

# buildOn Detroit

Every day, buildOn is breaking the cycle of poverty, illiteracy, and low expectations through service and education.



Throughout Detroit, hundreds of thousands of high school students are at risk of dropping out of school and engaging in unsafe activities. buildOn's Afterschool Program develops a deep culture of service within Detroit schools to increase civic and academic engagement among youth.

buildOn engages nearly 4,600 students in 62 urban high schools in six US regions: Chicago, Detroit, New York City, Oakland/San Francisco, Philadelphia, and Southwestern Connecticut. buildOn launched its afterschool service programs in Detroit in 1992. Currently, buildOn runs afterschool service programs for nearly **700 Detroit youth**. Through our programs, Detroit students have contributed **184,695 hours of service**.

## We accomplish this through three core activities

**Service:** Urban youth in buildOn's Afterschool Service Programs contribute intensive service to their communities on a weekly basis – helping the homeless, young children and senior citizens in need.

**Education:** Through buildOn service-learning, post-service reflection, and global education curriculum, program members develop an understanding of issues facing their local and global communities.

**Building Schools:** Program members work side-by-side with villagers to construct schools in some of the poorest countries on the planet. This experience gives students a deep appreciation for their own educational opportunities, while helping them realize that they have the power to change the world.

**95%** H.S. SENIORS IN BUILDON GRADUATE AND GO ON TO COLLEGE

STUDENTS IN BUILDON MISSED **63% FEWER DAYS** OF SCHOOL THAN THEIR UNINVOLVED PEERS.

**184,695**

HOURS SERVED BY DETROIT YOUTH

**26,445** HOURS SERVED IN 2012-2013

PROGRAMS FOR 700 DETROIT YOUTH

Brandeis University has defined a causal link between **buildOn programs** and **improved academic engagement**, and has identified the following outcomes for buildOn program members:

- Improved attendance at school
- Civic Engagement – Belief in one's ability to effect change
- Empowerment – students regain control over their lives
- Hope – Expanded sense of possibility
- Personal and Social Development

## Youth Engagement Zone at Western HS and Osborn Academy

buildOn **Youth Engagement Zones** aim to help stem the dropout crisis by involving at-risk and under engaged students in community service activities and empowering them to increase their academic success. By providing programming to 150 students on a single campus, buildOn Youth Engagement Zones have been shown to develop a deep culture of service within challenged schools. A study by the National Youth Leadership Council found that involvement in service lessens the achievement gap for low-income students, and found that students who serve do better academically than students who do not serve.

In Detroit, buildOn operates Youth Engagement Zones at Osborn Academy and Western High Schools. During the 2012-2013 school year, students at Western High School completed **8,517 hours of service**, and at Osborn Academy High School students completed **8,492 hours of service**. Service projects in Detroit last year addressed topics such as literacy, the environment, food insecurity, and elementary education. In addition to local service projects, 14 buildOn members from the program had the opportunity to travel abroad to help construct a primary school in Nepal or Nicaragua.

### The buildOn Youth Engagement Zone:

- Engages 150+ students in buildOn programming consistently
- Provides ongoing weekday and weekend community service opportunities with specialized programming during school vacations and summer breaks
- Provides school-wide days of service three times per year
- Establishes a network of peer and adult mentors
- Integrates service-learning into the classroom
- Selects 12 students to travel to construct buildOn primary schools in developing countries
- Places 2 Youth Development Professionals at Western HS and Osborn Academy on a full-time basis

## Fiscal Management

Charity Navigator, the leading non-profit rating authority in the US, has awarded buildOn its highest **Four-Star Rating** for nine straight years. Less than 1% of all non-profit organizations have achieved this and reflects buildOn's high degree of fiscal responsibility.

## buildOn Partner Schools 2013-2014

- Cass Technical High School
- Martin Luther King High School
- Oak Park High School
- Osborn College Preparatory Academy\*
- Renaissance High School
- University Preparatory Academy
- Western International High School\*

*\* Serving 150+ students at this school through the buildOn Youth Engagement Zone.*

For more information on buildOn Detroit, visit [buildon.org/detroit](http://buildon.org/detroit)

Every 26 seconds a student in the US drops out of school. Help us to confront the dropout crisis at [buildOn.org](http://buildon.org)

*“buildOn’s done so many things for me. During my projects, I’ve met people who own their own businesses, city officials – and they’re always so pleased to hear what we’re doing.”*

*– Ivory Price, buildOn alumna*