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Media Contacts:

Elizabeth Pierre, Just A Start

617-918-7522 / elizabethpierre@justastart.org

Lisa Moniz, Bald Hill Builders

781-806-5951 / lmoniz@baldhillbuilders.com

YouthBuild Just A Start and Bald Hill Builders Announce New Apprenticeship Program

Cambridge, MA — August 19, 2024 — [YouthBuild Just A Start](#) and [Bald Hill Builders](#) (BHB) introduced the inaugural Bald Hill Builders Apprenticeship Program at a kickoff event held at the Just A Start Headquarters in North Cambridge. The event featured the announcement of the first two construction apprentices, Travis Coelin of Medford and Jordan Vanaernam of Somerville. Both are graduates of YouthBuild Just A Start.

Set to officially begin in September 2024, the apprenticeship program will provide Travis and Jordan with the opportunity to sharpen their construction skills and gain hands-on experience at active worksites over the course of 2-3 months. Their schedule will include practical training on-site, participation in supervised construction tasks, and attendance at regular skill development workshops. Each apprentice will work closely with experienced mentors to gain a comprehensive understanding of various construction processes, from project planning to execution. This initiative is designed to further develop their expertise in the trades, equipping them with the confidence and knowledge needed for long-term success in the construction industry.

“At YouthBuild Just A Start, we believe that with the right support, our students can become leaders in the construction industry, contributing to the growth and vitality of our communities,” said Nate Bae Kupel, Just A Start Director of Youth Programs. “This collaboration reflects our commitment to creating pathways to economic opportunity for our YouthBuild graduates, and we are proud to deepen our partnership with Bald Hill Builders through this apprenticeship program.”

For over three years, Bald Hill Builders has been a close partner of the YouthBuild Just A Start program, hiring several construction alumni and providing OSHA-10 safety instruction and credentials to dozens of YouthBuild Just A Start graduates. Building on this strong partnership, the new apprenticeship program represents the next step in preparing alumni for successful careers in construction.

“At Bald Hill Builders, we wholeheartedly believe in the mission of YouthBuild and are proud to partner with Just A Start in empowering the next generation of construction professionals,” said Brenda



Laurenza, President of Bald Hill Builders. “We’ve seen the incredible impact of this partnership through the talented alumni we’ve had the privilege to hire. The new program marks an exciting next step in our commitment to the youth in our community, providing them with the skills and opportunities needed to build successful careers in construction.”

This program marks a pivotal moment in Just A Start’s ongoing commitment to workforce development and community growth.



Pictured L to R: Travis Coelin, Jordan Vanaernam, Todd Small, General Superintendent – Bald Hill Builders



Pictured L to R: Nate Bae Kupel, Director of Youth Programs – Just A Start, Dan Madri, Vocational Instructor – Just A Start, Travis Coelin, Jordan Vanaernam Todd Small, General Superintendent – Bald Hill Builders, Derek Wood, Vocational Instructor – Just A Start

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About Just A Start

Just A Start believes that access to stable housing and sustainable careers are the essential building blocks of equitable communities. For more than 50 years, we have focused on meeting the fundamental needs



of individuals and families who have been systemically denied opportunities to realize their full potential. Our programs include affordable housing, education and job training, and comprehensive support services, spanning Cambridge and beyond. We have developed and currently maintain 600 affordable apartments. To keep community members housed, we also offer financial and technical assistance to prevent evictions, and support low- and moderate-income homeowners. Finally, we prepare individuals of all ages and circumstances with the skills and knowledge they need to secure fulfilling careers, leveraging their talents to achieve economic mobility and strengthen the region's workforce. **YouthBuild Just A Start** is a full-time, comprehensive youth workforce development program for ages 16-24 in the Boston Metro North region. As a proud member of the global YouthBuild movement, we help young people reclaim their education, gain job skills, and become community leaders. For more information, please visit www.justastart.org/youth-programs.

About Bald Hill Builders

Bald Hill Builders, a woman-owned (WBE) and operated commercial general contracting and construction management firm, proudly serves the Greater Boston area, Massachusetts, and surrounding states. The firm specializes in pre-construction, construction management, general contracting, and design-build services. BHB builds in several industries including Institutional, Hospitality, Commercial Spaces, healthcare and is dedicated to the development of affordable and sustainable housing, Bald Hill Builders aims to attract and retain a diverse population, strengthen and stabilize neighborhoods, and support workforce housing initiatives. The company is committed to keeping construction funds within the communities it serves, thereby fostering economic opportunities for a diverse local workforce and material suppliers. The firm takes great care to leave every neighborhood better than it was found, actively engaging in volunteerism and community involvement. BHB's philosophy includes a strong dedication to giving back to the neighborhoods and residents it serves. Additionally, Bald Hill Builders is focused on partnering with and mentoring underrepresented subcontractors, offering guidance through the complexities of the construction industry to support their success. www.baldhillbuilders.com