

# PRESS RELEASE

## Teen program supports Camden youth in goals for college and beyond

**CAMDEN, NJ March 28, 2011:**

The people of Camden New Jersey are young, but bear the burden of a city trapped in poverty and abandonment. Almost half of the city is 24 years old or younger. Many of these young adults and adolescents have not and will not have the chance to go to college and expand their education. UrbanPromise is working to change this circumstance one child at a time through their StreetLeader Program.

The StreetLeader Program employs local youth to become leaders and role models in the community. They work with younger children in after school and summer camp programs and develop valuable work and leadership skills. There are 41 students employed this year and many are approaching high school graduation. UrbanPromise assists the high school seniors with the transition to college through their College Readiness Program.

In the fall, students are led on college tours and they meet individually to develop their educational goals. In a city where many do not have the opportunity, UrbanPromise encourages and supports students as they work to further their education. Every Thursday evening from 7- 9pm, the staff of the StreetLeader Program in addition to volunteers from the community, assist the seniors with a variety of different issues such as the college application process, scholarship applications, developing a budget, developing time management and study skills, developing healthy relationships and spiritual growth.

Many of the StreetLeaders will be first generation college students, so it is important for UrbanPromise to support the parents with the transition for their family, and provide information about FAFSA, assistance with FASFA completion and other financial support.

“We do everything we can to prepare our students and their families” says Dana Covert, Co-Director of the StreetLeader Program.” It’s our hope that our young people will work hard, pursue their dreams, build on their education and successfully live out their life purpose.”

The college readiness program ends May 12th, after a year of seminars, SAT/ACT prep classes, college and scholarship applications. The process ends with a ceremony where the graduating StreetLeaders are presented with laptops and paired with a mentor for continued support.

“We get them out of the city because so many youth feel trapped” says Andy Joshua, Director of Children and Youth Ministries. “After all of their work and education, they have the choice to come back and build up this community. It’s

**Meeting Details:**

Every Thursday from 7-9pm  
UrbanPromise Student Center  
3700 Rudderow Avenue  
Pennsauken, NJ 08110

**Available for comments or to arrange interviews:**

If you have any questions about the college readiness program or would like to volunteer, please contact:

Dana Covert, Co-Director of the StreetLeader Program  
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***About UrbanPromise***

UrbanPromise has one clear mission, to build a city of promise, one child at a time. By equipping Camden's children and young adults with the skills necessary for academic achievement and moreover, life management, UrbanPromise has grown from a tiny summer camp program to a multifaceted institution with a reputation of solidarity and success. Among their many programs are private schools for grades k-12, after school programs, summer camps, and various other recreational and educational programs, each targeting different parts of the lives of Camden's youth. Learn more about UrbanPromise at [www.urbanpromiseusa.org](http://www.urbanpromiseusa.org)