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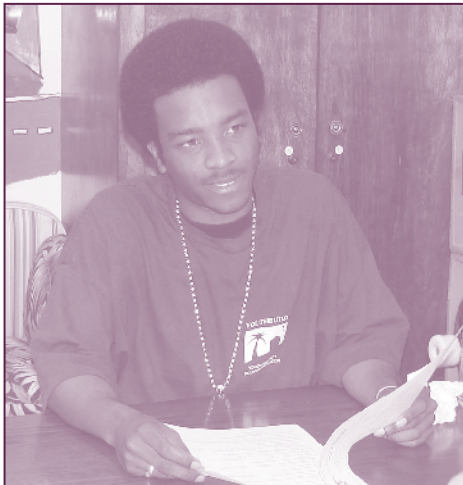
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BUILDING A FUTURE ON GREEN ENERGY

Jayshawn English's Story



Jayshawn English dreams of owning his own wind turbine business.

Jayshawn English has a big dream in life: to make a living out of saving the world. "I want to convert wind turbines into solar wind turbines so we can store more energy," says the 21-year-old.

It's been a long road for Jayshawn, who grew up in a tough neighborhood in Compton. A few years ago, he was homeless, in trouble with police and struggling to find his way in life. Eventually, he enrolled in YouthBuild, a year-long program run by United Way partner Venice Community Housing Corporation. As part of the program, students get hands-on experience in green construction, which

BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER TO CREATE JOBS

Unemployment in L.A. County is now in the double digits for the first time since the early 90's. But, in reality, we've been experiencing steep job declines for years. Since we launched our poverty plan 3 years ago, United Way of Greater Los Angeles has been focusing on job readiness, literacy and training. Our work helps ensure that businesses have the talent they need to make our communities more productive and ultimately more competitive. But in this dynamic economy, accomplishing this goal is easier said than done. It takes business, labor, education and nonprofits working together to find the right solutions. We've taken a leadership role in making this partnership work.



United Way and its partners in the L.A. Workforce Systems Collaborative hosted a reception to honor new Secretary of Labor Hilda Solis. Members of the Collaborative are pictured with Solis (third from right).

For example, we brought together seven organizations to form the **Workforce Funders Collaborative**. This group, which includes our corporate partners Kaiser Permanente and Bank of America, focuses on workforce development in growth industries like Health Care and Logistics. These are sectors where jobs are not likely to be outsourced. And they provide good incomes and career advancement. In its first year, the Collaborative invested \$1.6 million in job training programs.

We also brought together the **LA Workforce Systems Collaborative** to ensure that the City, schools and State align their resources to make the greatest impact in the community. As part of this alignment, the Collaborative is focusing on co-locating services, giving communities central locations to easily access workforce development resources. For example, the Collaborative facilitated the co-location of the City's Hollywood WorkSource One-Stop Career Center at L.A. City College.

The Collaborative has also co-invested in the City's regional youth employment campaign, HIRE-LA. Targeting young adults, HIRE-LA helps them get full and/or part-time local public or private sector jobs. The Collaborative helped the City of Los Angeles reach its goal of 10,000 hires in 2007 – 2008. It's now working to help the City achieve its goal of 15,000 young adults hired in 2008 – 2009.

We continue to bring important constituencies together to permanently lift generations of people out of poverty. In collaboration with our partners, and thanks to our donors, we are putting people in the right jobs and giving them tools they can use for the rest of their lives.

Jayshawn soon realized was a hot topic.

"Here we were talking about these things in the classroom and it was all over the TV. Even the President was talking about going green and how all these jobs were opening up and I was thinking, 'Okay, I've got a headstart on this,'" he says.

Thanks to YouthBuild, Jayshawn's now working part-time installing solar panels and taking

classes in energy-auditing at Santa Monica College with the hope of owning his own wind turbine business.

"I was at rock bottom. I had nothing at all. Now I have my diploma, a part-time job and I'm going to school," he says. "If I keep it up, maybe I can go to the White House one day, shake hands with the President and install some solar panels on the roof," he adds, laughing.