

City of Newburgh

Press Release

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For immediate release

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Ashé Urban Farm Celebrates Opening of Urban Farm On South Street

On June 28, Ashé Urban Farm celebrated the opening of the only youth-run farm in Orange County. The median age of the group, which came together because of Newburgh Rising, a City of Newburgh 21st Century afterschool program at Newburgh Free Academy, is 16. They opened their Urban Farm at the People's Garden on South Street.

In an open letter to the public the farmers (students in Newburgh Rising) said, “We are located in Newburgh, which according to the U.S. Census Bureau, is the 4th poorest city in New York State, but the way we look at it, we are the richest. Fighting against all stereotypes, we are enriching ourselves with knowledge, diverse skills, and striving for success. Through urban farming, we learn how to be responsible and work together to become independent leaders.”

Ashé Urban Famers have spent much of their time exploring, learning, and farming different types of fruits and vegetables, such as tomatoes, squash, beans, peas, chamomile, peppers, pumpkin, and okra. They have six beds of organic food growing, with a stage, seating area for 20 and a peach tree. Their plans are to grow 200lbs of food for families in the community. The rest will be sold and the money used to make improvements on the farm.

The Ashe' Urban Farmers are: Aaron Scott, Andrea Baynes, Angelica, Victoria & John Scialpi, Ryan O'Rourke, Jalen Bartee, Wendy Garcia, Tinisha Green, Yvette Ramirez, Robert Colon, Rob Tompkins, Steven Florie, Andrea Nevling, Ashley Sarvis, Rebecca Sander-Eachus, Everette Byrd, Calea Daniels. Decora Sandiford is the director of Ashè Urban Farm and Founder of the Urban Farmers League, Kim Bersin, a City of Newburgh AmeriCorps VISTA volunteer is co-director, and Emmanuel Wells and Steven Bellamy are on-line Creative Directors.

For more information, visit <http://www.ashe-urban-farm.blogspot.com/>.

