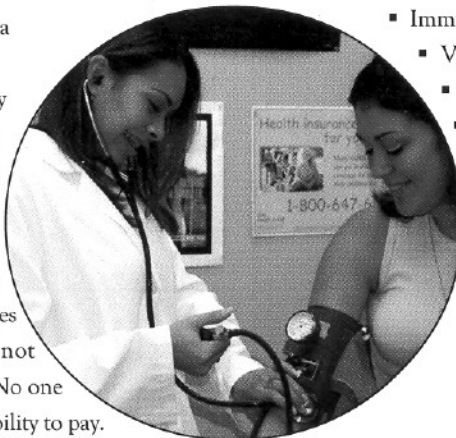


## Computer Corps Program Facts

Number of Members	29	100% received job readiness training.
Number of Community Members Served	310	100% received job placement assistance.
Number of Hours Served by Members	7,941	24% were placed in jobs.
Male	33%	14% received internships.
Female	67%	31% entered college.
Hispanic	34%	41% continued high school at AYW.
African American	28%	
Caucasian	38%	

# Health Center

**I**n 2006 the RGK Downtown Youth Center for Health served over 450 youth through a partnership with People's Community Clinic. The Health Center is located at AYW's downtown campus and is a primary health care center for people ages 16 to 25 who do not have medical insurance. No one is turned away for inability to pay.



Health services provided include:

- Immunizations
- Vision and hearing
- First aid
- Physical exams
- STD testing and prevention
- Pregnancy testing and prevention
- Pharmacy
- HIV testing and counseling

# Casa Verde Builders

**M**embers of the Casa Verde Builders program build single-family, energy-efficient, high-performance affordable housing in East Austin communities. In 2006, the program was



recognized by the Bank of America with its Annual

Neighborhood Excellence Initiative. The award recognized Casa Verde Builders' efforts to promote positive change in the Austin Community. Additionally, the National Council of La Raza recognized Casa Verde Builders with the Family Strengthening Award for Exemplary Programs.

In 2006, Casa Verde Builders completed three homes, which will be sold to low-income families. Due to the energy efficient design of Casa Verde Builders' homes, energy costs are 30% less compared to similar homes with similar square footage.

*Casa Verde Builders' homes have generated more than \$1 million in property tax revenue for local government.*

## Casa Verde Builders & Environmental Corps Program Facts

**A**YW's Casa Verde Builders and Environmental Corps are AmeriCorps programs that help participants gain valuable job training skills while giving back to the community.

In 2006, participants completed over 160,000 service hours in the programs combined. Fifty-five members received a \$4,725- scholarship for completing 1,700 service hours. Forty-seven participants received a \$2,363- scholarship for completing 900 service hours.

Since the program began, participants have earned over \$3 million in scholarships.

Number of Participants	126
Scholarship Recipients	102

### **Demographics**

Female	49%
Male	51%
Hispanic	28%
African American	13%
Caucasian	57%
Asian	1%
Native American	1%
Economically Disadvantaged	27%
Pregnant/Parenting	6%
Probation/Parole	25%
Homeless	1%

**2006**  
Annual  
Report



A M E R I C A N  
YOUTHWORKS

# 2005 in Review

**F**riends,  
American YouthWorks in 2006 had the privilege of working with over a thousand young men and women and their families in our comprehensive programs. We saw again the extraordinary talent and gifts that these young men and women have to share with all of us. Too often pushed aside, pushed out, not given a second or even a third chance to become productive citizens, these are young people who have often suffered extraordinary challenges or are just bright and bored, and have never been challenged to be the kind of citizens we need them to be and they need to be.

Our young people this past year have exceeded expectations. They built award-winning homes that people come to see from all over the nation and even from other countries. They built extraordinary parks, preserves, trails and pathways into the vast beauty of the outdoors. They studied computer technology and completed internships and taught other people how to use technology, so they too can have a chance to access the new tools of the century. They worked on their own lives. They learned to be better parents. They learned to be better learners. They learned to be self-sufficient. They learned the steps to get and keep a job and to become the contributors to the community that they want to be and that we need them to be. They learned that proactive positive behavior is the contribution they can make to our challenged world.

