

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**YouthBuild
at Nubian Directions II, Inc.**

We are excited to announce Nubian Directions II, Inc. (NDI) Community Technology Resource Center is the lead agency for a U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Youthbuild grant. The grant enables NDI to expand its youth programs and services for the community.

The New Directions Youthbuild Partnership, the name of the program for Dutchess County is a collaboration between six local organizations. The organizations and their Youthbuild representatives include:

- Nubian Directions (Robert Wright, Executive Director)
- Dutchess Community College (Susan Hauchhauser)
- Dutchess County Workforce Investment Board (Christopher Marx)
- Family Services, Inc. (Julett Butler)
- Habitat for Humanity of Dutchess County (Ruppert Cort)
- Dutchess County Community Transition Center (Steven Murrell)

New Directions Youthbuild will serve 20 youths in its first year. We are looking to recruit students by the projected program start date, which is October 17, 2005. All Youthbuild services will take place at Nubian Directions. However, interested youths may apply at two locations. Young adults 16 to 21 should apply at the Family Partnership Center, 49 North Hamilton Street (Ask for Ms. Julett Butler). Young adults 22 to 24 should apply at Nubian Directions, 248 Main Street.

Youthbuild, a national initiative, offers job training, education, counseling, and leadership development opportunities to unemployed and out-of-school young adults, ages 16-24, through construction and rehabilitation of affordable housing for homeless and low-income families in their own communities. Designed to run on a 12-month cycle, Youthbuild unleashes the positive energy of unemployed young adults to rebuild their communities and their own lives with a commitment to work, education, responsibility, and family. Youthbuild participants split their time between the construction site and the classroom, where they earn their GED or high school diploma, learn to be community leaders, and prepare for jobs or college. There are more than 200 YouthBuild programs in 44 states, Washington D.C., and the Virgin Islands.

According to Robert Wright, Executive Director, growing up in poverty subverts the hopes and dreams of too many young people before they ever get started. A dramatic reversal of their past experiences is essential for them to move forward and take responsibility for their lives. YouthBuild offers young men and women the kind of safe and supportive environment where such life-altering shifts can occur. It inspires young people to meet new challenges and to

become responsible for their actions. At the work site and in the classroom, trainees learn to be accountable as individuals and as members of a team. Youthbuild young people also participate in the governance of their program.

For more information please call Nubian Directions at (845) 452-8574 or Julett Butler at 452-1110 Ext. 3033.