



## **Park Habitat Recognized by the Maryland Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals**

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Award ceremony coincides with the beginning of Park Habitat's Build-A-Block effort

On behalf of Park Habitat, Juliet Eisenstein, Rachel Hettleman, and Blake Pruitt received the 2010 Outstanding Youth Fundraiser Award for High Schools presented by the Maryland Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals. In June, Park Habitat marked the complete rehab and funding of 12 houses in 10 years for Habitat for Humanity of the Chesapeake.

This week, Build-A-Block was launched--an extension of the work Park Habitat has been doing for the past 10 years, the last two years in partnership with Friends School.

Build-A-Block provides opportunities for high school student throughout the Baltimore area to work together to build a community of homeowners in Baltimore City.

Build-A-Block students from public and independent schools are sponsoring six houses in collaboration with Habitat for Humanity of the Chesapeake. The students develop skills in fundraising, program development, advocacy, and construction. The program is a model for incorporating community service into an educational curriculum.

In addition to Park, participating schools are: Baltimore City College High School, Bryn Mawr School, Calvert Hall College High School, Carver Vocational Technical High School, Dulaney High School, Edmondson/Westside High School, Friends School, Hereford High School, Independent School 1, Jemicy School, McDonogh School, Mercy High School, Mergenthaler Vocational Technical School, Mt. St. Joseph High, REACH!, and Roland Park Country School. In addition to constructing six Build-A-Block houses, the coalition will demolish a garage on the 2400 block of Jefferson Street to create a green space and garden. Students will work with members of the McElderry community to ensure that the needs of the neighborhood are met.

The green space project will include participants from Middle Grades Partnership schools-- Baltimore City middle school that partner with independent schools and universities for academic programs.

In the pilot year of 2010-2011, Build-A-Block needs to raise \$300,000 to rehabilitate six houses in the 2400 block of Jefferson Street.

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