*Mission:*  
*Building Productive  
Lives and  
Better Communities*

We are honored with the governmental partners, federal, state and local, with the private sector partners, with the foundations, churches and individuals who have realized that the investment in these young men and women is an investment in all of our futures. It is an investment and a return for a successful economy and a safe and bright future for all members of our community.

We thank you for caring about the young men and women who will shape that future and we deeply appreciate your investment and partnership with the future builders here at American YouthWorks.

Sincerely,



Richard Halpin  
Founder/CEO



# American YouthWorks

Gender			Statistics		
Female	876	52%	Economically Disadvantaged	1,140	68%
Male	807	48%	Probation/Parole	194	12%
Ethnicity			Homeless	262	16%
Hispanic	874	52%	Pregnant/Parenting	198	12%
African American	313	19%	<b>In 2006, American YouthWorks served 1,683 youth.</b>		
White	478	28%			
Asian	8	.34%			
Native American	3	.33%			
Other	6	.33%			

## IN HER OWN WORDS: Carmen Rodriguez tells her story

**B**efore coming to American YouthWorks (AYW) three years ago, I was on the verge of dropping out and was partying most of the time. I used alcohol and drugs because I was miserable. Growing up in a very dysfunctional family, I was constantly told that my life meant nothing and that I was too ignorant to amount to anything. I hated school; just before I left my old school I was on the brink of being taken to court for truancy.

When I turned 16, I registered at AYW. Slowly I explored the opportunities at AYW. I stopped drinking and using, and I began to enjoy school. My grades improved dramatically; I was proud of myself because I was blossoming into a new person.

The teachers and counselors are so

wonderful here; any time I need to talk they are here for me. If I have a question or need help with something they literally go out of their way to help me.

Before AYW, I had never even considered applying for college but with the help of our college counselor Jaimie Prince, I am gathering all of the information I need to be accepted to a good school. Jaimie has helped me write my application essays and has made time just to take me on college tours. Our career counselor Venessa Ocanas is constantly presenting me with new opportunities, to find work, intern, and volunteer. At AYW, an entire staff of real people work to help the students.

In December 2006, I will graduate and I am filled with both excitement and sorrow. AYW is like a family to me. The administration, teachers, and counselors do care about each and every student.



Pictured left to right, college counselor Jaimie Prince presents application materials to Carmen Rodriguez.

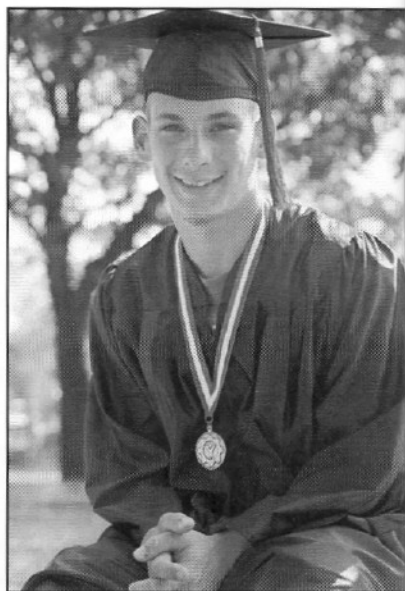
# Charter High School

**A**YW's fully accredited public high school was chartered in 1996. Our two campuses served 1,098 students in 2006. AYW's charter school educates youth at-risk for dropping out, or who have already dropped out of other schools.

We were the first charter in the nation to be named a National Service-Learning Leader School.

In 2006, the American Youth Policy Forum highlighted American YouthWorks as one of 12 programs in the nation that is successfully recovering disengaged youth in an in-depth report, titled *Whatever It Takes: How Twelve Communities Are Reconnecting Out-of-School Youth*.

