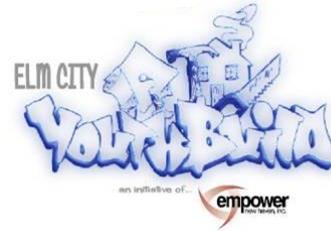


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FROM THE STREETS OF THE ELM CITY TO THE STREETS OF NEW ORLEANS City youth lending helping hands in New Orleans Post Katrina

New Haven, CT, May 27, 2008—A press event will be held on May 30, 2008, 10:30 a.m. at Project MORE, 830 Grand Avenue, New Haven. This event will highlight the Elm City Youthbuild community service project in New Orleans during the week of June 2-6, 2008.

Empower New Haven, Inc. secured a \$400,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development in 2006 to support the Elm City Youthbuild Initiative which launched in 2007. To date over 50 youth have been served through this Initiative.

Twelve at risk youth participating in Elm City Youthbuild along with staff have planned a five day community service project in partnership with Rebuild Together New Orleans (RTNO) to assist with rebuilding and clean-up efforts after the ravaging effects of Hurricane Katrina. Through this project students and staff will provide over 200 volunteer hours in the rebuilding of the New Orleans community.

While the City is planning ways to reduce youth violence, Elm City Youthbuild is assisting at risk youth plan for the future. Elm City Youthbuild, a cohort of the National Youthbuild U.S.A. movement is designed to assist disadvantaged young adults between the ages of 16 and 24 in distressed communities in the following five areas: (1) complete their high school education or obtain GED; (2) provide on-site construction training experiences which result in the rehabilitation or construction of housing for homeless persons and low income families; (3) foster leadership skills; (4) further opportunities for employment placement or placement into an apprenticeship program; and (5) promote economic self-sufficiency for all participants.

With a blooming partnership between Project MORE Inc., Empower New Haven, Inc., the New Haven Housing Authority, New Haven Adult Education and the City of New Haven's Commission on Equal Opportunities students are gaining hands on training through the Construction Workforce Initiative, GED Training, Life Skills Training and Leadership Development with the intent of employment placement once the program is complete. The intent of Elm City Youthbuild is to assist participants create better lives for themselves, their families and to support positive re-engagement within the community. Community Service projects such as the New Orleans experience will allow for real world connections to be made between participants and the community.

If you would like to learn more about this Initiative, please contact Daniel Jusino, Elm City Youthbuild Program Director at (203) 848-3499 or email at daniel.jusino@projectmore.org or JaConna Sowell, Elm City Youthbuild Case Manager at (203) 848-3482 or email at Jaconnasowell@projectmore.org.