

City of Newburgh

Press Release

(845) 569-7354 phone— (845) 569-7370 fax

For immediate release

August 5, 2009

Newburgh Free Academy Students Help Restore City's Historic Dutch Reformed Church



How are 12 Newburgh Free Academy students spending their summer vacation? They are helping to restore a National Historic Landmark, Newburgh's Dutch Reformed Church.

The students are participating in a new field school sponsored by the World Monuments Fund from July 14 through August 21, under the supervision of Amy Freitag, World Monuments Fund Director of U.S. Programs, and Yanyah Pearson, Director of the City of Newburgh Department of Human Services.



They are Ronald Bell, Paxton Carlson, Matthew Farmer, Diamond Fennell, Steven Florie, Kaleem King, Ryan O'Ruke, Karisma Parson, Jeremy Watkins, Jean Carlos Bustamonte, Brian Sughrim, and Julian McMillian.

This pilot program, a partnership between the World Monuments Fund, the City of Newburgh Department of Human Services, Habitat for Humanity of Greater Newburgh, and the Newburgh Preservation Association, uses the City's historic fabric to create economic opportunities and career training for young people.

During the six-week program, the students are helping to repair fire-damaged portions of the church and restoring windows and exterior architectural details under the supervision of National Park Service instructors. The crew is led by Jason Alfred, Temple Hill Elementary school teacher and Student Coordinator for the project. Dylan Reitenbach of the National Parks Service is construction director.

In 2006, World Monuments Fund named the Dutch Reformed Church to its international “Watch List”. World Monuments Fund (WMF) is the leading independent organization devoted to saving the world’s most treasured places. For over 40 years, working in more than 90 countries, WMF’s highly skilled experts have applied proven and effective techniques to preserve important architectural and cultural heritage sites around the globe. Through partnerships with local communities, funders, and governments, World Monuments Fund inspires an enduring commitment to stewardship for future generations. www.wmf.org.