Additionally, AYW was named one of the 10 best redesigned high schools in Texas by the Texas Education Agency and International Center for Leadership in Education, which is funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.



Program Facts	District-wide	South	Downtown
Total Participants	1,098	804	294
Female	49%	50%	46%
Male	51%	50%	54%
Hispanic	57.5%	62%	43.6%
African American	17%	16%	20%
Caucasian	25%	21.4%	36%
Other	0.5%	0.6%	0.4%
Economically Disadvantaged	59%	62%	51%
Pregnant/Parenting	10%	11%	8%
Probation/Parole	8%	8%	6%
Homeless	20%	23%	14%

# Environmental Corps

In the Environmental Corps program, participants plan and deliver a wide array of environmental community service projects.

Member activities include:

- Habitat restoration
- Trail building
- Public land improvement
- Community gardens
- Community education

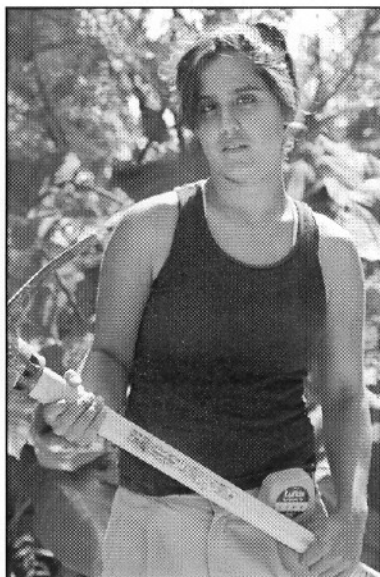
Among the many park and trail improvement projects in 2006, Environmental Corps members performed several involving stonework. These included an erosion control project along the Shoal Creek Hike & Bike Trail and a trail compliant with the Americans With Disabilities Act at the Zilker Park Tea House. Both projects gave participants skills and career possibilities in the art of stone masonry.

Outside of Austin, Environmental Corps members successfully completed trail projects at remote sites in Sanderson in Terrell County and at the Palo Alto Battlefield in Brownsville. Additionally, participants traveled to East Texas, as they did in 2005, to help with ongoing clean-up efforts and restoration of services from the the devastation of Hurricanes Rita and Katrina.

*In 2006, Environmental Corps participants completed:*

- 22 trail projects
- 46 habitat restoration projects.
- 40 projects on public lands.

*Environmental Corps  
won  
Keep Austin Beautiful's  
award for  
Best Freescale  
Youth Achievement*



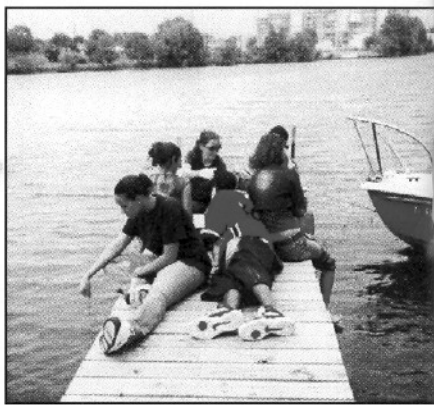
# Service Learning

Service Learning ties classroom education together with community service. Each graduate of American YouthWorks has given back to the community through Service Learning.

In 2006, AYW participants provided services to:

- Alamo Drafthouse Theater
- Arthouse at the Jones Center
- Austin Police Department Blue Santa Program
- Capital Area Food Bank
- Reach Out and Read
- Children's Hospital
- Green Corn Project
- Helping Hand Home for Children
- Kiva.org
- LCRA
- Parkside Community School
- Peace Corps
- Texas Parks & Wildlife Department
- University of Texas at Austin
- Williams Elementary School

*American YouthWorks  
is recognized as a National  
Service-Learning Leader School.*



Students use their biology skills, testing water samples at Town Lake for LCRA.

