



*Graduating class of September 2012. Photo by CREedem Photography*

# JOB TRAINING IN THE WORKS

HANO and Urban Strategies graduate the first thirteen pre-apprentice students



*Building skills: Photo by Urban Strategies, Inc.*

HANO and Urban Strategies, Inc. recently celebrated the recent graduates of its Pre-Apprentice Construction Training Program, hosting a ceremony at the Sojourner Truth Neighborhood Center.

The event highlighted successful accomplishments of the 13 students, both men and women, in the first pre-apprentice class focused on developing job skills and attaining construction training. Graduates were elated by a moving and encouraging keynote speech by former New Orleans City Council Member Oliver Thomas.

former students were hired to begin their new careers immediately. Several other placements are pending, some with hopes of working on the Choice Neighborhoods Initiative projects, slated to start in November.

The program was created in conjunction with HANO and the City of New Orleans' Choice Neighborhoods Initiative to provide education and workforce development opportunities for residents.

During the 12-week program, graduates received hands-on training in carpentry, plumbing, and electrical systems and achieved the following certifications: 21st Century Success Principles Pre-Employment, Pre-Apprenticeship: Facility Maintenance, OSHA-10 for Construction Safety, and CPR/First Aid/AED. As a part of the curriculum, students worked on projects at the Sojourner Truth Neighborhood

Center located in the Faubourg Lafitte community ranging from enlarging a closet, building picnic tables, removing a doorway, the removal of old signs, and painting of the lobby and hallway.

Urban Strategies in partnership with Home Builders Institute developed training courses focused on job readiness skills, construction, and facilities maintenance. Once the course is completed, graduates will have the knowledge and hands-on skills that qualify them to begin a career in construction trades or facility maintenance, and receive a nationally recognized pre-apprenticeship certification in facility maintenance. Other program partners include Lindy Bogs National Center for Community Literacy, YMCA, Louisiana Disaster Recovery Unit, Office of Community Development, and the Sojourner Truth Neighborhood Center.