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**CONTACT:**

Tracy Anderson  
718-237-2017 x143  
tanderson@bwiny.org

**NEW KITCHEN, NEW JOBS AND HOUSING FOR LOW-INCOME NEW YORKERS**  
*Innovative Woodworker Training Program Builds Green Kitchen Units  
in Homes for Low-Income Families*

BROOKLYN, NEW YORK, August 7, 2007—Today fourteen unemployed New Yorkers prepared for a new career in custom woodworking while helping other low-income families build sustainable new homes. Students of Brooklyn Woods, a job training program run by the nonprofit Brooklyn Workforce Innovations, volunteered their labor as they honed their woodworking talents, installing a kitchen cabinet unit custom-built from sustainably-harvested wood at Halsey Street in Bedford-Stuyvesant, a Habitat for Humanity-New York City development. On Friday Brooklyn Woods trainees will graduate and use the skills they've developed at Halsey Street in paid skilled woodworker jobs around the city.

“Brooklyn Woods operates the only cabinet building business in New York City that works exclusively with environmentally-friendly materials,” says Co-Executive Director Scott Pelzer. It is also the only cabinet manufacturer that is helping 75 unemployed and low-income New Yorkers annually start new careers. Brooklyn Woods participants receive 8 weeks of free skills training followed by two years of job placement and career advancement services, designed to shepherd them from their first job into a stable career position. Graduates are placed in skilled woodworker positions with average starting salaries of 10.66 per hour, and rising to \$15-20 per hour for graduates with more experience.

This week Brooklyn Woods trainees are manufacturing and installing custom-built green kitchen units for each of the nine affordable homes at Halsey Street. Brooklyn Woods has manufactured green kitchen units for Habitat-NYC since 2002. The Halsey Street units are built entirely with environmentally-responsible materials, including flakeboard constructed of sunflower seeds and Forest Sustainability Council certified oak.

Brooklyn Woods is a program of Brooklyn Workforce Innovations (BWI). BWI's mission is to empower unemployed and low-income people by creating living-wage employment opportunities and access to career paths. BWI operates four sector-targeted skills training programs and two social purpose businesses, assisting hundreds of New Yorkers annually.

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