*Through service learning,  
we hope to instill a value for the  
community in our participants.  
They have what it takes to be  
great contributing citizens.*

—Emily Mathon,  
Service Learning Coordinator

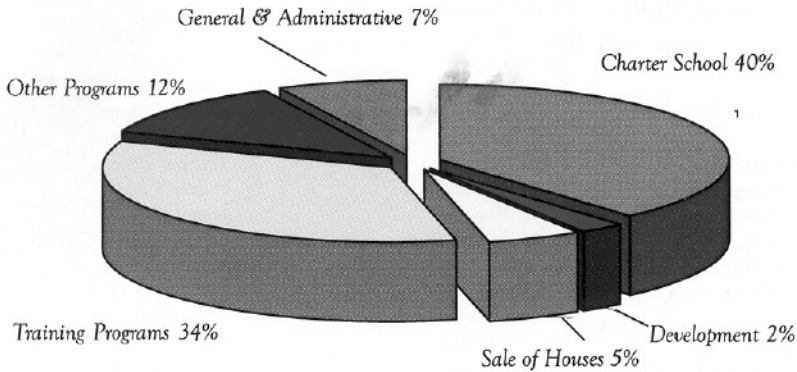


Through a partnership with the Green Corn Project, participants cultivated an organic garden this spring in the midst of downtown Austin. After harvesting the crops, AYW participants donated the food to the Austin Resource Center for the Homeless.



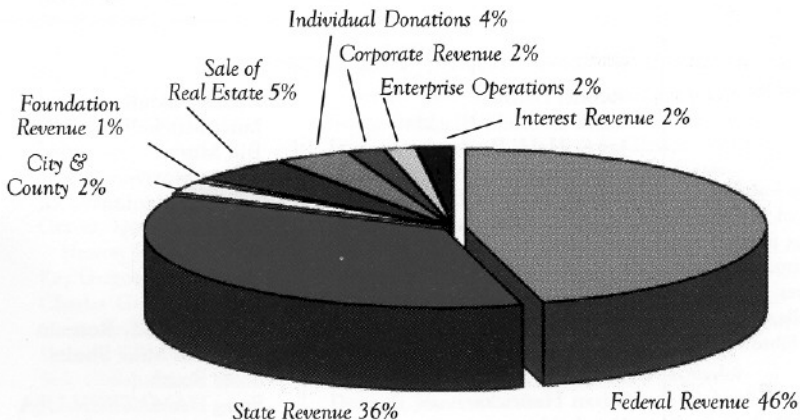
# Results of Operation

## Operating Expenses Fiscal Year 2006 \*



Charter School: \$2,866,180  
 Training Programs: \$2,558,841  
 Other Programs: \$893,174  
 General & Administrative: \$533,655  
 Sale of Houses: \$399,649  
 Development: \$183,091

## Revenue by Source Fiscal Year 2006



Fiscal Year 2006: 10/1/05 to 9/30/06  
 \*Unaudited.

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*Visit us*

Join us for a **Get in Gear**—a memorable hour where you hear from our participants and take a tour of our school. If interested, please call our downtown office.



A M E R I C A N  
YOUTHWORKS



## *Get In Gear*

American YouthWorks

***SAVE THESE DATES:***

**March 1st Or March 22nd 2007**

***12:30 to 1:30 pm***

AYW's South Campus, 1911 E. Ben White. Food provided.

RSVP or Questions: Jennifer Schell (512) 236-6125

[jschell@americanyouthworks.org](mailto:jschell@americanyouthworks.org)

**(See Directions on Back)**

## Directions to 1911 East Ben White

**IH-35 Southbound**, take exit 231 Woodward/St. Edward's University. Turn left onto Woodward, cross Ben White Blvd., and turn RIGHT at the first driveway (before the railroad tracks) into the SouthPark business center where AYW is located. Continue behind Quizno's until you see AYW signs. Drive around the building and park in the front (north side). Look for balloons.

**IH-35 Northbound**, exit 230 Ben White/Hwy. 71. Turn right at the light and continue about 1/2 mile. AYW is the first complex on the right. If you miss the entrance, turn right at the light (Woodward) and follow the directions above, from IH-35 South.





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