

# Boston youth warm up the neighborhood

## Volunteers weatherize the homes of 60 seniors

**DORCHESTER** When Annie Niel moved into the home she bought on Brunswick Street in Dorchester 14 months ago, she recalls immediately feeling the frigid drafts slicing through the home once winter arrived.

"We had a hard, cold winter last year," said the 63-year-old, who lives with her three grandchildren. "You didn't want to be on one side of the house. You could be sitting in the kitchen and you would feel the cold air blow over your head."

But after some quick work was done yesterday, Niel said she can definitely feel the difference.

With the cold winter air having finally arrived and heating costs expected to rise, YouthBuild Boston yesterday teamed up with

### YouthBuild

- Bank of America yesterday donated \$100,000 to YouthBuild Boston for continuing work in the community.
- Launched in 1990, YouthBuild Boston's mission is to improve opportunities for young people in Boston by teaching skills that will equip them to support themselves and help develop personal and neighborhood responsibility. METRO

volunteers from the city, as well as Bank of America, to weatherize the homes of 60 seniors in Boston, which will eventually save them about 10 percent on their heating bills, according to the city's Department of Neighborhood Development.

Teams of volunteers spread out around the city to install free window kits in those homes to keep out the cold, and 17-year-old Juan Tejada was one of about 130 community volunteers who was busy

jumping from house to house yesterday installing the units.

"It feels good to do something like this for the community," said Tejada, 17.

Tejada is a member of YouthBuild, an organization that watches over youths, teaches them crafts such as home building, and helps them gather the skills toward reaching a degree or a job in a similar trade.

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**YOUTHBUILD** students Juan Tejada, left, and Francemy Exume winterize a window at a home in Dorchester yesterday.