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UrbanPromise's *UrbanTrekker* Program Brings "BoatBuilding" Back to Camden

Young Men from Camden to Launch Handmade Boats in Cooper River August 8th

Camden, NJ – Urban BoatWorks, in partnership with the Camden Shipyard and Maritime Museum, has brought the art of boatbuilding back to the interested youth of UrbanPromise in Camden through their innovative UrbanTrekks Program.

This summer, five young men from Camden, as a part of this UrbanPromise Ministries StreetLeaders program, toiled laboriously for six weeks building two wooden boats by hand. The students were assisted by adult volunteers and conducted the majority of their work on the boats in the basement of the once Episcopal Church of Our Savior, now inhabited by the Camden Shipyard and Maritime Museum.

The official launch of the three carefully constructed 12-foot skiffs into the Cooper River from the Cooper River Yacht Club is **Saturday, August 8th at 9:30am**. Two of the boats being launched were built by the five young men through the program. The third boat, built by adult volunteers, will be called 'Promise' and donated to the Trekkers program in Maine, which served as the inspiration for the UrbanTrekks program at UrbanPromise. Men who participated in shepherding the boys as they built the boats will be in attendance at the boat launch to cheer them on.

In addition to the hands-on learning they received while building the boats, the young men also learned about the rich maritime history of the Camden waterfront and the local region. They were given the unique opportunity to set sail on Gloucester City's 'North Wind,' and tour above and below deck on the tall ship 'Gazela,' moored at Penn's Landing, Philadelphia. Additionally, the students visited the boatshop of the 'Gazela' and saw firsthand the art and craft of boatbuilding and repair.

To learn more about UrbanPromise and its other programs, visit www.urbanpromiseusa.org. For more information about Urban BoatWorks and the boat launch, contact UrbanTrekker program director Jim Cummings at jcumings@urbanpromiseusa.org or 856.382.1875.

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